

February 5, 2014

To: Academic Policies Committee
Sue Fettes, Chair

From: Brad Korbmesmeyer
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

SUBJECT: Change to Independent Study requirements

After consultation with the chairs of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), the Interim Dean of CLAS, and the Associate Dean of the School of Communication, Media and the Arts, we are suggesting a small but significant change to the requirements for Independent Studies:

CURRENT CATALOG LANGUAGE

"In addition, they must have a cumulative average of at least 3.0 **in the discipline to be studied**, unless the independent study is required for the completion of the major. Independent study for honors requires the completion of a minimum of sixty (60) hours and the achievement of a 3.2 cumulative average **in the discipline to be studied.**"

PROPOSED CATALOG LANGUAGE

"In addition, they must have a cumulative average of at least 3.0, unless the independent study is required for the completion of the major. Independent study for honors requires the completion of a minimum of sixty (60) hours and the achievement of a 3.2 cumulative average."

The change involves deleting the words in bold listed above in the current catalog language.

Rationale for revision:

1. There is no clear definition of "discipline." This makes the assessment for approval difficult for all parties involved: faculty, dean's office, and registrar.
2. Cumulative gpa is readily available on degreeworks and student transcript so it makes assessment of this requirement extremely easy.
3. By removing discipline, the emphasis is more on overall performance at the Oswego campus level and is in keeping with a more interdisciplinary approach to life on our campus.
4. Instructor and chair approval is still needed for each independent study, so decision as to whether student has appropriate background for an independent study is still up to those individuals at the departmental level. NOTE: A new form will be proposed to registrar which will streamline requests for waivers of the gpa requirement if instructor so desires.

There is no change in resources required.

Please let me know if you need any further information.