Applying a non-S&S Independent Study/Summer Research Experience
toward the Genome Sciences & Policy Certificate

In order to earn a certificate in Genome Sciences & Policy, students must complete two approved semester-
long independent study research experiences or one semester and one summer research experience. Lab-
based projects should focus on the development and application of genetic, genomic, and/or computational
approaches that utilize genomic information for humans, model organisms, or other species. Policy studies
should focus on the impact of genome sciences and technology on human activity, policy, and/or society as a
whole. More detailed information about the policies and procedures of independent studies may be found
here.

If you seek approval for a Science & Society independent study, click here. If you have completed an
independent study through another Duke entity, please fill out the form on page 2, and email the form and
your final materials to scienceandsociety@duke.edu. Please also ask your instructor to complete the mentor
evaluation on page 3. If you seek pre-approval to ensure that an independent study will meet the GSP
certificate requirements, please email your certificate advisor with a summary of the independent study so
that s/he may pre-approve the topic.
Approval Form to Count a non-S&S Independent Study/Summer Research Experience towards the Genome Sciences & Policy Certificate

Name: ___________________________________  Date: _______________

Email: ______________________________   Student ID (not unique ID): ___________

Expected Graduation Date: ________________________

Independent Study/Summer Research Experience:

Department: _________________    Course #: ______________    Term / Year ____________________

Title: __________________________________________________________________

Supervising Faculty Member: _______________________    Academic Title: ________________________

Affiliation (dept or program): __________________________________________________________________

Instructor (if different from Supervising Faculty Member) ___________________________________________

Instructor Title and Affiliation: _________________________________________________________________

Please provide the following information on attached pages:

1. Summary of Independent Study or Summer Research Experience (a 1-2 paragraph description, including the topic, course goals, research, and readings)

2. Final Project Paper/Report

3. Mentor Evaluation (see next page)

________________________________________________ Date ________________________
Signature of Student

Approval Signature: Please read attached policies and procedures on independent studies before signing.

______________________________________________    Signature    ________________________
Certificate Program Director (print name)    Signature    Date
Genome Sciences & Policy Certificate  
Mentor Evaluation for Independent Study/Summer Research Experience

(To be completed by student)

I am requesting that my ___ Independent Study or ___ Summer Research Experience (check which one), conducted ______ (term)/_______ (year) be considered for approval for the research experience requirement for the Certificate in Genome Sciences & Policy. Please complete the evaluation form below and submit it directly to scienceandsociety@duke.edu. Thank you.

Student Name_________________________________________________________

Independent Study/Summer Research Title _________________________________________________

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(To be completed by Independent Study/Summer Research Experience Faculty Mentor)

The Genome Sciences & Policy Certificate requires students to complete 5 courses and 2 research experiences. Semester-long research experiences generally require 10-15 hours of work per week to develop and conduct a research project, and analyze and interpret the data. Summer research experiences generally require 8-10 weeks of full-time work. The final product or report should contain significant analysis and interpretation. Your evaluation will help determine whether the student’s performance should qualify for credit toward the certificate. We appreciate your time in completing the evaluation.

1. Please comment on the student’s initiative to develop a research project including effort devoted to identifying/reading relevant literature to provide background, developing a feasible research plan, and defining a strategy to examine the question or hypothesis.

2. Please comment on the student’s performance in the laboratory or other environment to learn skills required to complete the project, develop independence, demonstrate work ethic, and trouble-shoot seek help as needed to overcome barriers encountered.

3. Please comment on the student’s ability to analyze and interpret the results, synthesize his/her findings into a research report, present the work in a coherent and logical manner, and gain a general appreciation for the open-ended nature of true research.

4. Please provide any additional comments that would be helpful in our evaluation.

Printed Name __________________________________

Signature______________________________________Date____________________