Applying a non-S&S Independent Study/Summer Research Experience toward the Science & Society Certificate

In order to earn a certificate in Science & Society, 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 Emilia Chiscop-Head at emilia.chiscop-head@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 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 Science & Society 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.

_________________________________________________________ _______________________________ _____________
Certificate Program Director (print name)  Signature     Date
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 Science & Society. Please complete the evaluation form below and submit it to Emilia Chiscop-Head at emilia.chiscop-head@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 Science & Society 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 _____________________