Genome Sciences & Policy Certificate
Independent Study/Summer Research Experience with Science & Society

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.

Students may enroll in an Independent Study (non-research) or a Research Independent Study. An Independent Study is individual non-research directed study that results in an academic and/or artistic product. A Research Independent Study is individual research that results in a substantive paper/report containing significant analysis and interpretation of a previously approved topic. Such research independent study courses bear a Research (R) code and satisfy general education Research requirements. One research independent study may be submitted and approved for a Writing (W) code in addition to the R code designation. See the full policies for more information about approvals.

Trinity College of Arts & Sciences Policies*:
1. Approval. The independent study must be approved by the instructor(s), the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the GSP Certificate Program Director.
2. Faculty appointment. The supervising faculty member must hold a regular rank faculty appointment at Duke within Science & Society.
3. Course Content / Quality. The independent study must provide a rigorous academic experience equivalent to that of any other undergraduate Duke course; the student generally works about 10 hours per week.
4. Meeting schedule. The student will meet with the instructor at least once every two weeks during the semester (or at least once a week during the summer).
5. Final product. The student will produce a final academic and/or artistic product to be completed during the semester for which the student is registered for the course.
6. Grading. The instructor will evaluate the work, including the final product, and submit a grade by the end of the semester.

*More detailed information about the policies and procedures may be found here.

Approval Process: Please fill out the form on the following page. You and your instructor should agree on the course title, plan of study, objectives, expectations, the nature of the final product, and evaluation criteria. Once your instructor has signed the form, submit the form to the Director of the GSP Certificate Program for final approval (before the end of the drop/add period of the independent study term). If approved, you will receive a permission number to register for the course.

Certificate Credit: If the course is approved, to count it towards the GSP certificate, please email the final project/paper to scienceandsociety@duke.edu. Please also ask your instructor to complete the mentor evaluation on page 3.
Approval Form for Independent Study/Summer Research Experience through S&S

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. Title and Description of Proposed Study: Provide a one to two paragraph description of the proposed study, including topic, course goals, research / readings to be conducted.

2. Nature of the Final Product: Describe the nature and length of the final product (e.g academic paper, artistic product, research report, etc.)

3. Scheduled Meetings and Work Expectations: Provide information on frequency and length of meetings with instructor, and expected work commitments and/or timetables

4. Grade to be based on: Provide information on how your work in the course is to be evaluated.

________________________________________________ Date ________________________
Signature of Student

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

__________________________________  ______________________________  __________
Supervising Faculty Member (print name)  Signature     Date

__________________________________  ______________________________ _____________
Instructor (if not Supervising Faculty)   Signature     Date

__________________________________  _______________________________ _____________
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____________________