

BC 495 INDEPENDENT STUDY &/or BC 475 MENTORED RESEARCH AGREEMENT

Term/Year: Fall ____ Spring ____ Summer ____ Year: 20 ____

Student: _____ Phone: _____

CSU ID #: _____ Email: _____

Instructor Name: _____ Student's Major: _____

Project Title (Required): _____

Clock Hours:

Clock hours/week devoted to projects: _____

Credit Hours:

Semester credit hours assigned for above*:

*Three (3) clock hours per week for a 15 week semester = 1 semester credit hour

*(BC 475 is set at 3.0 credits; BC 495 is Variable credit.

Use BC 495 if 1 or 2 credit hours. Use BC 475 if 3.0 credits. Use a combination of BC 475/495 if more than 3 credit hours.)

BC 495 credits (number) _____ **BC 475** credits (set at 3.0 credits) _____

Grading:

BC 475 is Traditional grading only [A,B,C,D,F]

BC 495 is Instructor option grading [S or U or letter grade]

Project Description:

Please read important information on reverse side before signing. PLEASE NOTE #3-4!

**Student signature is agreement to turn in BC 475/495 project report at the end of this term.

Student Signature**

Instructor Signature

Department Approval (required for non-Biochemistry labs or non-BC majors)

BC 495 Independent Study &/or BC 475 Mentored Research

1. Anyone who contemplates initiating a BC 495 or BC 475 project must comply with the following requirements and procedures:
 - a. The student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 at the beginning of the term in which they want to do an independent study project. The Associate Chair must approve any exceptions to this requirement.
 - b. The student must have completed the specific courses designated by the potential mentor as a requirement for a meaningful experience in that mentor's lab.

OPERATIONAL POLICIES FOR BC 495/475

1. When a student is chosen for BC 495/475, he/she will complete Independent Study Agreement form stating the title and brief description of the project, the clock hours devoted to the project per week, the apportionment of semester hours to the clock hours based on the formula of 1 semester hour per three clock hours, and the type of grading to be used. The form is signed by the student and mentor (instructor), reviewed and approved or denied by the Associate Chair (required for non-Biochemistry labs or non-BC majors), and kept on file in the department office.
2. The student can apply no more than 10 semester hours of BC 487 (Internship), BC 495 (Independent Study), BC 475 (Mentored Research), BC 498 (Research), and/or BC 499 (Thesis) towards graduation.
3. **At the close of each term of BC 495/475, the student is required to prepare a written report of his/her project and give a copy to his/her mentor and one copy to the department office. The report will include a title, a brief abstract, a statement of the problem methods/approaches used, and a summary of results and conclusions. The student may be given an Incomplete if the report is not turned at the time grades are reported.**
4. Students enrolled in BC 495/475 or BC 498 are also encouraged to prepare and present a poster of the project at least once at the Annual All-University Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium, which is held each year during the Spring Semester.
5. All students entering their senior year with a GPA >3.5 who apply will be given preference for placement in a BC 495/475 project.
6. Students who qualify for need-based or merit Work Study can be paid as Work Study students and receive BC 495/475 credit(s) as long as they meet all of the requirements described above, and the faculty mentor approves the arrangement.