

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.