

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW

Instructions For Requesting Directed Individual Study

DIS Requirements:

1. **Purpose:** The Directed Individual Study program provides an opportunity for second- and third-year students to enrich their legal education by pursuing a research project in an area of particular interest under close faculty supervision.
2. **Scope:** A DIS project will require the completion of a significant research paper of substantial length (normally 40-50 pages). DIS credit shall not be awarded for paid work, work performed in a clinical program, work that is not under the direct supervision of a faculty member, or work that was completed for other academic credit. DIS projects may only be supervised by faculty members who hold a full time appointment in the College of Law.
3. **Academic Credit:** DIS projects may be for one, two or three credits. No more than four DIS credits may be earned in any semester. The expectation is that a DIS project will receive two credits. An application for three credits should include an explanation from the student and the faculty director about why the project should be approved for more than the normal two credits. The length of a DIS paper will not, by itself, be a basis for an award of three credits. Three credits may be earned for a project that involves significant empirical work, that requires substantial translation of non-English language sources, or that is of a scope that warrants more than two credits.
4. **Enrollment Procedures and Restrictions:**
 1. Submit a proposal to the Curriculum Committee using the attached "Request for DIS" application. The request form must include the signature of the faculty member who will direct the study, and must be accompanied by a memorandum that describes the aim of the project, explains its significance, and indicates the research plan that will be pursued.
 2. Proposals should be submitted to the Chair of the Curriculum Committee by the end of the semester prior to the one for which credit is being sought, and must be submitted in time to allow for Committee consideration before the end of drop/add period for the semester.
 3. Completed applications for DIS will be considered by the Curriculum Committee as soon as possible after receipt, and approval will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the Committee.
 4. The Chair of the Committee will sign approved applications and return them to the applicants no later than the last day of the drop/add period for the semester, and will inform applicants of the reasons for the Committee failing to approve any applications.
 5. Registration for a DIS project will require a signed approval form. A DIS may not be used to satisfy a student's Upper Level Writing Requirement during the student's last semester.
5. **Grading:** A DIS project shall be graded on an Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis by the directing faculty member. The grade of S+ may also be awarded. No credit shall be awarded unless one copy of the finished product is submitted to the Curriculum Committee and certified by the Chair of the Committee as complying with the terms of the application as approved. Completed DIS papers shall be retained by the Curriculum Committee for a period of three years.
6. **DIS When Student or Directing Faculty Member Not in Residence:** Because DIS projects are designed to allow a student to work under the close supervision of a faculty member, it is presumed that approval will not be given for a DIS during a term when either the student or the directing faculty member is not in residence at the College of Law. In an exceptional situation in which the Committee is assured by the supervising faculty member that an appropriate level of supervision will occur, this presumption may be rebutted.

REQUEST FOR DIRECTED INDIVIDUAL STUDY (DIS)

Name: _____ **SSN (Office use only):** _____
Semester: _____

Semester Hours Completed (as of the preceding semester): _____ **Expected term of graduation:** _____
 (Note: a DIS may not be taken during the last semester to satisfy the Upper Level Writing Requirement)

Name of Faculty Member directing project: _____

Number of Credit hours requested (normally 2): _____

Joint Degree: **Yes No** If Yes, which degree? _____

Certificate Program: **Yes No** If Yes, which program? _____

Other DIS projects - If you have enrolled in a DIS in the past or are currently enrolled in a DIS, indicate the following:

Name of Project	Faculty Director	Semester / Year	Credit Hours	Grade Received
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Topic of Proposed Project:

Please attach to this form a proposal for the project. Include one or two paragraphs describing the project, an outline of the paper you plan on writing, and a list of sources you intend to use in your research. This form, along with the proposal will be presented to the College of Law Curriculum Committee for approval. You must have your faculty director's signature on this form prior to submission.

I certify that the foregoing proposal will not duplicate writing or research undertaken by me in any previous semester.

Signature of Student : _____ Date : _____

Signature of Faculty Director : _____ Date : _____

Curriculum Committee Approval: Proposal	Curriculum Committee Approval: Final Draft
Date: _____	Date: _____
Chairman Signature: _____	Chairman Signature: _____

Office Use Only	
Course Number: LAW 7910 Section Number _____ Reference Number: _____	
Entered by _____	Date _____