

Independent Research Course

Department of Kinesiology



RICE UNIVERSITY

Wiess School of Natural Sciences

Department of Kinesiology

KINE 495 HEAL 495 Independent Research

A. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of independent research is to provide the student with an opportunity to participate in a research project under the supervision of a Rice Kinesiology Department faculty member and/or an external researcher.

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. Independent research is open only to declared Health Sciences or Sports Medicine & Exercise Physiology majors with at least Junior status.
2. Majors must have at least a 3.00 GPA in all HEAL/KINE courses, and have completed KINE 319 and KINE 440 as of the end of the semester prior to initiating the independent study.
3. The student must meet with, and submit the completed Proposal Application for Independent Research (attached) to his or her Rice faculty mentor (KINE or HEAL) before being registered for this course. Proposals must be submitted to the faculty mentor no later than the end of the second week of the semester in which the independent study is to be conducted. **Meeting with a Rice faculty member prior to completing the proposal is highly recommended.*
4. This 3 credit hour course may be repeated.

KINE 495 HEAL 495
Independent Research (continued)

C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The Proposal for Independent Research in the Kinesiology Department must be approved by the appropriate faculty mentor (KINE or HEAL) prior to the start of the independent research work.
2. Following approval of the faculty mentor, the student will work cooperatively with the faculty mentor to fulfill the requirements of the independent research.
3. In addition to the proposal application, in order to obtain credit for the independent research, the student must submit completed written work to the faculty mentor. The faculty mentor specifies the requirements for this written work. This may include, but is not limited to, weekly progress reports, reflections, and the final presentation.
4. The research project must be completed within the semester in which the student enrolled for the independent research and the culminating presentation must be completed by the last day of classes of the semester in which the independent research was conducted. The poster presentation must be presented at an approved forum (e.g., Kinesiology Research Day, RURS) and should include the following:
 - a. Title of project – a succinct statement which includes the primary concepts of the study
 - b. Introduction – statement of the problem or topic in the form of a hypothesis or guiding question which includes the importance of the study
 - c. Review of Literature – description of the previously published findings directly related to the problem or topic
 - d. Discussion and Conclusions - relationship of the major findings from previous studies to the outcome as it relates to the statement of the problem or topic
 - e. References - a list of references in an appropriate format as determined by the faculty mentor

D. EVALUATION

1. The student must submit the final written document as outlined in the general guidelines with any additional requirements as deemed necessary by the faculty advisor.
2. The final grade is based on the quality of the research conducted and final document as assessed by the faculty advisor.

Proposal Application for Independent Research Kinesiology Department

This form must be submitted to the appropriate Program Director (Sports Medicine & Exercise Physiology or Health Sciences) in quality computer print.

Student Name: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Student Email: _____

University Credits Completed: _____ KINE 495 _____

Current University GPA: _____ KINE GPA: _____ HEAL 495 _____

Faculty Mentor: _____ Hours of Credit Desired: _____

Advisor Signature: _____

Please attach the written proposal to this application. (Proposals should be no more than two pages, double-spaced, 12-pt TNR/Arial font, 1" margins.) Please include the following information:

- I. **Title of the Project**
- II. **Background**
 - A. **Brief literature review** (Include important previously published findings)
 - B. **Statement of problem** (What is the nature of the proposed investigation?)
 - C. **Rationale of the project** (What is the importance of the project?)
 - D. **Research question/hypothesis**
- III. **Method** (Brief description of the procedures used to obtain major findings necessary to complete the study.)

Notification Form for the Status of the Independent Research Proposal

The student must submit the project proposal to the appropriate Program Director within the first two weeks of the semester in which the project is to be completed. The Program Director must approve the proposal prior to initiation of the research project.

Student Name: _____

Faculty Mentor: _____

Brief Title of Study: _____

Do not write below this line.

This section to be completed by the Faculty Mentor.

_____ **Approved:** The proposed independent study was approved by the faculty mentor and the research project may commence.

_____ **Not approved:** The proposed independent study was not approved because:

_____ Project was not approved by a faculty member prior to the first day of classes.

_____ Proposal was not submitted within the first two weeks of classes.

_____ Student has not provided evidence of academic eligibility.

_____ Other - see below.

Faculty Mentor

Date