

CHE 4911-3 INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICY

Comments: This document provides guidance on the two types of Independent Study—laboratory and library research. The “Description” components below are aligned with the requirements of the Independent Study form that must be completed and submitted.

SAFETY: Online training is required of all personnel in the laboratory (Click on “Laboratory Training” at: <https://mytraining.utsa.edu/online/>). Each lab researcher is required to take and pass SA 401 on Hazardous Waste Generator Training, SA 443 on Hazard Communications & Laboratory Safety, and SA 466 on Updates to the Hazard Communication Standard, AND laboratory-specific training by the faculty supervisor BEFORE engaging in laboratory activities. The researcher MUST make every effort to conduct laboratory activities in a safe manner and report safety issues to the faculty mentor.

Description of project to be studied:

Laboratory research—The project objective and planned activities for the beginning of the research experience should be outlined.

Library research—The topic must be substantially chemical in nature but may include topics in related fields that require a chemical foundation. In the latter case, the report must associate the topic with underlying chemical principles. Students should be required to review an appropriate number of research papers or research communications.

Description of the work to be required and the basis upon which credit and grade will be assigned:

Laboratory research project for 3 credit hours—The student will conduct laboratory research for a minimum of 12 hours/week, attend regular group meetings, present her or his findings during the semester, and submit at minimum a 12 page paper on the project at the end of the semester. The paper should provide background, results, discussion, conclusion, experimental, and include a significant number of recent/important references in a separate section. The committee recommends that a draft paper be submitted 2 weeks prior to the date grades are due so that the research supervisor can review and provide commentary for improvement before the final paper is submitted. For additional information on reports see the ACS Committee on Professional Training document: <https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/about/governance/committees/training/acsapproved/degreeprogram/preparing-a-research-report.pdf>

Projects conducted for fewer credit hours should be apportioned appropriately.

Library research project for 3 credit hours— The student will conduct library research for a minimum of 12 hours/week, meet biweekly with the instructor to discuss progress, and submit at minimum a 12 page paper on the project at the end of the semester. The paper should provide background, a description of important contributions to the area as gleaned from the papers, and a discussion/conclusion section that identifies trends suggested by the combined papers. The committee recommends that the paper be submitted 2 weeks prior to the date grades are due and that the research supervisor review and provide commentary for improvement before the final paper is submitted.

The work for projects with fewer credit hours should be apportioned appropriately.