

MAT 494: Independent Study in Mathematics

I. Basic Course Information

MAT 494 is an upper level course for students who are interested in studying advanced mathematical topics that are not covered in regularly offered courses. To register for the course a student must make arrangements with a faculty member of the department who agrees to serve as a mentor of the independent study. Students must have a 3.0 GPA in their math courses to register for the course.

The faculty mentor and the student will write a proposal explaining the subject matter that will be studied as well as the way the student's work will be assessed. An independent study contract/enrollment form must be prepared by the student, approved by the faculty mentor and the department chairperson, and submitted to the Office of Records and Registration at the time the student registers for the course. Registration for independent study will be accepted only through the first week of the semester.

At most one course unit of Independent Study, Guided Study, or Independent Research may count as one of the Mathematics or Statistics options for a major. The total course load of a student taking Independent Study, Guided Study, or Independent Research should be at most 4.5 course units. Independent Study, Guided Study, or Independent Research courses may not be taken in order to improve a grade, or to replace a course that a student failed to sign up for.

II. Learning Goals

1. To introduce students to advanced topics in mathematics not offered in regular undergraduate courses.
2. A deep understanding of some selected advanced topics in mathematics
3. To improve a student's ability to read and write mathematics

III. Student Assessment

Students will meet with their faculty mentor on a weekly basis. They will be assessed, by the faculty mentor, based on their weekly progress. At the end of the semester students must present the results of their study to the faculty mentor.

IV. Learning Activities

The learning activities will be decided by the faculty mentor. They will be specified in the original proposal submitted to the department chairperson for approval.

Approved: 5/2008

Revised: 5/2011