

Independent Studies at CBS

June 26, 2018

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your time and dedication to ensuring our students have a fulfilling academic experience at CBS. As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reach out regarding Independent Studies.

As a reminder, Independent Studies provide students with an opportunity to engage in independent work for academic credit with the oversight of a Faculty Advisor. While the nature and extent of an independent study are determined by the student and a Faculty Advisor, there are guidelines to follow at the time of determining their credit value:

- **1.5 credits** are appropriate for studies that will include about 25-40 hours of work during the semester.
- **3.0 credits** are appropriate for studies that will include about 50-70 hours of work or more during the semester.

Related to the guidelines above, I would also like to highlight the following two notes:

- Independent Studies based on **internships** should typically receive a maximum 1.5 credits, as the additional work on top of the internship itself would likely not reach 50-70 hours.
- Independent studies should involve one student, but **group (team) studies** involving multiple students may be considered on a case-by-case basis. The time commitment per student, however, should match that of a single-student independent study and the deliverable should be more extensive.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm Regards,

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Student Policy in Independent Studies is available at the following link:

<https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/mba-students/academic-essentials/courses/independent-study>