Skills Gained Through Independent Study

- Time Management Strategies
- Decision Making Capabilities
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Organizational and Project Management Experience
- Research Techniques
- Presentation Skills
- Writing Skills
- Creativity
- Stress Management

Utilizing Independent Study as an Example of your Work

- **Personal Statement for Graduate and Professional School**: You can mention Independent Study in your application for admission as a reason why you are interested in continuing your studies in specific areas.
- **Formal and Informal Interviews**: In conversations with prospective employers and graduate programs, it can be helpful to discuss your Independent Study project and the extent of involvement required of Wooster students to complete this requirement.
- **Resume**: Independent Study should be listed on your resume in your education or research section. Include title, length of time working on the project, and total pages of your thesis.
- **Cover Letters**: Almost always you can mention Independent Study in your cover letter as a project that prepared you to perform the responsibilities of a specific position.

Tips for Explaining Your Independent Study to Others

- For people who are not familiar with Independent Study they might be surprised at the scope of this academic requirement.
- Explain your project in a logical fashion: start at the beginning and explain your activities sequentially. Emphasize specific skills gained and results found during the process.

**For example:**

Independent Study is required of all seniors at The College of Wooster for graduation. I chose _______ ______ as my topic of study and proposed my ideas to faculty members for approval. Realizing I needed funding to complete this study, I wrote a grant proposal explaining my interests and was awarded $______ toward my efforts. I then utilized ______ to conduct research relevant to this topic and designed a series of experiments to test my hypothesis. I conducted the experiments and recorded the results. In analyzing my findings, I noted that _______ and I wrote a _____ page thesis describing my Independent Study and presented and defended the results to the department. I’ve also been asked to present my study at ______________ conference and/or submit an abstract for publication to ____________ journal.