Independent study activities are the mechanism by which students can acquire knowledge in an area of software engineering under the guidance of a software engineering faculty mentor. The area itself may be either one which is not covered in formal coursework, or one which focuses on deeper issues in a topic addressed in a course offering. Faculty mentors will also assess the student work at the end of the term in which the independent study takes place.

An independent study proposal must be of mutual interest to the student and the mentor. No student is required to participate in independent study, nor is any faculty member obligated to serve as a mentor for any particular proposal.

**Process**

1. Two weeks prior to the start of registration for the term in which the independent study activity is to be undertaken, the student will file an Independent Study Proposal form. This form will include the following information:
   a. The names of the student and the faculty mentor, along with their signatures.
   b. A brief (2-3 paragraph) description of the activities comprising the independent study, including a statement of how this enhances the student's education with reference to the software engineering program outcomes.
   c. A list of deliverables at the end of the independent study, which must include a summary report for the department's files.
   d. A statement from the mentor as to how the results will be assessed at the end of the term.

2. There is a credit limit of at most 3 credits of SE Independent Study to be applied as Engineering Electives

3. Independent study is counted towards Engineering Elective credits, not SE electives.

4. All proposals will be assessed for suitability by the department’s curriculum committee. Accepted proposals will then be assigned a credit hour value of 3. Independent studies of one or two credits will be considered on an individual basis.

5. At the end of the term, the faculty mentor will assign a grade in accordance with the expectations set forth in 1(d).

6. Methods of evaluation are at the discretion of the advisor. Acceptable methods of evaluation include:
   a. Paper (typically required)
   b. Mid & Final term project presentations
   c. Delivery of agreed upon artifacts in an on-time & high quality manner.
   d. Communication skills (written - Documentation & verbal)