Example 1

**Purpose/Topic of Independent Study:** Targeted reading on early mathematics practices in the home

**Learning Goals:**
1. To survey the literature on parental and early childhood educators’ activities that support early mathematics skills. The review will include a focused on diverse families, especially economically and racial diverse families.

2. To learn to write a research synthesis, integrating studies into a coherent document.

3. To identify gaps in the extent literature (and hopefully ideas for the dissertation)

**Expectations and deadlines:**
- Meet with the professor once a week.
- Read 4 peer-reviewed articles per week.
- By 10/22 have a full outline synthesizing the research.
- By 12/21 have a full draft of a review paper (ideally more details about the paper will be provided).

Example 2

**Purpose/Topic of Independent Study:** Propensity Scoring and Matching

**Learning Goals:**
1. To understand the when and how to use propensity scores/weight and matching.

2. Develop skills in working with data, weighting representative samples, and matching comparisons in a quasi-experimental design.

**Expectations and deadlines:**
- Meet with the professor and other students every Wednesday
- Complete assigned reading by each class meetings
- Complete assigned problem sets each week
- Turn in the code and results from XXX data by 12/21
Example 3

**Purpose/Topic of Independent Study:** Professional Development

**Learning Goals:**
1. To gain experience with publishing
2. To successfully submit for a research conference

**Expectations and deadlines:**

Meet with the professor on a weekly basis
Week 1 – complete the outline of the research paper
Week 2 – draft the introduction section
Week 3 – write the method section, including analytic plan
Week 4 – complete result tables
Week 5 – draft results section
Weeks 6–7 – complete the discussion section and abstract
Week 8 – complete conference abstract
Week 9 – submit completed paper
Week 10 - work on revisions to manuscript and submit
Finals week – submit conference abstract to...