

# Independent Study (298) & Pre-dissertation Units (295) Syllabus Examples

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## 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...

