

What is a Directed Individual Study?

A DIS is independent or group work you do outside of a regular classroom and course context, for which you receive credit hours.

I. The actual way in which a DIS is conducted varies within different general disciplines. It may entail:

- working in a lab with a research group
- doing field research
- conducting library research: bibliographies, readings, summaries, reports
- doing an internship

Go to FSU.EDU and under their search engine type: DIS. Some departments have their own website devoted to the subject.

See for examples: <http://www.psy.fsu.edu/undergrad.prog/undergrad.prog.html>

II. *Most* DIS have the following elements in common:

- *A student has a particular topic or research area* he or she would like to study further, or would like to work in a research lab or group. The interest often develops from taking a particular course.
- *A student initiates the DIS by contacting a faculty member*, usually one you have had for a course and/or whose research you are interested in. (Don't be afraid to ask: all they can do is say no.)
- *The faculty agrees to work on the DIS and stipulates the terms*: what you are expected to do, how often you will meet
- *The DIS is variable credit, usually from 1-3 credits, as determined by faculty and student*
- *The student will have one-on-one meetings with the faculty member periodically*, at a time agreed upon.
- *Some contracted outcome, often a research paper or project is expected.*

III. Go to [Honors DIS Guidelines and Application](#) for more information.