

RWJMS INDEPENDENT PROJECT

The what, who, when, where, how
and other stuff of it



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What is the Independent Project?

- **The independent project is a **graduation requirement** for all RWJMS students.**
 - **It is an activity which leads to a **scholarly product** that is a contribution to one of the Medical School 's missions: Education, Research, Clinical Care, or Community Health.**
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What are the benefits of producing a scholarly project

- You become an “expert” in something
 - You demonstrate your desire to learn
 - You enjoy the wonderful mentor-mentee relationship
 - You get to explore something that is not a part of the regular curriculum
 - You get to show an interest in a specialty area
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Who does not have to do it?

- **Students who participate in and complete extensive experiences such as dual degrees and Distinction in Research, Education, or Service to Community will have fulfilled the requirements for the Independent Project. You will still need to file a report on-line (to be described later)**
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What are the specific learning objectives of the Independent Project

Objectives:

- 1. to choose a topic for independent study that meets the learner's interests
 - 2. to think critically and reflectively
 - 3. to interpret the literature
 - 4. to produce a scholarly work
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When does the Independent Project take place?

- The requirement of the Independent Project can be met at any point during the four years, although it is recommended that it be completed prior to October 1 of the senior year, so that the results can be included in the Medical School Performance Evaluation (MSPE).
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When must it be done by? Or else!

□ **May 1, 2012**

□ **You do not receive a diploma until the project is completed.**

Residency director of program notified that you have not met graduation requirements at time of Commencement

What type of projects count?

- It is understood that a variety of independent projects will qualify. The essential component is the **creation of an end-product that reflects an appropriate degree of effort** (i.e., a minimum of 160 hours of effort).

Suggested types of projects:

- basic, clinical or translational research projects
 - global health experiences
 - medicine and humanities
 - medical anthropology
 - experiential learning in the community
 - quality improvement initiatives
 - Others?
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Who can be mentor?

Independent Project Mentors:

- RWJMS faculty
 - Faculty at another institution-will need sign off at RWJMS
 - The Office of Global Health: Dr. Javier Escobar *for all global health experiences*
 - The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs: Dr. Diane Ambrose *for all off-site research projects*
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How do I complete the project?

- All independent projects (experiences which take at least 160 hours)
 - The project must culminate in the submission of a written product **based on the experience.**
 - A five to 10 page limit is suggested. This paper is a requirement even if the work has been presented in a poster or oral presentation format.
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What form does the paper take?

- a scholarly article, with its traditional sections (introduction, methods, results, conclusions, discussion)
 - a review article with references
 - reflections and introspection based on a given experience with references
 - discussion of innovative concepts/new observations/analysis of solutions with references
 - case report with references
 - ethics seminar with references
 - an educational innovation/product following Med Ed portal guidelines
 - **A journal submission will substitute for the above**
 - **ALL PAPERS MUST BE PRECEDED BY AN ABSTRACT**
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What form does the abstract take?

- All of the preceding must begin with an abstract, structured for research projects (introduction, methods, results, conclusions) or unstructured for non-research projects (with introduction/discussion and conclusion).
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Time line-Starting with M1

- Supply the initial idea. Think about what you want to learn/accomplish by this project
 - At this time you may or may not have a faculty mentor
 - Summer experiences are excellent ones upon which to base the scholarship
 - **DUE DATE-MAY 1 OF M1 YEAR**
 - **CONSEQUENCE FOR NOT SUBMITTING:
PROFESSIONALISM CITATION**
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Time line-M2

- Supply a specific plan for the project
 - Specific aims
 - Specific methods
 - Anticipated outcome of the project
 - At this time you must have a faculty mentor
 - DUE DATE-DECEMBER 31 M2
 - CONSEQUENCE FOR NOT SUBMITTING:
Unable to register for third year rotations with approval of Student Affairs Deans
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Time line-M3

- Supply a PROGRESS REPORT
 - Specific activities completed thus far
 - Any barriers to the completion of the project
 - Anticipated date of completion
 - DUE DATE-DECEMBER 31 M3
 - CONSEQUENCE FOR NOT SUBMITTING: **A (4) week block will be scheduled during the M4 Fall to complete the project and no electives will be scheduled until approved by Student Affairs**
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Time line-M4

- **Completion of project by submission of final product and a faculty sign off**
 - **DUE DATE MAY 1 M4 YEAR**
 - **CONSEQUENCE FOR NOT SUBMITTING:
You do not receive a diploma until the project is completed. Residency director of program notified that you have not met graduation requirements at time of Commencement**
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HOW DO I DOCUMENT MY PROJECT, PROGRESS AND FINAL PRODUCT

- ON LINE TOOL IN DEVELOPMENT
 - HIGHLIGHTS: EMAIL AUTOMATICALLY TO FACULTY MENTOR WITH THE TITLE OF YOUR PROJECT. THEY WILL GET ACCESS TO READ YOUR REPORTS AND WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN OFF ELECTRONICALLY
 - YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CHANGE YOUR PROJECT
 - YOU WILL BE ABLE TO UPLOAD YOUR FINAL PAPER
 - SITE DIRECTIONS FORTHCOMING
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What if I completed my project already?

- The documentation of progress reports will be waived but the paper will still need to be completed.
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