



Directed /Independent Project

Deadline to submit is the last day of add/drop.
Submit completed form, with required signatures and attachment(s), to the
Law School Registrar at lawreg@wm.edu.

Student Printed Name:	
W&M ID Number:	Class: <input type="checkbox"/> 2L <input type="checkbox"/> 3L <input type="checkbox"/> LLM
<input type="checkbox"/> Directed Research – LAW 700 One credit hour, pass/fail grade <i>Maximum of two credits during academic career</i> A brief description of readings or proposed reading list is required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Year: _____
Project Title:	
Student Signature:	Date:
Faculty Printed Name:	Date:
Faculty Signature:	
Vice Dean Signature:	Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Directed Reading – LAW 703 One credit hour, pass/fail grade A brief description of readings or proposed reading list is required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Year: _____
Project Title:	
Student Signature:	Date:
Faculty Printed Name:	Date:
Faculty Signature:	
Vice Dean Signature:	Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent Legal Research – LAW 704 One credit hour, standard letter grade A brief description is required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Year: _____
Project Title:	
Student Signature:	Date:
Printed Faculty Name:	Date:
Faculty Signature:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent Legal Writing – LAW 705 Two credit hours, standard letter grade A brief description is required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Year: _____
Project Title:	
Student Signature:	Date:
Printed Faculty Name:	Date:
Faculty Signature:	

A brief description of project is required. You can add the description below or attach a separate document when submitting this form.

William & Mary Law School Independent Projects

Directed Research - LAW 700

LAW 700 is a one credit hour independent research project. The directed research project requires faculty and student interaction and individual student work for an equivalent of a minimum of three hours per week. Students can enroll in a maximum of two directed research credit hours throughout their academic careers. Students can earn the two credits in conjunction with other independent projects and within the same semester. The student must obtain approval and the signature of a full-time faculty member. Directed research approval requires the signature of the Vice Dean prior to submission to the Law School Registrar. Graded on a pass/fail basis.

Directed Reading - LAW 703

An examination of a specialized subject that generally is not offered as a course within our curriculum on a regular basis. This course is arranged between an individual student or group of students (maximum of five) through readings selected in agreement by the directing faculty member and students. This course meets for at least seven hundred minutes over the course of the semester. Prior approval by the Vice Dean is required. Students are limited to one directed reading credit hour per academic year. Graded on a pass/fail basis.

Independent Legal Research - LAW 704

This course requires the completion of a scholarly paper on a subject selected by the student, under the supervision of a faculty member. Does not satisfy the writing requirement.

Independent Legal Writing - LAW 705

This course requires the completion of a significant research paper on a topic selected by the student, under the supervision of a faculty member. Students may enroll in this course for credit no more than twice and this course satisfies the writing requirement. An important goal of the major paper requirement is to improve students' writing skills. Faculty supervisors should communicate this goal to students at the beginning of the process and reinforce it throughout the paper-writing process, especially after submission of the first draft. Papers that satisfy the major paper requirement should evolve through four major stages, each of which should occur in consultation with the supervising faculty member:

1. Topic Development: The student should produce a succinct, coherent topic statement that sets out the thesis of the proposed paper.
2. Outline: The student should produce a reasonably comprehensive outline of the paper, including a statement of the basic steps in the argument, the major sources used, and a tentative conclusion or a comparable writing.
3. First draft: The student should produce a first draft of the paper in time for the supervising faculty member to make comments and for the student to respond to those comments in the form of a second draft. Normally, the first draft should be submitted to the supervising faculty member by the end of the tenth week of classes.
4. Final draft: The student should turn in the final draft of the paper by noon on the last day of exams for the semester, or as otherwise designated by the instructor.

NOTE: A student must complete an independent project(s) by the last day of the registered semester's exams. The Law School does not grant extensions except under extraordinary circumstances. The instructor and Vice Dean must approve a request for an extension.