

D - New/Revised Academic Policy : Entry # 2612**Today's Date**

02/01/2023

Your Name

Joanne Altman

Your Email:jaltman0@highpoint.edu**Your Department:**

URCW

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

Is this proposal connected to any other proposals currently being submitted? If so, please describe below.

N/A

Is this submission in response to a "revise and resubmit" decision on a previous proposal?

No

Is this policy new or a revision to an existing policy?

New

Please provide a 200 word summary of the new or revised policy:

This proposal recommends the addition of XXX 4445: Directed Research "course" for every undergraduate prefix that has a XXX 4444: Independent Study. The approval process of the Directed Research would be similar to an independent study. Just like an independent study, the frequency of the use of the directed research will be based on the individual needs of departments.

Please describe the rationale for this new or revised policy:

The new general education requirement for an experiential learning experience can only be met through course credit. Global studies and Service-Learning experiences are almost completely credit based while most current research experiences are not. For instance, only seven courses on the Spring 2023 schedule are courses listed as research based (ie. Bio-4411, PSY 4110), while over 100 students are registered at this midpoint of the year as engaged in research or creative works on the URCW Registry (with 285 registered for the full year last year). Yet, there is no other course option for independent research, except the independent study. The shortfall with independent study courses are twofold: 1) the name on the transcript does not clearly state there is a research component to the experience, and 2) an independent study does not meet the general education experiential requirement. Undergraduate Research/Creative Work is specifically mentioned in the undergraduate bulletin as a form of experiential learning. In addition, a directed research course allows for acknowledgement on a transcript for research experience in departments that do not have a course option.

What Academic Divisions, University Officers, stake-holders or Programs are involved in, or affected by, this addition or change? Who enforces the policy? Which University departments or constituencies need to be informed of this change and publish this policy?

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Like Independent Study, this is intended as a university-wide policy. Thus, all undergraduate academic units should be informed of this policy. The Directed Research course would be managed by chairs and deans. Similarly, the frequency of the use of the directed research will be based on the individual needs of departments.

How is this policy consistent with University and school mission?

The university mission is (in part) to "cultivate... the skills necessary to thrive in a competitive and rapidly changing world". A myriad of research shows the undergraduate research helps build those critical skills employers are looking for. Our students are already doing mentored research and the new general education policy includes research as an option in the experiential learning requirement. This policy will simply help document student research equitably across all undergraduate departments on campus.

Does the policy require an interim or transition plan, or can it be implemented immediately?

I can be implemented immediately. Once the course is added it can be managed just like Independent Study.

Please attach complete policy and any supporting documents.

- [Directed-Research-Course-Template.pdf](#)
- [Proposal-for-a-policy-for-a-Directed-Research-course.pdf](#)
- [Directed-Research-Form.pdf](#)

For Deans:**(DEAN) I approve/deny this policy proposal for further advancement**

Approve

Today's Date

02/08/2023

Further comments

This is a good question for schools to take up, and it may resolve issues around registration for URCW. As I recall, there was a proposal in the fall to accomplish this move with courses under URCW, but I was not in favor of that strategy.

For the School Curriculum Committee:**Does this policy fit the needs of the school?**

Yes

(EPC) This committee approves/denies advancement of this policy proposal

Approve

Today's Date

03/20/2023

For APIRC:**Does this policy fit the needs of the school/program/university?**

Yes

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(APIRC) This committee approves/denies advancement of this policy proposal	
Approve	
Today's Date	
03/31/2023	