

# Northwestern | McCORMICK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

## MS in Information Technology

### GUIDELINES FOR MSIT 499: INDEPENDENT STUDY

MSIT independent study projects must be of graduate-level quality, representing a substantial effort at research, analysis and organization, and adhering to traditional academic formats and language usage. The topic of the independent study course must be chosen so that the student maintains a balance between technical and business courses. Requirements for Independent Study vary by enrollment type.

Part-Time Students	Full-Time Students
PT students may take up to two independent study projects, substituting for any second year MSIT course or any of the three MSIT business courses. The topic of the independent study must be designed to maintain a balance between technical and business courses.	FT students may take up to two independent study projects. The independent study must still satisfy the requirement area of the course it is replacing; e.g. an independent study course in security could be taken instead of MSIT 458 to satisfy the security requirement.
Independent study cannot be used in lieu of MSIT 443.	Independent study cannot be used in lieu of MSIT 443.

Students who choose a business/management project should show the relationship of the project to information technology in the proposed outline, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the technology/technologies involved in the final report. Independent study projects may be conducted by more than one student.

To secure approval for an independent study project, complete the following steps:

- Complete the project proposal (see page 2) and provide a justification for the course substitution to the MSIT Director, who will evaluate your proposal and suggest faculty advisors.
- Secure a faculty advisor for the independent study.
- Work with your advisor to revise the proposal and ensure it is satisfactory to both of you.
- Submit the revised project proposal and the independent study agreement (see page 3) to the MSIT Director for final approval.
- Send the final, approved project proposal to the MSIT office, who will enroll you in MSIT 499. All required signatures must be secured before you begin work.

Complete, approved independent study proposals are due on the following dates:

Fall quarter	September 1
Winter quarter	December 1
Spring quarter	March 1

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### **MSIT 499: Project Proposal**

The purpose of the project and your intended outcome/deliverable

Your project's educational objectives

Outline your project with a week-by-week milestone timeline. If more than one student is involved, identify who will be responsible for which aspects of the work.

List of readings and/or other external resources to be used

The course(s) you (each student, if more than one) this project will substitute for

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### MSIT 499: Independent Study Agreement

Return this complete PDF with all required signatures to [msit@northwestern.edu](mailto:msit@northwestern.edu). You will be registered for MSIT 499 upon receipt. Digital signatures are acceptable.

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_ request approval to register for MSIT 499 during \_\_\_\_\_ quarter, 2025 - 2026. The project title is \_\_\_\_\_ and will replace the following MSIT course: \_\_\_\_\_.

I/We have read the Independent Study Guidelines and received approval from my MSIT advisor and the MSIT director for the proposed independent study. I/We agree to complete the study in the specified quarter and submit the final deliverables to the MSIT office by the end of that quarter.

_____ Name	_____ Date
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_____ Name	_____ Date
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_____ Name	_____ Date
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#### *Approvals*

I approve the student's project proposal.

_____ Independent Study Advisor	_____ Date
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_____ MSIT Advisor	_____ Date
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_____ MSIT Director	_____ Date
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