

ASTR 491/490 and ASTR 492 Independent Senior Research Project

Astronomy (B.A.) and Astrophysics (B.S.) majors will work on independent research projects under the supervision of faculty or research staff. Students will present a short talk on their project at the end of the Spring semester. They will also submit a final written report to their advisor and DUS. Students are strongly encouraged to present their research at a poster session during an American Astronomical Society (AAS) meeting.

Advisor selection deadline – third week of the Fall semester. Students will submit the name of their advisor by email to the DUS and Department Registrar.

Project proposal deadline for both Astronomy (B.A.) and Astrophysics (B.S.) majors - beginning of the second month of the semester (October)

- Students will work out a tentative plan with their advisor
- Students will submit a short (~1 page) project proposal to the DUS containing the name of their advisor, the working title of their project, the goal and plan for their work, the timeline and any critical points (e.g., “my project requires observations in November; if these are not obtained, the data will not be available for my project and my alternative is....”).

It is always good practice to cc your advisor on any emails to the DUS!

For Astronomy (B.A.) students taking only one semester of research credit:

Progress report deadline - four weeks before end of semester

- Student should submit a 2-page written report to the DUS, discussing the progress-to-date and future plans.

Final course report deadline - end of reading week (Fall ~ Dec 14, 2023, Spring ~ May 2, 2024)

- Students should submit a 10-page (approximate) written paper to their advisor and the DUS (PDF + hardcopy)
- Students will give a twenty-minute presentation to the department (to be scheduled)
- Confidential paragraph of evaluation from the advisor sent to the DUS

For Astrophysics (B.S.) and approved Astronomy (B.A.) students taking two semesters of research credit:

Progress report deadline - end of Reading Week in first semester (~ Dec 14, 2023)

- Student should submit a 2-page written report to the DUS, discussing the progress-to-date and future plans.

Second progress report deadline - one month before end of second semester (~ March 25, 2024)

- Student should submit a 2-page written report to the DUS, discussing the progress-to-date and future plans.

Final course report - end of reading week in second semester (May 2, 2024)

- Students should submit a 15-page (approximate) written paper to their advisor and the DUS (PDF + hardcopy)
- Students will give a twenty-minute presentation to the department (to be scheduled)
- Confidential paragraph of evaluation from the advisor sent to the DUS