

Directed-study courses provide an opportunity for students to pursue a special area of interest in order to achieve specific goals beyond the scope of existing courses offered at MiraCosta College.

Students enrolled in a directed study work independently and interact directly with an instructor of record on an individual basis and as prescribed by the directed-study agreement, which is a learning contract developed collaboratively with the instructor; approved by the instructor, department chair, and appropriate dean; and submitted to the Admissions and Records Office by the add-deadline date for the class session.

General Regulations

- A. The maximum number of units of directed-study credit that may be applied toward a degree is three (3) units.
- B. To offer a directed-study course, the department must have a course titled "Directed Study" listed in the catalog.
- C. Directed-study units may apply toward the student's degree; they will not, however, fulfill general-education requirements.
- D. Special activity or project-type work may constitute a directed study.
- E. Directed-study courses may not substitute for credit by examination.
- F. Directed-study courses may not be offered in place of courses listed in the catalog.

Academic Standards

Academic standards for directed-study courses are the same as those applied to other credit courses at MiraCosta, including the following:

- A. Units and required hours are Carnegie-standard compliant.
- B. Course content represents the specific body of knowledge the course will cover.
- C. Performance objectives emphasize critical thinking about the content of the student's individualized study.

- D. Assignments are used as appropriate to promote student mastery of the course objectives.

Instruction

- A. Students enrolled in directed-study courses have the same access to the instructor that students enrolled in traditional credit courses have, in addition to regularly scheduled office hours. The instructor's consultation schedule is included in the directed-study agreement.
- B. The directed-study instructor is qualified to provide service in that capacity during the period in which that service is rendered.
- C. The instructor is responsible for the following:
 - 1. Assisting the student in developing the directed-study agreement, which includes identifying the following:
 - a. Course content
 - b. Number of units and hours of study required
 - c. Performance objectives
 - d. Work product(s) to be evaluated
 - 2. Providing orientation, guidance, and information regarding course-content materials and services for the student as soon as possible subsequent to the student's official enrollment in the course
 - 3. Supervising, controlling, and evaluating the course and the enrolled student.

Student Progress

- A. The instructor measures the student's mastery of the directed-study's performance objectives using the same standards of achievement as those used in other MiraCosta credit courses.
- B. The methods of evaluation, including the work product(s) to be evaluated and the certification of adequate and proper progress toward accomplishment of course objectives, are identified in the directed-study agreement.

Limits on Enrollment

- A. Instructor, department chair, and instructional dean approval is required.
- B. Student must have previously successfully completed twelve (12) units of college work with at least a 3.0 grade-point average
- C. May be taken for a total of three (3) units.