**School of Materials Engineering**

**MSE 499 Independent Research Request**

**Effective spring semester, 2016**

The course MSE 499 provides the opportunity for laboratory and/or library research beyond the scope of the ordinary undergraduate curriculum, working in a research environment under the direct guidance of a faculty member. Independent Research (MSE 499) may be taken for 1, 2 or 3 credits in a given semester, and up to 6 credits of MSE 499 can count towards fulfilling your Technical Elective Program. To enroll in MSE 499 your first step is to find a member of the faculty who is willing to supervise your research project. Next you should arrange a meeting with the faculty member to inquire if he/she is willing to act as your research advisor and discuss possible projects. After finding a faculty advisor you should submit a petition to the Undergraduate Chairman for approval of your MSE 499 project. A template for the petition is provided in the following text along with a check list of the needed information.

Complete the following petition and discuss the content of the course syllabus with your faculty advisor.

**Checklist for submission:**

1) Project title is 30 characters or less.

2) The work schedule is complete with specific times.

Please note that for every credit of MSE 499 you are expected to provide 3 hours per week of available time in your schedule during regular business hours (8 AM – 5 PM) for laboratory or library research. Students taking MSE 499 for 3 credits may substitute 3 of the weekly laboratory hours for a one hour research meeting with their advisor.

3) Course syllabus has been discussed with faculty advisor including the following:

* + Graduate mentor specified (for laboratory safety)
  + Grading scheme as specified by the faculty advisor

4) Signatures verifying the details the academic and safety requirements of the course and outlines issues related to academic dishonesty and Intellectual property are complete.

5) Submit the petition to the Undergraduate Chairman (currently Prof. Johnson, [davidjoh@purdue.edu](mailto:davidjoh@purdue.edu), ARMS 2221)

**School of Materials Engineering**

**MSE 499 Independent Research Request**

**Effective spring semester, 2016**

Date:

To: Prof. Johnson, Undergraduate Committee Chair

From:

E-mail address:

RE: Approval for independent research project. (MSE 499)

Faculty Research Advisor:

Number of credit hours:

Title of proposed project: (30 characters or less, a space counts as a character, abbreviations are acceptable)

Number of prior MSE 499 credits (not including the proposed credits):

Approval for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ semester \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (e.g., Fall semester 2006)

Background: (completed by student and advisor)

Objective: (completed by student and advisor)

The attached syllabus details the academic and safety requirements of the course and outlines issues related to academic dishonesty and Intellectual property. I have read and agree with the contents of this syllabus:

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature, Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of proposed project: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Syllabus**
2. **Hours:** MSE 499 is a lab-class and as such each credit-hour represents 3 hours per week for 15 weeks or 45 hours of actual lab work. Your proposed work schedule must specifically allocate that time.

Work Schedule (Be specific, such as: MWF 10:30-1:30):

1. **Graduate mentor** (per safety committee policy of chain of command in lab environment):
2. **Responsibility to Advisor**: (weekly meetings, semester report, etc.)
3. **Grading:** *(To be completed by the faculty advisor)*

Detail how grades will be assigned.

1. **Campus Emergency Policy**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. ***Any such changes will be communicated directly to you via email.***

**III. Academic Dishonesty**

1. **General Statement.** Purdue University Regulations, Part 5, Section III-B-2-a describes the formal policies governing academic dishonesty. Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." A guide providing specific examples, tips, and consequences is available from the Office of the Dean of Students at: [http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php](http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php%20) As discussed in this brochure on *Academic Integrity*, there are many dishonest ways to gain an advantage over another student in an assignment. The goal is not to list these here, but these rules cover any assignment for which the instructor will assign a grade (homework, quizzes, exams, laboratory reports, term paper, etc.). Rather, students should ask themselves this question when working on all class assignments: “*If I use this information, will the completed assignment represent only my efforts?”* If the answer is no, then don’t do it. The test is simple. For example, turning in a term paper obtained from a website does not represent your efforts.

The teaching staff for this course will diligently monitor academic dishonesty in all assignments. ***Students found to engage in academic dishonesty are subject to discipline to potentially include: a grade of F for the course***, a permanent letter added to your file, and reporting the incident to the Dean of Students for further action. Two letters in your file will result in an automatic forwarding of the case to the Dean of Students.

1. **Course Specific Statement.** As this class is research based, there are a variety of dishonest practices that can occur, with consequences as listed above. They include, but are not limited to:
   1. In the case of this course, a final written report is required for grade assignment. ***Plagiarism of such report in whole or part constitutes academic dishonesty and will be sanctioned.***
   2. In research data and results are generated. While null results or even complete failure of experiments happens routinely, some researchers attempt to gain notoriety by falsifying or creating data. However, this practice is unethical and, in some circumstances, illegal. ***Thus, falsification or “making-up” data and results in whole or part constitutes academic dishonesty and will be sanctioned.***
   3. While the work is expected to be the student’s own, all data, results and the like do not belong to the student such that they must be provided as asked for, including any lab notebooks, files, etc. Thus, all data, results, notebooks, files, etc are the property of Purdue University as administered by MSE and the Youngblood group. ***Attempts to withhold data, files, notebooks, or reports, or to remove them from the lab constitutes academic dishonesty (as well as theft) and will be sanctioned and, possibly, prosecuted by relevant authorities.***
      1. **Safety and Interpersonal Conflict Policy**
2. **Safety:** All safety requirements and rules must be followed. It is the responsibility of the student to know what they are and to obtain the relevant safety training, which will be provided at request. It is the responsibility of the student to know the hazards they are working with and follow all hazard communications, warnings, etc provided. ***Failure to follow safety procedures, follow instructions of professors, staff, or grad students or negligently creating a safety hazard can result in the student being removed from the lab and possible banning from that and other labs.*** Such a result may compromise the ability of the student to perform satisfactorily for the project.
3. **Conflict Policy:** While it is not expected that all lab members be “friends”, it is expected that all students will be amiable, polite, and professional in all interpersonal interactions and follow reasonable instructions from faculty, staff, and grad students. ***Violence, intimidation, excessive argument, pestering, and other anti-social behavior will not be tolerated and*** ***can result in the student being removed from the lab and possible banning from that and other labs.***
   * 1. **Intellectual Property**

Pursuant to Purdue Policy, all Intellectual Property (IP) generated by the student during the 499 class will belong to the student. However, all IP generated prior to, after, or outside of the specific classwork of the student will remain with those relevant inventors. Such issues follow the USPTO legal definition of inventorship, which corresponds to conceptualization, but not implementation of new and useful inventions. Most commonly, ideas for research and application space originate with the faculty and the 499 student works to implement and generate data. Thus, in this arrangement inventorship lies solely with the faculty, although specific cases may vary.