

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP INDEPENDENT STUDY AGREEMENT**

Entrepreneurial Studies Minor  
Iowa State University

To be completed the semester you take ENGR 4900E for credit.

1. Complete the attached form and have Dave Sly, COE Start Something Director, sign the form.
2. Turn in the form into Dave Sly, 3015 Black Engineering, [davesly@iastate.edu](mailto:davesly@iastate.edu).
3. After approval, register for the course by completing an add slip, and submit this form to 10 Enrollment Services Building.

**POLICY & PROCEDURES**

The pedagogical intent of the Entrepreneurship Independent Study ENGR 4900E is to provide an experiential learning activity for entrepreneurship minor students, supported by a faculty member from the student's home college, the College of Engineering.

1. The independent study must include a significant experiential learning activity (e.g., starting a business, writing a business plan for a business concept, an internship or co-op that incorporates entrepreneurial processes, participation in an accelerator program, etc.), and include some of the entrepreneurial processes as described below:
  - a. **Opportunity Recognition:** the capacity to perceive changed conditions or overlooked possibilities in the environment that represent potential sources of profit or return to a venture
  - b. **Opportunity Assessment:** the ability to evaluate the content structure of opportunities to accurately determine their relative attractiveness
  - c. **Conveying a Compelling Vision:** the ability to conceive an image of a future organizational state and to articulate that image in a manner that empowers followers to enact it
  - d. **Creative Problem Solving/Imaginativeness:** the ability to relate previously unrelated objects or variables to produce novel and appropriate or useful outcomes
  - e. **Risk Management/Mitigation:** taking actions that reduce the probability of a risk occurring or reduce the potential impact if the risk were to occur
  - f. **Resourcefulness:** the capacity to take advantage of one's environment and available resources (even resources one does not necessarily own or control) to accomplish personal ends
  - g. **Maintain focus yet adapt:** ability to balance an emphasis on goal achievement and the strategic direction of the organization while addressing the need to identify and pursue actions to improve the fit between an organization and developments in the external environment
  - h. **Value Creation:** capabilities of developing new products, services, and/or business models that generate revenues exceeding their costs and produce sufficient user benefits to bring about a fair return
  - i. **Building and Using Networks:** social interaction skills that enable an individual to establish, develop, and maintain sets of relationships with others who assist them in advancing their work or career
  - j. **Fortitude:** internal resources such as tenacity/perseverance/grit, resilience, and self-efficacy that allow an individual to sustain goal-directed effort despite hurdles and adversity.
2. The ENGR 4900E course is used towards completion of the entrepreneurship minor.
3. Currently, Dave Sly is the designated Faculty Advisor. In addition, other COE Faculty Entrepreneurship Fellows serve as a faculty advisor.
4. Students must complete the Entrepreneurship Independent Study Agreement (attached) and return the signed copy to Dave Sly, 3015 Black Engineering, [davesly@iastate.edu](mailto:davesly@iastate.edu). The office will make and distribute duplicate copies of the agreement. Students may then register for the course with the add slip. It is expected that you register for the course the term the independent study is completed.

Employment and internships do not constitute, in and of themselves, a sufficient basis for 4900E credit. The internship must be experiential in nature and incorporate entrepreneurial processes to earn credit towards the entrepreneurship minor.

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Entrepreneurship Minor  
Iowa State University

Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ISU ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Number: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Credits: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Independent study)

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a short statement of two or three paragraphs (attached to the back of this agreement) describing: (1) the nature and scope of the project, emphasizing the experiential learning component; and (2) what the learning outcome or product of this activity will be (e.g., written report, company presentation, etc.).

In addition, please check below which entrepreneurial processes will be emphasized in this independent study (definitions of processes are listed on the first page).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity Recognition                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Focus Yet Adapt    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity Assessment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Value Creation              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conveying a Compelling Vision            | <input type="checkbox"/> Building and Using Networks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Problem Solving/Imaginativeness | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortitude                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management/Mitigation               |  |

**Signatures required for approval:**

_____	_____
Student	Date
_____	_____
Faculty Advisor (sign)	Date
_____	_____
Dave Sly, COE Start Something Director (3015 Black Engineering)	Date
_____	_____
Andreas Schwab, Entrepreneurship Supervisory Committee Chair (2200 Gerdin)	Date

\* cc: Student \_\_\_\_\_  
Student file \_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Advisor \_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Dean \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed/signed forms to:**  
*\*Dean's Office for Ivy College of Business  
2200 Gerdin (will make copies)*