



RESEARCH

FAQ'S:

What is 199 Independent Research?

Almost every department on campus offers the course codes 99 (lower division) or 199 (upper division) "Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates". It is commonly referred to as "199 independent research". Independent research involves conducting research under the supervision of a UC Davis faculty member. Students must have permission of the faculty member and obtain a "Permission to Add" (PTA) number.

What counts as "research"?

Research has many flavors but at its heart it is the hands-on practice of your discipline. This can take many forms depending upon your major field of study:

- In the sciences and engineering you might be part of a team investigating a common topic under the supervision of a faculty research advisor who leads the research team
- In the humanities and theoretical fields you might develop your own topic of inquiry and pursue it as a sole effort, while consulting periodically with a faculty mentor for guidance
- In the studio arts you might prepare a performance or composition

Why is it important for me to register for 199 credit?

Enrolling for credit gives you a permanent record on your transcript of this important research experience. Employers, graduate and professional schools like to see documentation of your research experiences. It also helps UC Davis to track how many undergrads are involved in research.

What if I want to conduct research, but I don't want to enroll in 199 units because I am approaching my 225 unit cap?

The University still strongly encourages you to enroll in 199 for the reasons stated above. Many departments will not count research units against your 225 unit cap. Check with your major advisor for clarification on this issue.

You can also opt to register for **Transcript Notation**. Transcript notation is filed through the Internship and Career Center. Select "Research Internship" as the type of notation; this does not add any units to your record but denotes quarters that you participated in research. Find information under ["Student Transcript Notation for Research"](#) on our Get Credit page.

What is variable unit?

199 credit is offered for 1-2-3-4 or 5 units each quarter. The number of units you enroll for is determined by the number of hours you will be conducting research. You must spend 3 hours per week to earn 1 unit. For example, if you spend 9 hours per week in research, you would enroll for 3 units (3 units x 3 hours per week = 9 hours per week). 199 credit is offered as Pass/No Pass only.

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Can I earn research units if I am conducting research at the medical school or veterinary school?

Yes! Professors in the professional schools also have 199 course numbers so you can earn units.

My research advisor is not in my major department, what department should I sign up for 199 with?

Typically you would sign up for 199 credit with your major department, however you may use either one.

My department does not have a 99 or 199, can I still get course credit?

Check with your College to see if there might be a College level 199 course available. Your major advisor can initiate the process to create a 199 for your department and you should encourage them to do it, so that you can sign up for 199 in a future quarter.

What is the difference between 199 Independent Research and 194 Honors Thesis?

199 independent research is offered by every department; honors thesis is not offered by some departments (check with your major department for details). 194 honors thesis usually requires a minimum gpa of 3.5 or higher and undergrads must apply to their major's thesis program, whereas 199's are open to all undergrads with no specific application requirements.

Can I earn 199 units and also get paid by my research professor?

Yes! Not all professors have funding to pay their undergraduate researchers, but if they pay you, it may still be okay to earn 199 units. This allows you to have the experience documented on your UC Davis transcript and helps the University to track how many undergrads are involved in research. Check with your major advisor on your department's specific policies.

Can I be a Volunteer in research if I don't need credit?

Yes, professors sometimes allow students to volunteer as undergraduate researchers. However, the culture at UC Davis is to have all undergraduate researchers enroll in 199 units so that an accurate record is kept of your involvement in these experiences.

Can I get Transcript Notation and 199 Independent Research credit at the same time?

Although this is possible, it is a lot of work to get both transcript notation and 199 units. Both leave a permanent record on your transcript, however, 199 units is a more accurate reflection of the time that you invested and it gives the University a better measure of how many undergrads are engaged in research.