

Preamble

The overall goal of the Independent Reading & Research Course is to deepen the student's knowledge in an area directly relevant to their thesis research. This is achieved through critical reading, analysis, and synthesis of pertinent scholarly literature. The course prepares students to write a comprehensive literature review and/or to succeed in their qualifying examinations.

It is recommended that students and supervisors plan this course during the first semester of the student's studies, to ensure optimal alignment with other curricular offerings and milestones within the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI) program.

The specific content, scope, and expected outcomes of the course are developed collaboratively between the student and their supervisor to ensure alignment with the student's research trajectory.

The student and supervisor must explicitly define the requirements and scope of use of generative AI tools and aids in the context of this course.

An Independent Reading & Research Course may be over time converted into an elective offering in any subject area where at least three (3) students express interest. Once approved, the elective course will be offered on a two-year cycle.

Responsibilities

Course Instructor

- Guide the student in selecting and refining the course topic to ensure alignment with the student's research objectives.
- Review and approve the reading list, learning objectives, and deliverables; design the means of assessment.
- Provide ongoing assessment and feedback on the student's work throughout the course.
- Submit or confirm the final grade.

The course instructor may or may not be the primary research supervisor of the student taking the course. The course instructor must have a graduate faculty membership (GFM) at RSI.

Student

- Complete and submit the Independent Reading & Research Course Request Form to the Associate Director of RSI.
- Once approved, ensure proper course enrollment and adherence to deadlines.
- Develop a timeline for readings, meetings, and deliverables in collaboration with the course instructor.
- Submit a final copy of the major paper to the course instructor for evaluation.

Course Duration and Meeting Requirements

- A reading course is equivalent to 0.5 full-course equivalent (FCE).
- The student and instructor must meet (in person or virtually) at least weekly for a minimum of two (2) hours over a 13-week term.
- The course must include a minimum of 26 contact hours in total.
- Meeting frequency and duration may be adjusted upon mutual agreement, subject to approval by the Associate Director of RSI.

Timeline for Completion

- The course must align with standard University term start and end dates and may span one or two terms depending on the agreed schedule.
- All coursework must be submitted in time for grading and reporting of the final mark within regular University deadlines.
- Any extension beyond the scheduled term requires written approval from both the instructor and the Associate Director of RSI.

Evaluation Requirements

- A Major Research Paper of at least 6,000 words (excluding references and footnotes) is required but additional assessments (e.g., formal literature critique, visual map of research etc.)
- Alternative evaluation formats (e.g., annotated bibliographies, structured critiques) may be proposed but must receive prior approval from the Associate Director of RSI.