IOWA LUTHERAN HOSPITAL TRACK-DES MOINES
UNITYPOINT HEALTH-CENTRAL IOWA FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY

Policy: Independent Study

During the three year training experience, residents may elect to take up to 4 weeks of independent study time. Residents must submit their ideas of topics to a faculty member of their choice 4 weeks prior to the start of the rotation. This faculty member will serve as the project advisor. The resident and project advisor will meet to discuss topic ideas and confirm a project prior to the start of an independent study elective. Finally, a written proposal should be given to the program director prior to the beginning of an independent study elective. This will contain the purpose of the project, a general description of the plan, and the name of the faculty project advisor.

During the independent study elective, the resident will maintain a timed bibliography of work completed. It is expected that the resident will use 40 hours per week in research and reading for a week of rotation credit. The resident and advisor will be in contact weekly throughout the elective, either via phone, email or in person, to ensure there is progress and to address any questions that may arise.

Upon completion of the elective, the resident must complete an evaluation of the rotation in MedHub and the project advisor must complete an evaluation of the resident's performance. In addition, the resident must submit a timed bibliography and a concrete product of the project including, but not limited to, an outside presentation, resource guide, poster or article. The independent study project will be presented to the faculty and residents in a morning conference. The project is expected to be completed within 8 weeks of the end of the independent study rotation. Some exceptions may be granted at the program director's discretion based on complexity of the project.

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