

McGill University
Joint MSW/Law Independent Study Project Guidelines
(SWRK691 - 12 credits)

Objective and content of paper

Students will be breaking difficult new ground in this paper, guidelines for which are here proposed. The aim of the paper is to address a question common to the two disciplines. Using and clarifying the contribution of each discipline to the question, the paper adds something that neither a legal nor a social work perspective alone could attain. Different tools and sources of learning allow a comprehensive approach of learning to the problem-question. The paper may take the form of a critical review or be empirically based in any customary research methods or combination of them (qualitative or quantitative research; case or doctoral legal research). No requirement is specified as to the relative weight accorded each discipline, but the paper is expected to include each in its theoretical framework, or substantive area of concern.

Credit Weighting

The paper is worth 12 credits, accepted by both programs (total 24 credits).

Length

One hundred to 120 pages, double-spaced, including references.

Citation style

Either APA or legal form should be consistently used throughout.

Due date for submission

To Graduate in...	Your ISP Deadline will be...
Winter (February)	Last Friday in November
Spring (May/June)	March 31
Fall (October/November)	August 15

Advising process

One adviser from each faculty is sought by the student. The student prepares a research proposal and meets with the two advisers jointly until the proposal is accepted as an outline of the work. Thereafter the student and advisers meet jointly or individually as need dictates. Should a student require assistance in securing an adviser, she/he seeks guidance from the MSW Program/Research Coordinator or the Associate Dean in Law.

Since students must successfully complete this paper in order to graduate, and must have graduated before they begin articling, most students will write under strict time constraints, usually

over the summer before the September articling period starts.

Advisers and students should prepare and sign an agreed-upon written timetable leading to the August 15th deadline for submission or later by mutual agreement. It is important that the timetable be respected. Following that deadline, the paper is read, graded and corrections submitted, if any, within the month following submission.

Submission

Submit two copies of your final ISP along with the ISP Submission Form (available from the Social Work website under MSW Downloadable Forms: www.mcgill.ca/socialwork/prospective/msw) to the Social Work General Office (room 300), to the attention of Carmela Sciandra, Student Affairs Coordinator, on or before the deadline date. Carmela will forward a copy of your ISP to each of your advisers for grading. Your ISPs may be submitted in a folder, duo-tang, binder, or stapled. Your name and your advisers' must appear on the cover page (follow below example). [If submitting your ISP to your advisers by email, please make sure to cc: graduate.socialwork@mcgill.ca, Student Affairs Coordinator, and attach the ISP Submission Form.]

Grading

A single grade for the work should be decided upon by the two advisers. If they disagree, numerical grades should be provided by both instructors, and the student receives the average of the two grades given. The minimum grade for passing is B- (65%). For information in establishing the grade and for student feedback the School of Social Work Masters' grading outline may be referred to.

Advisers' Evaluations

Both advisers must submit their evaluation form and the mark to Carmela, who will enter the final letter grade on MINERVA.

Evaluations of the MSW Independent Study Project

Attached is a copy of the *Social Work/Law ISP Evaluation Form*. This will form the basis for the Evaluation in both Law and Social Work with the understanding that it is used as a guide to marking only. Due to the nature of the objectives of a joint paper some aspects will be relevant and some not relevant, or less relevant, than others. Thus, the grade will be determined by how the paper fulfils the objectives overall and not by the number of ticks in the strong column.

Students are referred for research guidance to the document in the Social Work Program "MSW Non-thesis Option – Information Booklet". However, the suggested format and structure cannot be binding on the students, given the particular nature of the Joint Degree Project.

(SAMPLE COVER PAGE)

McGILL UNIVERSITY

TITLE OF YOUR REPORT

A Research Report Jointly Submitted to

The School of Social Work
Faculty of Arts

and

The Faculty of Law

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for

The Master's Degree in Social Work

and

The Bachelor's Degree in Common Law, and
Bachelor's Degree in Civil Law

by

YOUR NAME

[DATE]

ADVISERS: [INSERT NAMES]

McGill University
School of Social Work

Social Work/Law ISP Evaluation Form (SWRK691)

RE: (Student's name): _____

ISP TITLE: _____

FROM: (Evaluator/Adviser) _____ **SIGNED:** _____

DATE: _____ **GRADE:** _____

	UNSATISFACTORY	SATISFACTORY	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT	N/A
INTRODUCTION						
Clear research or practice question						
Clear scholarly rationale						
Clear practice rationale						
Clearly laid out format for the ISP						
LITERATURE REVIEW						
Thorough review Empirical Scholarship						
Thorough review Theoretical Scholarship						
Identified Theoretical Framework						
Well Organized literature review						
Demonstrates need or gap in literature related to the research or practice question						
CONCLUSIONS						
Implications for further research						
Implications for practice (broadly defined)						
Clearly related to research or practice question						
Identified contributions & limitations of study						
FORMAT						
Well organized ISP						
Clearly written ISP						
Logical flow from section to section						
Free from grammatical errors						
Free from typographical errors						
Consistent reference style						
Appropriate reference selection						
•IF DATA COLLECTED & ANALYZED ADD:						
METHODOLOGY						
Appropriate to topic						
Clearly described						
Appropriately supported by a review of literature on chosen methodology						
MAJOR FINDINGS						
Thorough in presentation						
Coherent in presentation						
Freedom from error (quantitative)						
Freedom from bias; explicit assumptions						
Clearly related to research or practice question & methodology						

