



Independent Study and Mentorship

WHAT IS ISM?

Independent Study and Mentorship is a rigorous, challenging course offered at Frisco ISD high schools. This program is designed for academically gifted and high achieving students who are juniors or seniors.

ISM students investigate a career topic that is of extreme interest to them through intense study, research, writing, and ultimately a mentorship with a professional. Students must find the mentors themselves. The district does not provide these mentors.

WHAT DOES ISM COVER?

- Intense Research
- Topic-related Product Development
- Original Idea Generation and Product Design
- Public Speaking and Presentations
- Resume Writing
- Interviewing Skills
- Business and Social Etiquette
- Hands-on experiences in real work environments
- Participation in District Events
- Written assessments of research at highest levels of Bloom's Taxonomy



WHAT TOPICS ARE STUDENTS STUDYING?*

- Archeology
- Astronomy
- Ballet Company Administration
- Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
- Cardiology
- Computer Software Design
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Culinary Arts
- Elementary Education
- Engineering
- Entrepreneurship/ small business
- Graphic Design
- Green Energy
- Landscape Architecture
- Marine Biology
- Marketing
- Museum Curator
- Neo-natal nursing
- Optometry
- Pediatric Oncology
- Quantum Physics
- Sports Photography
- Veterinary Science
- Writing

**Topics change every year based on what the ISM students choose to research.*

WHAT KIND OF STUDENT THRIVES IN ISM?

Being a student in Frisco ISD's ISM course is a privilege. ISM is a highly-visible program on campuses, in our district, and at mentors' places of business in Frisco and other surrounding communities. Mentors give freely of their valuable time, expertise, and resources. Because of this, ISM students must be trusted to conduct themselves professionally and properly in many different situations both in and out of school. Students who thrive and are happiest in ISM embody the following characteristics:

- have integrity and can be trusted to leave campus to conduct interviews and visit mentors during the school day
- are highly intelligent and academically driven because the curriculum and schedule are demanding
- are responsible and meet deadlines
- can work independently
- have a strong work ethic
- are committed to task completion
- already have a strong interest in a field and possibly have already done some preliminary research in that topic or done volunteer work in that area
- are mature
- make good choices

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

1. Students must submit an application on time and then interview for inclusion in this rigorous course. This process occurs on each high school campus during the spring semester. Applications are available in the school's counseling office when the application window opens.
2. The application process includes teacher recommendation forms that need to be completed by all of the applicant's teachers. Students are responsible for providing these recommendation forms to their teachers.
3. The recommendation forms ask teachers for their opinion regarding an applicant's level of trustworthiness and integrity as well as his or her task commitment.