

COMM 490: Directed Research Contract

Please read the following information carefully. In order to be granted permission to take COMM 490, you need to meet all the qualifications listed below:

1. Obtain permission from a faculty member. The faculty member will be responsible for supervising your research project.
2. Be a declared COMM major with:
 - o the successful completion of two (2) COMM core and/or methods courses, and
 - o a minimum overall GPA of a 3.0.
3. Submit an approved research proposal with suggested reading list and final project (term paper or equivalent). A copy of the proposal will need to be attached to this contract.

Return this form with the proposal to USC Annenberg Undergraduate Advisement and Academic Services (ASC 140—Annenberg Student Services). D-clearance will not be given without the director's signature, faculty member's signature, and verification of necessary criteria. It is recommended that this form and all accompanying documentation be submitted no later than the end of the second week of the semester.

Important: A maximum of 8 units of COMM 490 can be applied towards degree requirements.

Semester/Year: _____ Section #: _____ Units: _____
(min., 1 unit; max. 8 units)

Student's Full Name: _____ USC ID#: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Faculty Member Name: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Faculty signature: _____ Date: _____

Director signature: _____ Date: _____

Staff signature: _____ Date: _____

USC Annenberg
COMM 490 Directed Research
Student Checklist for Research Proposal

All COMM 490 Directed Research Proposals must be submitted no later than the end of the second week of the semester.

Prior to the proposal submission:

- Consult the Annenberg Advisement and Academic Services website regarding COMM 490: Directed Research policies and guidelines.
 - The Directed Research Contract can be downloaded from the website: <http://annenberg.usc.edu/CurrentStudents/UGStudentSvcs/Forms.aspx>

- Identify and contact the faculty member with whom you would like to work.

- Develop the description of the study, reading list, and final project proposal with the faculty member.
 - Consider the following in crafting your description of the study:
 - What are the goals of the research project?
 - How do these goals refine, extend, or apply to existing knowledge in the area?
 - What methodological approach or research tools will be utilized in the research project?
 - What key findings might be expected from this research? What is the value of this knowledge? How can the findings be applied/used?
 - In creating your reading list, consider the following:
 - Relevant literature/research should be included
 - Your list should also include academic literature (e.g., journal articles).
 - Description of final project and how it will demonstrate fulfillment of your research proposal. This could be a term paper on the chosen topic or equivalent multimedia project, study, etc.

- Complete the COMM 490: Directed Research form and submit it to your Academic Advisor. A copy of the form should also be sent to your faculty member and the Director's Office.

Please note that submitting a Directed Research form does not guarantee approval.