MST Independent Study (IS) Guidelines

General:
1) An IS provides the student with an opportunity to engage in a plan of study under the supervision of NMT Faculty to (a) explore in more depth or detail an area to which the student has been introduced in previous courses or in the field of science-based education and (b) contribute to the knowledge content and/or the application of the knowledge content of the selected area.
2) An IS is intended to be a project initiated by the student and designed in conjunction with his/her advisory committee.

Procedure for Registering for an IS (must be completed in first registration):
1) The student determines the content and focus of the IS in conjunction with his/her advisory committee.
2) The student prepares a one-page description of the IS which includes:
   a) A statement describing the proposed topic for the IS
   b) A statement of the deliverables for the IS (see below)
   c) A chart listing due dates for the deliverables
   d) A chart describing committee involvement with due dates
   e) Appropriate signature lines for the Advisory Committee members
3) The student presents the IS plan to the committee for its review and approval. Changes will be made to obtain unanimous approval before commencing with the IS.
4) A copy of this form will be filed in the Graduate Office and is the responsibility of the advisor.

Required Deliverables in final IS:
1) A literature search on the topic with a summary of findings.
2) A comprehensive listing of ALL resources used.
3) If the IS involves a learning study, a pre-assessment and post-assessment with summary of findings.
4) If the IS is an experiment, a description of the experimental materials to be used.

5) If the IS is a research based study involving human participants, Institutional Research Board (IRB) approval.

6) Sufficient documentation to allow other teachers to understand and use the IS.

7) A statement of how the IS can increase the math and science knowledge of K-12 students including how this can be achieved.

8) A seminar to present the IS to the Advisory Committee. The seminar is advertised at least 2 weeks in advance with the public invited.

9) Any other item requested by the student’s advisory committee members.

**Time Requirement:**

1) The student should plan on spending 180 hours on the IS and another 60 hours on the seminar.

2) The “deadlines related to degree completion and graduation” (http://infohost.nmt.edu/~grad/studentinfo/calendar.html) as published by the Graduate Office must be adhered to; exceptions must be justified to the Graduate Dean by the advisor. Please note that the first draft of the IS must be submitted to the advisor by the middle of the semester in which the student plans to graduate.

3) It is the student’s responsibility to schedule all meetings and to distribute materials prior to the meetings. The MST Coordinator will assist as requested.

**Content Requirements:**

1) The IS must be original work contributing to the field of science-based education. The student must adhere to all copyright laws including obtaining permission to use copyrighted material.

**Format Requirements:**

2) Since all ISs will be archived in DSpace, the format specified by the graduate school for thesis and dissertations is required (see http://infohost.nmt.edu/~grad/studentinfo/manuscript.html for details).