**Sample Independent Study Proposal (Narrative)**

**Title:** *Reproductive Justice and Access to Emergency Contraception in College Settings*  
**Student Name:** Jane Doe  
**Faculty Sponsor:** Dr. Joe Smith, Associate Professor, [joesmith@uchc.edu](mailto:joesmith@uchc.edu)

**1. Elective Description**

This independent study will examine reproductive justice with a focus on access to emergency contraception (EC) in college health systems. I will explore how policies, cultural attitudes, and logistical barriers affect EC availability across campuses. This study aligns with my interest in sexual and reproductive health equity and supports my long-term goal of working in health policy advocacy for underserved populations.

We will cover the following topic:

* Reproductive justice frameworks
* Campus health systems and contraceptive access
* FDA regulations and OTC access to EC
* Stigma, misinformation, and equity in reproductive care
* Policy and programmatic approaches to improve EC access

To meet the elective criteria, I will:

* Conduct a literature review of peer-reviewed and grey literature (approx. 25 sources)
* Analyze publicly available policies, access data from 10-15 health systems
* Develop an infographic and policy brief for student health administrators
* Meet biweekly with my faculty sponsor to review progress and receive feedback

**2. Learning Objectives**

By the end of this independent study, I will be able to:

1. Analyze the policy environment surrounding emergency contraception access at U.S. colleges and universities.
2. Evaluate the impact of structural and cultural barriers to EC access on marginalized student populations. *(Mapped to MPH Competency #6)*
3. Develop a policy brief and infographic summarizing findings and proposed solutions. *(Mapped to MPH Competency #19)*
4. Synthesize literature on reproductive justice frameworks and their application in higher education health services.
5. Reflect on the role of public health professionals in advocating for reproductive health equity.

**5. Deliverables**

By the end of this independent study, I will have completed the following:

* Literature Review Paper (10–12 pages) on reproductive justice and EC access
* Policy Brief (2–3 pages) outlining barriers and policy recommendations
* Infographic communicating access gaps and strategies to students
* Final Presentation for MPH student peer group
* Weekly Reflection Journal documenting learning and challenges

**Competency Mapping Worksheet**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning Objective** | **Mapped MPH Competency** | **Competency Description** |
| Evaluate the impact of structural and cultural barriers to EC access on marginalized student populations | #6 – Social Inequities and Racism | Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity |
| Develop a policy brief and infographic summarizing findings and proposed solutions | #19 – Public Health Communication | Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation |