

## Austin Lam - Independent Study Proposal

### Overview:

Master Specialists is a lean skilled group who provides service to other businesses. They provide full service of end to end business needs (meaning they are like a consulting firm in that given a basic direction or question, they develop a suite of tools and proper execution for the specific client). Their clients work in the transportation, logistics, and customer service industries; Master Specialists provide mechanical, IT, and on-site solutions to help their business operate smoothly.

I will be working with Master Specialists by utilizing their website that manages data and interactions with their clients. I will learn to deploy their website on my own local environment to better understand the tools and skills necessary to create, deploy, and manage a website. I will work under the advising of Dr. Michael Stewart, who will facilitate my communication and independent study work with my contact at Master Specialists (Chris Frisina) and I.

### Rationale for independent study:

Over the summer I have accepted an internship with Case Consulting and will be working on an internship project that utilizes Amazon Web Services (AWS) to develop online tools and applications that would be used within the company. I currently have no experience with web development at all. I have hoped to enroll in CS347, Web-Based Information Systems, however the class has been filled and I have been waitlisted. As a result, and recommended by Dr. Stewart, working with Master Specialist will give me the opportunity to familiarize myself with web development and better prepare me for tasks I will soon encounter in my early career. Starting out knowing nothing about web-development at all, there will be a lot to learn.

### Learning Objectives:

- Student will become familiar with the tools needed to create, deploy, and manage a website.
- Student will learn the basics of web development and the skills of a full stack developer.

### Technologies:

- Languages
  - o HTML
  - o CSS
  - o JavaScript
  - o Python
- Version Control
  - o Git
- Framework
  - o Django

### Independent Study Protocol

Student:

- 1) Blogging
  - A blog twice a week, one at the beginning of the week stating the goals for the week and how I will attempt to accomplish them. Then another blog post towards the second half of the week talking about what I have accomplished and what I struggled with during the week and why.

- 2) Meet with professor at least once every other week to discuss any problems that I run into.
  - Have an agenda for every meeting
- 3) Communicate regularly with the contact at Master Specialists
- 4) Communicate over Email or GroupMe for any small questions that can be discussed online.

**Professor:**

- 1) Try to respond to questions on Email/GroupMe whenever possible
- 2) View, assess, and comment on student blog
- 3) Meet with student at least once a week to discuss progress and deliverables

**Master Specialists (contact: Chris Frisina):**

- 1) Provide examples and models to help understand the process of managing a website
- 2) List a set of tools that best work together and suggest small features where they can be implemented to gain experience using the tools together.

**Plan for Study:**

An overview and week-by-week agenda of the tasks and goals expected by the student and Master Specialist is provided at <https://masterspecialists.com/JMU>. The starting goal is to learn what the Master Specialists website comprises of and obtain a running version on my local environment.

**Assessment:**

- Professor will assess student progress based on weekly blog posts, progress, and ability to achieve general goals listed each week of the agenda.
- Student will collect and organize semesters work for a cohesive presentation and/or 3-to-5-page paper.

---

Student

---

Professor