

EP.08.45

## STANDARD GRADUATE MINOR APPROVAL FORM

**Title of the proposed minor:** Graduate Minor in Gender and Women's Studies

**Sponsoring unit:** Gender and Women's Studies Program

**Date:** November 2007

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OFFICE OF THE SENATE

**Description:**

Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program that coordinates a wide range of research, teaching and public service activities emphasizing intersectional approaches to the study of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality in national and transnational contexts.

The Gender and Women's Studies Program has offered a graduate minor since 1994. The minor was previously approved by the College of LAS but pre-dated the Graduate College and campus approval of graduate minors appearing on transcripts. Accordingly, we are now seeking formal approval of the graduate minor to ensure transcript recognition of the student work.

The graduate minor in gender & women's studies offers sophisticated training in feminist theory and methodology to graduate students who want to incorporate gender & women's studies into their degree work. Because gender has become a central category of analysis in many disciplines and fields, the graduate minor strengthens students' formal credentials and offers a versatile area of specialization. Students are required to take one core course (either GWS 550, "Feminist Scholarship in the Humanities: Theory and Method" or GWS 570, "Feminist Scholarship in the Social Sciences: Theory and Research") that will provide a foundation in current methods and theories. Two additional GWS courses give students additional preparation for integrating gender studies into their chosen discipline. Many Gender and Women's Studies courses are crosslisted or 'meet with' a course from another unit. Given the interdisciplinarity of gender and women's studies, the minor requires that at least one of these two elective courses originate outside of the student's home department.

**Requirements:**

The Gender and Women's Studies Minor requires 3 courses. Students must take one of two core courses, either GWS 550, "Feminist Scholarship in the Humanities: Theory and Method" or GWS 570, "Feminist Scholarship in the Social Sciences: Theory and Research. Two additional 400 or 500 level GWS courses are required; at least one of these two electives must originate outside the student's home department. A practicum or independent study in Gender and Women's Studies may also serve as one of the two electives.



For the doctoral minor only: The Gender and Women's Studies Program should like to support students in their doctoral research. Whenever possible, it is recommended that doctoral students receive guidance on their dissertation topic, resources, and methodology from a Gender and Women's Studies faculty (or faculty affiliate) advisor.

**Prerequisites for the minor:**

There are no prerequisites, other than graduate standing. Students have been enrolling in the previously approved graduate minor in Gender and Women's Studies since 1994, and there never been a need to limit enrollment. We do not plan to limit enrollment for the proposed graduate minor.

**Expected enrollment in the minor:**

Based on enrollment figures in the previously approved graduate minor, we estimate a total of 45 students working on the graduate minor during any given year.

**Admission to the minor:**

The Program requires a formal application, including a personal statement about how the student's graduate work and/or research interests intersect with gender and women's studies. Students must also have the signed approval of the graduate director of their program. The Associate Director of Gender and Women's Studies accepts applications and confirms acceptance into the graduate minor program.

**Minor adviser:**

The Associate Director advises graduate students enrolled in the minor regarding requirements and available courses. For substantive advising, students will work with one or more Gender and Women's Studies faculty members or faculty affiliates with expertise in the students' areas of interest.

**Certification of successful completion:**

The Associate Director monitors student progress and confirms when students have completed the required coursework for the graduate minor.

**Budgetary and staff implications:**

The Gender and Women's Studies Program has already been offering a previously approved minor since 1994; no additional resources will be required to offer the proposed minor. The transition from the former minor to the proposed minor should have no effect on teaching, library use, or staff.



**Statement for the catalog:**

**Gender and Women's Studies**

[www.gws.uiuc.edu](http://www.gws.uiuc.edu)  
911 South Sixth Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 333-2990  
Fax: (217) 333-0151

**Graduate Minor: Gender and Women's Studies**

**Graduate Degree Programs**

The graduate minor in gender & women's studies offers sophisticated training in feminist theory and methodology to graduate students who want to incorporate gender & women's studies into their degree work. Because gender has become a central category of analysis in many disciplines and fields, the graduate minor strengthens students' formal credentials and offers a versatile area of specialization. Please see our website for more information, <http://www.gws.uiuc.edu/>.

**Admission**

The Program requires a formal application, including a personal statement about how the student's graduate work and/or research interests intersect with gender and women's studies. Students must also have the signed approval of the graduate director of their program.

**Graduate Minor Requirements:**

The Gender and Women's Studies Minor requires three courses. Students must take one of two core courses, either GWS 550, "Feminist Scholarship in the Humanities: Theory and Method" or GWS 570, "Feminist Scholarship in the Social Sciences: Theory and Research. Two additional 400 or 500 level GWS courses are required; at least one of these two electives must originate outside the student's home department. A practicum or independent study in Gender and Women's Studies may also serve as one of the two electives. For doctoral students, it is recommended that they receive guidance on their dissertation topic, resources, and methodology from a Gender and Women's Studies faculty (or faculty affiliate) advisor.

**Effective Date:** Upon approval

**CLEARANCES**

Cris May 11/26/07  
Head/Chair of the Sponsoring Department or Unit Date

Paula M. Hunt 11/28/07  
Dean of the college of the sponsbring department or unit Date

Kyra Lappenda 1/28/08  
Dean of the Graduate College Date

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Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee Date