

AACR 3

Office of the President
April 21, 2009

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Gender and Women's Studies (CIP Code 05.0299, PROG = AS BA GWST) in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective spring 2009 semester.

Background: Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) is committed to research and teaching about the lives, cultures, perspectives, and activities of women globally, and to the understanding of gender as a construct that permeates human experience, thought, and history. Understanding women's experiences, resources, strategies, and contributions to society is central to the GWS mission, but GWS also recognizes that men's lives are gendered and that gender relations occur simultaneously with other hierarchical social relations and inequalities of power including those based on ability, age, class, ethnicity, family composition, race, region, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and the inequitable distribution of resources in and among countries and groups globally.

The proposed major in Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program of study. It focuses on building critical, investigative and communication skills through the study of theory, culture, social and historical life, and the practices of research, writing, and social engagement. The degree will equip students for success in most fields where an understanding of diversity, and the way it plays out in society is important. Graduates will find employment in the nonprofit and/or social services sectors, health education/advocacy organizations, journalism, and the business sector, among others. The degree will also provide an excellent background for students who intend to pursue professional and academic graduate degrees.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils, University Senate, and has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____