

Women's Studies B.A./B.S.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The Women's Studies B.A. and B.S. Programs offer undergraduate students high quality degree programs in Women's Studies that meet national standards of excellence. Additionally, the programs' introductory course, WMST 201S, supports the University's General Education program as one of the courses fulfilling the Social Sciences Goal, while WMST 401U forms part of Cluster #10 in Option B of the University's Upper Division General Education program. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and to the discovery of new knowledge. The faculty support the institutional mission to serve a diverse student body, to understand the perspectives of women, minority, and nonwestern peoples, and to place knowledge in a global context (Strategic Initiative 6.1).

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The Women's Studies B.A./B.S. Programs support the University goals of (a) quality undergraduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, and (c) discovery of new knowledge.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate knowledge of (a) the factors affecting women's diverse lives, perspectives, and accomplishments in a U.S. context, (b) the factors affecting the diverse lives, perspectives, and accomplishments of women globally, and (c) the major explanatory theories in the field of women's studies.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: All students will attain at least an Acceptable (in a 3-part evaluation scheme ranging from Excellent to Acceptable to Poor), and 35% of students will attain an Excellent in a review (by three Women's Studies core and/or associated faculty) of students' individual Portfolios which consist of all written work prepared for Women's Studies courses, with special attention given to the culminating paper written for WMST 490, the Capstone course.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: Of 4 students assessed, in regard to (a) 4 students demonstrated excellent knowledge. In regard to (b) 1 student demonstrated excellent knowledge and 3 students demonstrated acceptable knowledge. In regard to (c) 1 student demonstrated excellent knowledge, 2 students demonstrated acceptable knowledge and 1 student demonstrated poor knowledge.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: One component of the Exit Interview conducted by two Women's Studies core and/or associated faculty with each graduating seniors will be three questions designed to probe the specific components of the knowledge base described above. All students will be expected to attain at least an Acceptable on this oral exam, and 35% of students will attain an Excellent.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 1: This method of data collection was not used this year.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Each Women's Studies student in her/his final semester will give a public Senior Reflection in which they articulate their understandings of the conditions and perspectives of women. Two women's studies core and/or associated faculty will evaluate this presentation. The goal is for all students to convey at least an Acceptable degree of knowledge and for 35% of the students to convey an Excellent grasp of the knowledge base through this means.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 1: This method of data collection was not used this year.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program: 1) More material on women's situation globally will be included in a range of women's studies courses 2) More material on feminist theories will be incorporated into a greater range of women's studies courses.

Intended Outcome 2

Students will communicate complex ideas effectively in writing.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: 100% of students will earn scores of Acceptable or higher on the review of their Portfolios, as undertaken by three Women's Studies core and/or associated faculty members, with special attention paid to the culminating paper written for the Capstone course, while 75% of students will earn scores of Excellent.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: Of 4 students, two were deemed to be excellent at conveying complex ideas in writing and 2 were found to be acceptable.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: 90% of students will pass the Exit Exam of Writing Proficiency on their first attempt, while 100% of students will pass the exam.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2: All four students were found to be excellent by this criterion since all 4 passed the Exit Exam on their first attempt

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 2 to Improve Academic Program: (1) Students will be given the opportunity to rewrite papers in more of our courses (2) We will offer workshops on writing for our majors.

Intended Outcome 3

Students will express ideas clearly in spoken form.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: Each Women's Studies student in her/his final semester will give a public Senior Reflection in which he/she articulates understandings of the conditions and perspectives of women and an analysis of their own development as learners. Two Women's Studies core and/or associated faculty will evaluate this presentation. The goal is for 100% of students to convey their ideas clearly and forcefully in spoken form to an Acceptable degree and for 50% of students to be assessed as Excellent in their oral presentations.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: Of 4 students, 1 student was judged as excellent in expressing ideas clearly in oral form, 2 students were acceptable and 1 student was poor.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: The Exit Interview conducted by two Women's Studies core and/or associated faculty with each graduating senior will be used to assess student ability to convey ideas clearly. All students will be expected to attain at least an Acceptable on their oral performance during the Exit Exam and 50% of students will attain an Excellent.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3: 2 students were judged as excellent, 1 student as acceptable, and 1 student as poor

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program: Students will be asked to make more oral presentations in the 400 level courses in women's studies.