

## PROPOSAL FOR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Date: December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Title: \_\_\_\_\_ LGBTQ Studies certificate

Effective Term: Fall 2021 \_\_\_\_\_

Which campus(es) will offer this certificate? UGA Athens campus \_\_\_\_\_

Level:

- Undergraduate
- Post-Baccalaureate
- Graduate

**Program Abstract:** The goal of this undergraduate certificate program is to provide students with an understanding of the interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching on the role of sexuality in culture and politics. This certificate will foster theoretical reflection on the history of social difference and how it connects to sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, and class. The 17 hours of coursework will prepare students to expand their knowledge of cultures and to respectfully engage with diverse populations as they enter fields such as law, healthcare, and counseling. It is closely aligned with the Institute for Women's Studies and it will be administered by the Institute for Women's Studies.

Faculty proposing certificates offered by one academic unit should complete page 2. Faculty proposing certificates offered by multiple academic units should complete pages 3-5.

After approval by school/college/unit, proposals for undergraduate programs should be sent to the Office of Curriculum Systems ([currsys@uga.edu](mailto:currsys@uga.edu)). Proposals for graduate programs should be sent to the Graduate School ([krabney@uga.edu](mailto:krabney@uga.edu)).

## **Certificates Offered By One Academic Unit**

**School/College/Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_ Franklin College Arts and Sciences \_\_\_\_\_

**Department/Division:** \_\_\_\_\_ Institute for Women's Studies \_\_\_\_\_

### **1. Purpose and Educational Objectives**

State the purpose and educational objectives of the program. How does this program complement the mission of the institution?

LGBTQ Studies involves a growing area of scholarship and teaching on the role of sexuality in culture and politics, and it is an academic inquiry into the history of the regulation of sexual and gender identities across a wide spectrum of different racial/ethnic and class/regional communities. The purpose of the LGBTQ Studies certificate is to provide students an opportunity to examine sexuality from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives in humanities and sciences. Feminist analyses and contributions of lesbian, gay, transgender studies and queer theories shape a wide range of critical analyses of queer and normative sexualities. It is closely connected to the mission of the Institute of Women's Studies to examine issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality. As a field of study, LGBTQ Studies is interdisciplinary and it is open to undergraduate students in all majors. Knowledge of LGBTQ issues is pertinent to many fields such as law, healthcare, education, advertising, human resources, social work, and counseling.

### **2. Need for the Program**

LGBTQ Studies is an examination of the lived experiences of all of humanity and it is a growing field of inquiry into the history of relationships and communities, providing a deeper understanding of historical and cross-cultural diversity. This program of study is necessary as it works to examine sexuality as a category of theoretical analysis in science and humanities. This certificate will further increase growing enrollment in courses in Women's Studies and encourage development of more research and teaching in this field of inquiry. Certificate students will receive formal credentials to face the needs of the larger community including the LGBTQ community.

In addition, provide the following information:

- a. Semester/Year of Program Initiation: Fall 2021
- b. Semester/Year of Full Implementation of Program: Spring 2022
- c. Semester/Year First Certificates will be awarded: Spring 2023
- d. Annual Number of Graduates expected (once the program is established): 20
- e. Projected Future Trends for number of students enrolled in the program: In two years, it is likely double to 40 students or more.

### **3. Student Demand**

- a. Provide documentation of evidence of student demand for this program, which may include a student survey.

For the past five+ years, the majority of students in WMST 4900 capstone course have expressed interest in pursuing LGBTQ studies coursework. In 2019, students were surveyed in a required upper level course, and approximately 75% of the students said they would be interested in pursuing an LGBTQ studies certificate and the courses required for the certificate. One student stated, "If I had the option of receiving a certificate in LGBTQ Studies, I would have done so in a heartbeat. LGBTQ+ Studies is an area of study that is largely understudied, and it would have supplemented my Women's Studies major nicely. It would have given me the opportunity to critically engage with queer theories in relation to other theories we cover in Women's Studies. Our Women's Studies program does an amazing job analyzing intersecting identities and their implications on people's lived experiences, but I believe a more in-depth discussion of queer identities is always necessary. It is too complex to cover in one class; an entire certificate for LGBTQ+ Studies would suffice for someone like me--and other Women's Studies majors--who wants to explore these identities in greater detail." In fall 2020, another survey was completed with approximately one quarter of the students expressing interest in pursuing an LGBTQ Studies certificate. In this fall 2020 survey, one student stated, "I am very interested in LGBTQ Studies and I currently am planning to continue to study LGBTQ Studies in my graduate/postgraduate work." Another respondent noted "having this as a certificate would encourage more people outside of social sciences to take classes focusing on LGBTQ issues. I think it is absolutely necessary for pre-med, pre-law, and other majors to learn about LGBTQ issues, and I think the certificate will encourage a more diverse major pool to participate in queer studies."

- b. Provide evidence that demand will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollment.

Students have regularly filled to capacity the required courses for the LGBTQ Studies certificate such as WMST 3100 Diversity in LGBTQ Politics, WMST 4100 Queer Theory, and WMST 2300 Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. WMST 2300 was offered in Fall 2017 and it was met with full enrollment. WMST 3100 is a regularly offered course, and it has been at full capacity for enrollment in Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020. WMST 3100 is currently filled at capacity for Spring 2021.

- c. To what extent will minority student enrollments be greater than, less than, or equivalent to the proportion of minority students in the total student body?

Minority student enrollments in one of the regularly offered required courses, WMST 3100 was 26% in Fall 2019 and 35% in Spring 2020, so this certificate will likely attract greater minority student enrollments than the total student body. These numbers primarily represent Black students, but also encompass students who are Latinx, East Asian, and Southeast Asian American students.

#### **4. Program of Study**

The program of study requires 17 hours including:

11 hours of required coursework:

WMST 1000 Seminars on Women's Studies and Gender (1 hour)

WMST 2300 Introduction to LGBTQ Studies (3 hours)

WMST 3100 Diversity in LGBTQ Politics (3 hours)

WMST 4100 Queer Theories (3 hours)

WMST 4910 Research and Methods in LGBTQ Studies (1 hour)

6 hours: 3000-5000 level WMST courses (related courses may be petitioned to count towards electives hours).

- a. Identify any new courses created for this program

WMST 4910 Research and Methods in LGBTQ Studies

#### **5. Model Program and Accreditation**

- a. Identify any model programs, accepted disciplinary standards, and accepted curricular practices against which the proposed program could be judged. Evaluate the extent to which the proposed curriculum is consistent with these external points of reference and provide a rationale for significant inconsistencies and differences that may exist.

There are several peer and aspirational universities with similar LGBTQ studies programs, including The University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Maryland, University of Colorado Boulder, University of

Minnesota, UCLA, and CUNY. Beginning in the 1980's at Yale University, interdisciplinary scholarship, funded research, and faculty appointments established a growing major based in LGBTQ Studies. Yale University has several prominent faculty appointments in LGBT studies and consists of a 15-member faculty committee, a faculty chair, and two full time senior administrative assistants. The University of Wisconsin-Madison offers an LGBTQ Studies certificate which requires 15 hours of credit hours including Introduction to LGBTQ+ and 12 hours from a selection of related electives. UCLA offers a LGBTQ Studies minor with 15 hours of course credit including 7 courses similar to the proposed UGA certificate such as Introduction to LGBTQ Studies, Queer Theories and a capstone course. University of Michigan offers a LGBTQ studies certificate with 15 credit hours, including one required course at 300 level similar to 3100 and a choice of 3 from a list of approved electives. The University of Maryland offers an LGBT minor and a LGBT studies certificate requiring coursework such as Introduction to LGBT Studies and electives from a list of approved electives. The University of Colorado Boulder has a LGBTQ certificate for undergrads with two required courses of Introduction to LGBTQ Studies and Queer Theory and 12 hours of electives. The proposed certificate at UGA adheres to the mission of the Institute for Women's Studies at UGA and the IWS courses can provide intersectional, transnational feminist scholarship and teaching in LGBTQ Studies.

- b. If program accreditation is available, provide an analysis of the ability of the program to satisfy the curricular standards of such specialized accreditation.

## **6. Student Learning Outcomes**

Describe the proposed learning outcomes for the certificate program.

A graduate of the certificate in LGBTQ studies should be able to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of historical and cross-cultural perspectives of the changing and constructed nature of sexuality
- 2) Explain and compare central philosophical and political issues that characterize queer theories and histories
- 3) Articulate an intellectual understanding of debates surrounding the regulation of sexuality in past and contemporary societies
- 4) Apply an interdisciplinary scholarly framework to examine the role of sexuality, race, class, gender in politics and culture

## **7. Assessment**

Describe how the learning outcomes for the program will be assessed.

A committee of all core faculty members in the Institute for Women's Studies developed the procedures of collecting and analyzing data to determine if each learning outcomes has been obtained.

Students from the core courses in the LGBTQ studies certificate will be asked to provide responses to questions developed by faculty members to assess the individual learning outcomes and examine how well the student recalls, interprets, and applies concepts using a rubric.

In addition to this written data from core classes, faculty members will visit the capstone class to hold a focus group for these students and ask students theoretical and applied questions related to the coursework in the certificate. This oral exam provides a means for faculty to assess students' knowledge about the learning outcomes and provide a source of qualitative data to indicate areas of strength and areas needing improvement.

**Please submit documentation of the following approvals with the proposal:**

- Department Head/Director
- Dean/Vice President
- Heads of any academic units which offer courses used in the program of study
- Heads of any academic units which offer similar programs