

7 February 2017

MEMO

To: Ian McNeely, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

From: Yvonne A. Braun, Interim Head, Women's and Gender Studies

RE: Assessment

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies is currently undergoing a major curriculum revision (2015-current). In April 2016, the WGS faculty revised the department learning outcomes and curriculum map during a curriculum revision retreat. The new learning outcomes are:

**Learning outcomes (LOs):** Having completed a major in Women's and Gender Studies, a student will:

1. Develop a broad understanding of feminist studies and histories through interdisciplinary, intersectional, and transnational conceptual lenses;
2. Develop skills in critical thinking and analysis through feminist research and methods;
3. Be able to convey complex information and ideas through accessible writing, speaking, and online communication;
4. Be prepared to connect feminist knowledge and skills with their communities in order to participate in social justice activism and civic engagement.

In the process of constructing our proposed new curriculum, we identified the need to review our training for WGS majors in feminist research and methods (LO #2) and to more systematically evaluate students' training in order to convey complex information and ideas through accessible writing, speaking, and online communication (LO #3). We discussed the development of a senior capstone course, or series of courses, that would build on existing offerings (such as WGS 411 Feminist Praxis, where students do coursework while conducting an internship in the community) to deepen and professionalize the skills training students receive in our courses.

This winter and spring terms 2017, WGS faculty will discuss these learning outcomes in relation to curricular developments, particularly revisiting a discussion of the capstone course/sequence and how this might be developed to concretize skills development and to offer opportunities to systematically evaluate students' training and mastery. These discussions will likely be held in faculty meetings as WGS is a small department. If needed, a curriculum committee including the interim head will be constituted to prepare materials for faculty review at a department meeting. This process will both aid in the development of new curricular developments to better integrate our learning outcomes and in the development of

assessment tools that will allow us to continue to evaluate our learning outcomes over time.