



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

DGS Report to WGSS Faculty
for Annual Graduate Certificate Graduate Program Assessment

DGS

The WGSS DGS for the AY 2020-21 is Ana Maurine Lara, Assistant Professor in WGSS. The responsibilities of the DGS included communication with the Graduate School on an ongoing basis; advising current and new WGSS Graduate Certificate students; and maintaining and developing the Graduate Certificate program in line with departmental goals.

Enrollment:

We currently have 44 students enrolled and active in the WGSS Graduate Certificate program. Out of those numbers, 16 are new students who enrolled in the 2020-2021 academic year. Four students graduated this year with WGSS Graduate Certificates in WGSS.

We were able to effectively transition from an in-person, paper model of record-keeping to a virtual, remote and cloud-based model of record keeping. Our practices included: a) creating digital documents that could be signed digitally by applicants, the DGS and the Graduate School; b) using email to provide a summary of all of the student's completed, projected and required coursework towards meeting the requirements of the Graduate Certificate; this email correspondence was then saved and uploaded to the student's file by our Office Manager, Josie Mulkins; c) providing signed letters of acceptance to the program to all past and new Graduate Certificate students, for their records.

Assessment:

We did not teach WGS 615 this academic year. For this year only we also allowed for the course taught by Bonnie Mann (WGSS Affiliated Faculty in Philosophy), Feminist Theories, towards the requirement. WGS 615 was taught in Spring 2020, when the University of Oregon had just shifted to remote teaching. There were a total of 10 students enrolled in the course. The course content focused on the feminist scholarship of feminists of color. The syllabus of the course is attached, for review. Students were evaluated on their writing. In addition to this requirement, WGSS Graduate Certificate students also enrolled in other WGSS classes, including:

Fall 2020

- WGS 511: Feminist Praxis

Winter 2021

- WGS 522: Defining Deviance
- WGS 551: Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora

Spring 2021

- WGS 510: Performance Ethnography and WGS
- WGS 550: Literature and Feminist World-making

Efforts to improve the student educational experience

Generally, we host an annual WGSS graduate certificate mixer to help build an intellectual community for students across campus. This was not feasible given the pandemic conditions for the AY 2020-21.

This year, in light of the remote teaching and gathering world we were a part of, the DGS created – along with the support of University tech teams – the WGSS Graduate Certificate Canvas Community. The Canvas Community went live in January 2021. The Community exists to provide avenues for WGSS Graduate Certificate students to share resources, to gather virtually, and to access any and all information related to the WGSS Graduate Certificate program, all in one place with real-time interaction. As part of improving student educational experience, we also hosted various professional development opportunities in Spring 2021:

- a) two conversations with women faculty who are full professors and who have experience in University administration and Center leadership
- b) a workshop on the academic job application for positions in WGSS
- c) a writing workshop for WGSS Graduate certificate students

Ideas for development/assessment

WGSS Faculty have suggested the possibility of hosting writing circles, working with students to organize brown bag presentations of works in progress, and introducing other 600-level courses focused on methods and writing. At the heart of this desire is a wish to create a robust Graduate Certificate program that is comparable to programs around the country. The department is currently hindered by a limited number of faculty.



Ana-Maurine Lara

May 10, 2021