**WGSS** **Graduate Certificate Graduate Program Assessment Plan**

**Department or Program: WGSS  
Academic Year of Report: 2020/21  
Department Contact Person for Assessment: Priscilla Yamin**

**Overview**

The WGSS Graduate Certificate was launched in AY 1983-84 to address regional and campus-wide needs for extended graduate study in gender, sexuality, and feminist studies. Currently, the graduate certificate enrolls 35-45 graduate students across many PhD and MA programs in the University. Certificate students chart their own course of study by enrolling in WGSS 500-level and 600-level courses, and other approved courses by WGSS affiliate faculty across CAS.

**Learning Goals and Objectives**

1. Training in intersectional and interdisciplinary feminist scholarship and theory;
2. Introducing students to theories and practices of feminist pedagogy;
3. Providing a professional credential for students interested in pursuing work in WGSS or WGSS-related fields.

**Assessment Methods**

The assessment of student outcomes of #1, #2, and #3 are based on grading student work in individual courses. Each course will individually assess student understanding and skill level through assignments.

Instructor of WGSS 615, and the other graduate level courses offered each year will provide syllabi, examples of writing assignments, as well as written justification, if applicable, of how the course addresses these learning outcomes.

To evaluate current learning outcomes, the Director of Graduate Study (DGS) will survey the WGSS faculty member who is teaching WGSS 615 or an experimental 600 level course, as well as, the other faculty members who are teaching 500 level courses. The DGS will meet with each instructor and discuss how the course performs the learning outcomes listed above. The DGS will follow-up with a report.

The faculty will devote a faculty meeting to discuss the learning objectives for the graduate certificate program and coordinate how WGS 615 fulfills the learning outcomes for providing training in the field.

**Assessment Processes**

Below is a table that maps out when each learning object will be assessed. Each objective will be assessed every three years. The process should start in the late Fall and be completed in the Spring.

**Schedule of Assessment:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WGSS LEARNING OBJECTIVES | AY 21-22 | AY 22-23 | AY 23-24 | AY 24-25 |
| LO1: Training in Feminist Scholarship | X |  |  | X |
| LO2: Feminist Pedagogy |  |  | X |  |
| lo3: Professional credential |  | X |  |  |

**Schedule for conversation with faculty to discuss assessment**

At the beginning of each year, WGSS will have a faculty retreat where the DGS will give a report of the prior year’s assessment. Faculty will give feedback on the assessment and areas that need improvement.

**Report to capture outcome and plans**

At the end of each academic year, the DGS will report to the faculty on the assessment of the certificate program. At such time, the faculty will revisit the prior report given at the beginning of the academic year to evaluate progress and offer suggestions.

**Efforts to improve the student educational experience**At the end of each academic year, the DGS will report to the faculty on efforts to improve student educational experiences. At such time, faculty will revisit prior initiatives and reports in order to evaluate sustainability and to offer suggestions.

**Plans for 2022-2023**

We will assess the following learning outcome: Providing a professional credential for students interested in pursuing work in WGS or WGS-related fields. To assess this, we will track recent WGSS graduate certificate alumni (past 10 years) to find out where they are working and survey them to discover how the WGSS certificate helped their career and how the program could be improved.