

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Gender and Women's Studies Minor

Date Submitted: 22 February 2019

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2019

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Carole McCann	mccann@umbc.edu	5-2161	GWST
Other Contact	Elle Everhart	eaever@umbc.edu	5-2001	GWST

Specifics (see instructions):

We propose updated catalogue copy for the Gender and Women's Studies minor. This text is to appear in the catalogue to serve as a description of the program and its aims.

Current catalogue copy:

Gender + Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry that investigates how gender and sexuality operate as organizing axes of social, cultural, economic and political institutions, as well as in the everyday lives and cultural products of people who must live within them. Emphasizing the importance of historical and cross-cultural perspectives, the Gender and Women's Studies Department at UMBC critically examines the intersections of gender and sexuality with other differences, including, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, age, and ability to make visible structures of power that otherwise remain hidden.

Gender + Women's Studies offers a major, undergraduate certificate, and two minors, Gender + Women's Studies and Critical Sexuality Studies.

To complete the minor in Gender + Women's Studies, students must complete 18 credits of gender and women's studies coursework, divided as follows:

Proposed catalogue copy:

This interdisciplinary minor is designed for students in any major who also want a concentration in the study of gender. The minor investigates how gender operates as an organizing axis of social, cultural, economic, and political institutions, as well as in the everyday lives and cultural products of people who must live within them. Special attention is paid to how gender intersects with other differences, including race, sexuality, class, religion, nation, disability, and age, and how power, resistance, and life chances are differentially distributed at these intersections.

The minor provides a good foundation of critical reading, writing, and thinking skills that prepare students for work or graduate school in a variety of fields, including psychology, law, social work, medicine, nonprofit management, human resources, and more. To earn the minor, students must complete 18 credits of coursework offered by the Department of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies, including three core courses and three courses from approved electives, one of which must be a Range of Experience (RoE) course. All courses in the GWST minor must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Rationale (see instructions):

The current copy included alongside the GWST minor in the catalogue, added without department review, is a general description of the Gender, Women's, + Sexuality Studies department. By making the GWST catalogue copy specific to the program, we are best utilizing the updated catalogue display and ensuring that students are receiving accurate information about the minor and the minor's aims.