I. Background Information

A. Title of Program: LGBTQ Studies

B. Department(s): Women’s Studies

C. Division: ☑ Undergraduate Only (Requires approval by APC*) ☐ Undergraduate/Graduate (Requires approval by APC & GC*) ☐ Graduate Only (Requires approval by GC*)

D. Effective Year and Term for Implementation of Action: 2011-2012

II. Unit Approvals

A. Chair, Department of Women’s Studies ___________________________ __________
   Chair, Department of Sociology ___________________________ __________
   Chair, Department of Psychology ___________________________ __________
   Chair, Department of ___________________________ __________

B. Dean of College ___________________________ __________

C. Chair, Academic Policies Committee ___________________________ __________

D. Chair, Graduate Council (if required) ___________________________ __________

* APC = Academic Policies Committee
* GC = Graduate Council
III. A. Statement of Benefits to the Department(s), College, and University.

The certificate benefits the program by making more explicit the work Women's Studies has been doing by teaching about feminist studies and sexuality studies. By having this concentration recorded on student transcripts, Women's Studies pedagogy in these areas will be made more transparent. The certificate program benefits students in the College by providing a flexible option for students to formalize their interest in LGBTQ Studies as a field of academic inquiry undertaken in relation to their major field of study. Students will benefit from the interdisciplinary feminist examination of intersectionality. In their review of candidates, both employers and graduate admissions committees are increasingly looking for a demonstrable capability to think in terms of equity, diversity, and inclusiveness. Because students will be able to formally document their training in this area by having the certificate recorded on their transcript, they will be stronger candidates. Students from many of the professional fields such as Nursing, Social Work, Education, Health Care Administration would benefit by being able to bring this training to their post-graduation employment. The certificate also benefits students in the liberal arts disciplines, such as English, Sociology, Psychology, and Political Science because these majors often seek employment in non-profit sectors dealing with various and diverse populations, making LGBTQ Studies a beneficial preparation. The certificate program benefits the University because it is completely in line with EDI initiatives, which include sexuality. It is also solidly grounded in liberal education, and will attract both faculty and students interested in working in these areas.

B. Identification of target audience(s) and evidence of long-term need.

Professional studies programs, such as Nursing, Social Work, Education, Health Care Administration, and students in liberal arts disciplines such as English, Sociology, Psychology, and Political Science. A certificate is likely to be particularly attractive and feasible for students in comprehensive majors not requiring a minor.

C. Description of the academic component including:

i. Goals.

This certificate will provide a flexible option for students seeking a concentration in LGBTQ issues, and who wish to formally denote on their transcript this area of expertise in their academic training.

ii. Admission requirements.

Currently enrolled degree-seeking students in good standing in the
university and University Special Students will be eligible to complete the certificate in LGBTQ Studies.

iii. Number and array of courses including specification of any required courses. If electives are allowed within the certificate program, an explanation of the proposed electives in light of the need for program cohesion should be included.

Students pursuing the LGBTQ Studies Certificate are required to complete 12 credits toward the certificate.

Required courses (6 credits) include:
Perspectives in LGBTQ Studies (WMNS 206)
Queer Theories and Sexual Politics (WMNS 406)

The remaining 6 credits are to be selected from:
Psyc/Wmns 336, Psychology of Women
Soc 426, Soc of Sexualities
WMNS 440, Lesbian Lives and Cultures

Additional electives include:
--WMNS 422 and WMNS 431 when offered as “LGBTQA Studies San Francisco Travel Seminar”; and
--special topics and umbrella courses with a focus on LGBTQ and/or sexualities issues with approval of the Women’s Studies Coordinator.

These electives allow students to select an interdisciplinary range of content areas and methodological approaches that best fit their particular intellectual and professional interests.

iv. A statement identifying program prerequisites.

There are no prerequisites to the initial core course in the certificate (WMNS 206); other courses may have prerequisites.

v. Specification of GPA requirements for course and certificate completion. (NOTE: Passage of every course in an undergraduate certificate program must be at the C+ level of higher; total GPA for the program must be at least 2.5. Passage of every course in a graduate certificate program must be at a 3.0 grade point average or higher; total GPA for the program must be at least 3.0.)

- For complete information, see Policy Statement on Credit-Bearing Certificate Programs.
- Submit the original and 13 copies of the proposal to the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee (CASCC) for approval. The CASCC will route the approved proposal to APC or GC.
- After CASCC, APC, and GC (if necessary) approvals, complete the UWEC Certificate Master Form for the Registrar’s Office.
- After a student has successfully completed the certificate program, complete the UW-Eau Claire Certificate Completion Form for the Registrar’s Office.
Students must earn a C+ or higher in all courses and maintain a total and resident GPA of at least 2.5.

vi. A statement outlining the certificate program’s relationship to and articulation with existing degree programs and the select mission of UW-Eau Claire.

UW-Eau Claire is committed to fostering a transformative liberal education and preparing our students for active citizenship in an increasingly diverse and globalized world. As an interdisciplinary program, the Women’s Studies Program is uniquely situated to house a Certificate in LGBTQ Studies that like its predecessor, the Certificate in Women’s Studies, will emphasize praxis, or the integration of practice with theory and analysis. The courses that make up the certificate will provide opportunities for students to conduct research, and contribute service work and outreach to LGBT communities. The preparation that students gain from adding this Certificate to their degree will assist them in serving communities and organizations. A Certificate is an ideal complement to a comprehensive major, or to expand a student's range beyond a major/minor.

D. Description of the administration, staffing, and budgeting for the program, including:

i. Evidence that the faculty/staff in the department(s) are willing to teach the courses in the certificate program at the times/locations necessary for completion of the certificate.

The courses represent mostly current offerings. Blugold Commitment funding provides base budget resources specifically allocated to WMNS 206 to be taught every fall and WMNS 406 to be offered every spring. Many of the elective courses are GE courses, which are open to students in all majors.

ii. Proposed frequency of course offerings for courses included in the certificate program.

Many of the electives are already being offered every semester or every other semester, and there is flexibility built into the elective choices.

iii. Proposed arrangements for ongoing advising for students in the certificate program.

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Advising will occur through Women’s Studies. The Women’s Studies Program Coordinator and the faculty member in LGBTQ Studies whose position is being funded by Blugold Commitment starting 2011-12 will take on primary responsibility for advising.

iv. Anticipated need for other student support services for students enrolled in the certificate program.

none

v. For certificate programs involving more than one academic department, identification of an administrative unit for the program.

The Women's Studies Program

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