

CONFIDENTIAL

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Proposal for an Advanced Certificate Program  
in Women's Studies

Evaluation Report of

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Review of the Proposed  
Advanced Certificate Program  
in Women's Studies at The City University of New York

Women's Studies is one of the most highly developed and swiftly growing fields of inquiry to emerge in the last fifteen years. Because it is both independent and interdisciplinary, research in Women's Studies has affected the conceptual basis of virtually all of the "traditional" humanities, social science, and natural science disciplines. Women's Studies scholarship is central to the "transformation of the curriculum" projects in place at the many colleges and universities which are working to bring factors of gender and race into undergraduate and graduate education. While over 500 undergraduate programs are currently in place in the United States, graduate Women's Studies programs, though much in demand, have been considerably slower to develop. In response to the demand for experts trained in the new scholarship on women, a number of M.A., Advanced Certificate and Ph.D. programs in Women's Studies are being established. A certificate program is one of the best interim measures that can be implemented. It can provide a coherent framework for the Women's Studies work in which many of the best students are already engaged.

The Women's Studies Advanced Certificate program currently under consideration at The City University of New York has the

necessary qualities for a successful program:

1. The Courses

The Advanced Certificate program has the requisite balance of core and individualized courses:

- . MALS 721 (Classical Feminist Texts) and MALS 722 (Contemporary Feminist Thought) are appropriate prerequisites that will assure a minimal base of knowledge in the field.
- . IDS U717 (Proseminar) and IDS U816 (Workshop for Guided Research) plus two or three more Women's Studies electives provide appropriate depth and scope.

2. The Faculty

There are 30 faculty from various Ph.D. programs at The Graduate School who are actively engaged in teaching and research in Women's Studies. These faculty are among the most productive and highly respected in the field. They are eminently well qualified to supervise students earning a graduate certificate in Women's Studies. In fact, because most of the requisite certificate courses are already being taught, and many students are already specializing in Women's Studies, granting this certificate will simply regularize and strengthen a program that is virtually in existence already.

3. Need

On the basis of graduate interest in Women's Studies and enrollment in similar certificate programs at comparable institutions, e.g., The University of Michigan, there is every reason to believe that there will be ample student demand for an Advanced Certificate in Women's Studies. Because there is no comparable certificate program in the Metropolitan area, students who might otherwise choose to study elsewhere will be attracted to CUNY.

Graduates holding an Advanced Certificate in Women's Studies with a Ph.D. in the humanities or the social sciences will be qualified to meet the demand for college teaching of introductory and advanced interdisciplinary Women's Studies courses. They will also be able to bring Women's Studies perspectives to bear on their area of doctoral study.

4. Resources

This program can be implemented immediately without additional resources. Such a certificate program is much needed and long overdue. The excellence of the faculty, the coherence of the courses, as well as the student demand make immediate implementation appropriate.