

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Women's and Gender Studies (BA, BS) Majors and Minors, 2024-2025

Date: 5/9/2025

In Attendance: Interim Provost Robin Fox; Dean Jason Janke (L&S); Associate Dean Angela Harlan; Department Chair/Program Coordinator Ellie Schemenauer; faculty and staff in the Women's & Gender Studies program Donald Jellerson, Jessica Walz, Andrea Romero, Ashley Barnes-Gilbert; Program Review Team Chair Kim Kostka; Program Review team members Bill Miller and Corey Davis; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- a) Review team commented on the consistency of the individual team members responses as a testament to the programs writing a strong report
- b) Program commented on the changes in leadership and some affiliated faculty – small department that has a leadership pipeline (interim leader for a year)
- c) Will be requesting a line to fill teaching responsibilities of an affiliated member who will be transitioning to a new faculty line
- d) Angela commented on the positive culture of the department and what a great impact that has on the college community

We commend the program for the significant leadership and advocacy work at the university level.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Describe specific work the program engages in to prepare graduates for their upcoming transition from the University to career.

Chair Schemenauer identified 3 ways they help prepare their graduates for careers after graduation:

1) capstone course required in the program, which is an advanced seminar that provides opportunities for students to prepare a written reflection on the program's coursework. Students discuss how they plan on using their acquired skills and knowledge as they transition to a career. Also required in the seminar is a career-focused presentation. Students tend to select two paths – either graduate school or employment. Once identified, they create a 1-to-5-year plan in which they research a career interest and interview someone in their chosen career.

2) During advising, faculty engage students in discussion about the skills they are developing and how those can lead to many employment opportunities.

3) The program is working to increase opportunities for students to engage in undergraduate research and internships.

The program is working on strengthening relationships with alumni to help foster connections between students and is also strengthening connections with other programs across campus that introduce students to other potential areas that could lead to careers.

Common career paths include law, health, education, and social services.

Film studies commented on the value of this program in teaching the analytical skills needed to unpack stereotypes/barriers/misrepresentations.

The Provost commented on the value of this department to the university in addressing diversity issues across campus, and noted the Chancellor sees this department as instrumental in helping the campus achieve goals to improve campus climate

2 – The program invests significant time recruiting students and making strong interpersonal connections with their students. Are you planning to continue with the recruiting efforts described in the report (e.g., letters to students, building a community of care), and are there any new ideas you are implementing?

The program has worked to expand the number of 100-level courses to help introduce students to the WGS area of study (an increase from 1 to 3 100-level courses over the past few years). This is in recognition of the fact that students do not necessarily come to college with an awareness of this field.

The program continues its presence at campus preview, orientation, and wellness events to share information about the program.

WGS and Religious Studies secured an endowment that matures in fall and will produce \$20,000 per year to use for research dissemination. Their plan is to use the funds to bring in speakers, as well as host additional events. The first use of the funds will be to bring a high-profile speaker to present to the program's students, followed by a public talk.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Address the reviewer comments in the assessment section related to creating performance metrics, considering adding other assessment methods beyond rubrics, and share the reoccurring timeline for assessment of SLOs.

Recommended Action #2

Provide an update on the current program course offerings, including your periodic reviews of the course catalog to ensure a variety of course offerings that may be of interest to students.

Recommended Action #3

Describe the current state of full-time faculty/staff in the program and plans for sustained leadership.

Recommended Result:

Continuation without qualification

Next Self-Study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next SHORT self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2031, and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2031

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.