



University Council

April 12, 2024

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2023-2024

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Law – Joe Miller

Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon

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Veterinary Medicine – Shannon Hostetter

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu

Undergraduate Student Representative – Gabriella Lewis

Graduate Student Representative – Kelsey Wohlford

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to change the names of the Institute for Women's Studies, the major in Women's Studies (A.B.), the minor in Women's Studies, the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, and the prefix WMST will be an agenda item for the April 19, 2024, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

ACADEMIC UNIT AND PROGRAM NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION FORM

Date: November 7, 2023

Department/Division: Institute for Women's Studies

School/College/Unit: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2025

ACADEMIC UNIT NAME CHANGE:

Current Name: Institute for Women's Studies

Proposed Name: Institute for Women's and Gender Studies

ACDEMIC PROGRAM NAME CHANGES:

Current Program Name: Women's Studies (A.B.)

Proposed Program Name: Women's and Gender Studies (A.B.)

Current Program Name: Minor in Women's Studies

Proposed Program Name: Minor in Women's and Gender Studies

Current Program Name: Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies

Proposed Program Name: Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies

COURSE PREFIX CHANGE:

Current Prefix and Name: WMST, Women's Studies

Proposed Prefix and Name: WGST, Women's and Gender Studies

JUSTIFICATION:

The Institute for Women's Studies requests a name change to the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Name changes of three academic programs offered by the institute—Women's Studies (A.B.), the minor in Women's Studies, and the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies—are also requested.

The requested names more accurately reflect the faculty areas of research and teaching, as well as the growing curriculum. The existing interdisciplinary foundation of scholarship in the field includes a focus on women's lives, narratives, and leadership, and expands into the study of gender as an analytical category in social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and scientific dimensions. The institute already offers many courses that include gender studies and conducts research on gender.

The institute was recently awarded a \$100,000 Affirming Multivocal Humanities grant from the Mellon Foundation to fund undergraduate research, creative projects, and a pedagogical network focused on best practices around women's and gender studies in the region. Already ranked 11th in the United States for undergraduate degrees awarded in Women's Studies¹, keeping current with national trends will contribute to the strengthening and growth of the program.

Nationally, the field of women's studies has become more widely recognized as women's and gender studies, with most programs in the nation including "gender studies" in their title². Thus, the proposed name will enhance the Institute's ability to recruit and retain students as it signals a broader and more attractive focus. Two recent undergraduate student focus groups of more than fifteen students in each group suggested the proposed name more accurately describes the major, and students have consistently recommended this change.

On September 20, 2023, the faculty in the Institute unanimously voted in support for the change to the unit and program names.

¹"Women's Studies." Data USA, datausa.io/profile/datausa.io/profile/cip/womensstudies?redirect=true. Accessed 11 Oct. 2023.

²Jashik, S. 2009. "Evolution of American Women's Studies." *Inside Higher Education*. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/03/27/evolution-american-womens-studies>

Appendix: Comparisons in Georgia and Nationwide

Institutions with programs named “Women’s Studies”

Only a few universities still have programs named “Women’s Studies.” These include San Diego State University, University of West Georgia (minor only), Tennessee State University (minor only), and Spelman University (Comparative Women’s Studies).

Other Programs in Georgia

Agnes Scott College: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Emory University: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Georgia College and State University: Women’s and Gender Studies minor
Georgia Gwinnett College: Gender Studies (minor only)
Georgia Southern University: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Georgia Southwestern State University: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Georgia State University: Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
Georgia Tech University: Women, Science, and Technology minor
Mercer University: Women’s and Gender Studies
Oglethorpe University: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
University of West Georgia: Women’s Studies (minor only)

UGA peer and aspirational institutions

Arizona State University: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Auburn University: Women’s and Gender Studies
Clemson University: Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies
Florida State University: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Louisiana State University: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Mississippi State University: Gender Studies
North Carolina State University: Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
Oklahoma State University: Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies
Pennsylvania State University: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Texas A&M University: Women’s and Gender Studies
Texas Tech University: Women’s and Gender Studies
University of Alabama: Gender and Race Studies
University of Alabama at Birmingham: Women’s and Gender Studies
University of Arkansas: Gender Studies
University of California-Berkeley: Gender and Women’s Studies
University of California-Los Angeles: Gender Studies
University of Delaware: Women and Gender Studies
University of Florida: Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies
University of Houston: Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Gender and Women’s Studies
University of Kentucky: Gender and Women’s Studies
University of Maryland: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of Michigan: Women's and Gender Studies
University of Minnesota: Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies
University of Mississippi: Women and Gender Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Women's and Gender Studies
University of Oklahoma-Norman: Women's and Gender Studies
University of South Carolina: Women's and Gender Studies
University of Southern Mississippi: Women's and Gender Studies
University of Tennessee: Women, Gender, and Sexuality
University of Texas at Austin: Women's and Gender Studies
University of Virginia: Women, Gender and Sexuality
University of Wisconsin: Gender and Women's Studies
Virginia Tech University: Women's and Gender Studies
West Virginia University: Women's and Gender Studies

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to change the names of the Institute for Women's Studies, the major in Women's Studies (A.B.), the minor in Women's Studies, the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, and the prefix WMST

College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department: Institute for Women's Studies

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2025

School/College:

- Institute for Women's Studies Assistant Director, Dr. Cecilia Herles, 10/11/2023
- Institute for Women's Studies Director, Dr. Patricia Richardson, 11/3/2023
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, 1/29/2024
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 4/11/2024