

## PROPOSAL FOR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Date: July 21, 2025\_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Title: Gender and Health certificate

Effective Term: Fall 2026\_\_\_\_\_

Which campus(es) will offer this certificate? UGA Athens campus\_\_\_\_\_

Level:

☒ Undergraduate

☐ Post-Baccalaureate

☐ Graduate

**Program Abstract:** The goal of this undergraduate certificate is to provide students with an understanding of the interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching on gender and health. This certificate will foster theoretical reflection on historical, social, and physiological factors related to health and its connections to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and class. The 15 hours of coursework will prepare students to expand their knowledge of gender and health, and to respectfully engage with diverse populations as they enter fields such as healthcare, law, and counseling. It is closely aligned with the mission of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, and it will be administered by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies.

Faculty proposing certificates offered by one academic unit should complete page 2. Faculty proposing certificates offered by multiple academic units should complete pages 3-5.

After approval by school/college/unit, proposals for undergraduate programs should be sent to the Office of Curriculum Systems ([currsys@uga.edu](mailto:currsys@uga.edu)). Proposals for graduate programs should be sent to the Graduate School ([krabney@uga.edu](mailto:krabney@uga.edu)).

## **Certificates Offered By One Academic Unit**

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

**Department/Division:** Institute for Women's and Gender Studies

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### **1. Purpose and Educational Objectives**

State the purpose and educational objectives of the program. How does this program complement the mission of the institution?

A Gender and Health certificate program focuses on an important area of scholarship and teaching that examines the role of physiological and social processes relating to gender and health. It is an academic inquiry into historical, physiological, and social factors related to gender, bodies, and health across a wide spectrum of different racial/ethnic and class/regional communities. The purpose of the Gender and Health certificate is to provide students an opportunity to examine health from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives in the humanities, social sciences, and life sciences. It is closely connected to the mission of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies to examine issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality. As a field of study, this certificate is interdisciplinary, and it is open to undergraduate students in all majors. Knowledge of issues of gender and health is pertinent to many fields such as healthcare, law, education, human resources, social work, and counseling.

### **2. Need for the Program**

This Gender and Health certificate will provide a deep, interdisciplinary understanding of physiological and social processes related to health and wellbeing as they intersect with gender. This program of study establishes gender as a category of analysis in work on health in the sciences and humanities. As UGA builds its reputation as a health campus with the addition of medical and nursing schools, this undergraduate certificate will provide a strong interdisciplinary base for students pursuing careers in these fields as well as others. This certificate will further increase growing enrollment in courses in Women's and Gender Studies and encourage development of more research and teaching in this field of inquiry.

Certificate students will receive formal credentials to face the needs of the larger community.

In addition, provide the following information:

- a. Semester/Year of Program Initiation: Fall 2026
- b. Semester/Year of Full Implementation of Program: Spring 2027
- c. Semester/Year First Certificates will be awarded: Spring 2027
- d. Annual Number of Graduates expected (once the program is established): 20
- e. Projected Future Trends for number of students enrolled in the program: In two years, it is likely to double to 40 students or more.

### **3. Student Demand**

- a. Provide documentation of evidence of student demand for this program, which may include a student survey.

For the past five+ years, many Women's and Gender Studies students have been, and continue to be, interested in healthcare, often pursuing medical school or public health after graduation. This growing number of students are interested in pursuing interdisciplinary feminist research in health and medicine. Some of our Women's and Gender Studies students have worked in medical-related research with affiliate and core faculty members in Women's and Gender Studies. Students have also shared this interdisciplinary research on gender and health in the annual student research symposiums. Affiliate faculty in the sciences also report student demand for interdisciplinary courses of study related to gender and the life sciences; our existing courses that fit this demand consistently fill.

- b. Provide evidence that demand will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollment.

Students from across campus including STEM majors have regularly filled the electives that will count towards the certificate including WMST 4120, WMST 4170S, and WMST 3270S.

- c. To what extent will minority student enrollments be greater than, less than, or equivalent to the proportion of minority students in the total student body?

Minority student enrollments in the regularly offered elective courses, WMST 4170S was 30% in Spring 2021 and 60% in Spring 2023, and 50% in WMST 3270S in Summer 2022 and 30% in Summer 2023 and 2024. This certificate will likely attract greater minority student enrollments than the total student body. These numbers primarily represent Black students, but also encompass students who are Latinx, East Asian, and Southeast Asian American students.

#### 4. Program of Study

The program of study requires 15 hours including:

3 hours of required coursework:

- WMST 2060 Ethics, Bodies, Gender, and Sexuality in a Changing World (3 hours)
- OR
- WMST 2500 Introduction to Gender, Women, and Health (in CAPA review 3 hours)

12 hours of required coursework, with at least 6 hours from these course offerings:

- WMST 3270S The Gendered Politics of Food (3 hours)
- WMST 4120 Sex, Politics, Science & Reproduction (3 hours)
- WMST 4170S Environment, Gender, Race, Class (3 hours)
- WMST/EDUC 4400 Bodies, Gender, Sexuality, and Sex Education (3 hours)
- WMST 4650 Reproductive Health in the U.S. and the World (3 hours) (being proposed in CAPA)
- WMST 4770 Women, Gender, and Climate Justice (3 hours)

The remaining 6 hours may draw from the offerings listed above OR Additional courses not listed here may be petitioned to count toward certificate hours.

- a. Identify any new courses created for this program

WMST 2500 Introduction to Gender, Women, and Health  
WMST 4650 Reproductive Health in the U.S. and the World

## **5. Model Program and Accreditation**

a. Identify any model programs, accepted disciplinary standards, and accepted curricular practices against which the proposed program could be judged. Evaluate the extent to which the proposed curriculum is consistent with these external points of reference and provide a rationale for significant inconsistencies and differences that may exist.

There are several peer and aspirational universities with certificate programs, including Rutgers University, University of Missouri, Johns Hopkins University, and Ohio University. The certificate at Rutgers University requires coursework in Women's Global Health Movements and Gender, Economic Inequality & Health as well as electives such as Gender, Environmental Justice & Health and Global Food Politics. The proposed certificate at UGA incorporates the expertise of core and affiliate faculty who do research and teach courses on Gender, Health, Disability, Sex Education, Environmental Justice, and Food Politics. The proposed certificate adheres to the mission of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at UGA and the WMST courses can provide intersectional, transnational feminist scholarship and teaching in Gender and Health.

b. If program accreditation is available, provide an analysis of the ability of the program to satisfy the curricular standards of such specialized accreditation.

## **6. Student Learning Outcomes**

Describe the proposed learning outcomes for the certificate program.

A graduate of the certificate in Gender and Health should be able to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of historical and cross-cultural perspectives on gender and health
- 2) Explain and compare central philosophical and political issues that characterize theories and histories of gender and health
- 3) Articulate an intellectual understanding of debates surrounding the physiological and social processes related to gender and health
- 4) Apply an interdisciplinary scholarly framework to examine the role of health and gender, sexuality, race, and class

## **7. Assessment**

Describe how the learning outcomes for the program will be assessed.

A committee of all core faculty members in the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies developed the procedures of collecting and analyzing data to determine if each learning outcome has been obtained.

Students from the required introductory courses in the certificate will be asked to provide responses to questions developed by faculty members teaching those courses to assess individual learning outcomes and examine how well the student recalls, interprets, and applies course concepts using a rubric. These assessments will provide a sense of student knowledge early in their program.

In addition to this written data from the required classes, students will be sent an online survey upon completion of the certificate to assess learning outcomes. This survey provides faculty with data to indicate areas of strength and areas needing improvement for the certificate. Survey data can also be compared to the responses to the earlier assessments to understand student growth over the course of pursuing the certificate.

**Please submit documentation of the following approvals with the proposal:**

- Department Head/Director
- Dean/Vice President
- Heads of any academic units which offer courses used in the program of study
- Heads of any academic units which offer similar programs



## Institute for Women's and Gender Studies

*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

September 23, 2025

Franklin College  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dean Anna Stenport,

The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies is submitting a proposal for approval for an Undergraduate Certificate in Gender and Health. As UGA adds medical and nursing schools, there will be a high level of student interest in this coursework, and this certificate will fulfill the needs of students. The certificate requires fifteen hours of coursework, including: WMST 2060 Ethics, Bodies, Gender, and Sexuality in a Changing World or WMST 2500 Introduction to Gender, Women, and Health, and at least 6 hours from these course offerings: WMST 3270S The Gendered Politics of Food, WMST 4120 Sex, Politics, Science & Reproduction, WMST 4170S Environment, Gender, Race, Class, WMST/EDUC 4400 Bodies, Gender, Sexuality, and Sex Education. Additional courses may be petitioned to count as electives.

This Certificate is pertinent to many fields such as healthcare, law, human resources, and education. There are several peer and aspirational universities with similar programs including the Rutgers University, University of Missouri, Johns Hopkins University, and Ohio University. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia Richards, Director WGS

WGS Curriculum Committee: Dr. Patricia Richards, Dr. Cecilia Herles, and Dr. Kelly Happe, and Dr. Ingie Hovland