

EP.09.62  
(Rev. 3/2/09)

**PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR**

**Title of proposed minor:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Queer Studies Minor,  
LAS

**Sponsoring unit:** Gender and Women's Studies Program  
**Contact:** Cris Mayo, Interim Director GWS  
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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Queer Studies Minor [LGBT/Queer Studies Minor] will introduce students to interdisciplinary sexuality studies, providing courses in LGBT/Queer theory, history, methodology, and contemporary issues. As work in LGBT/Queer Studies continues to grow nationally and internationally, GWS would like to provide interested students with an opportunity to focus a portion of their studies on this field within the broader context of Gender and Women's studies. By concentrating their coursework in LGBT/Queer Studies, students will pursue a coherent course of study, concentrating on key texts and issues within this interdisciplinary area. Further, having this minor will give visibility to students' interests on their transcripts, as well as provide greater visibility for the LGBT/Queer Studies courses that GWS and the campus currently offers.

**Justification:**

GWS has offered a sexuality strand in its major since 2003 and continues to hire faculty whose research is concentrated in interdisciplinary and intersectional sexuality studies. As a result, GWS has developed a significant array of courses focusing on LGBT/Queer Studies and as our enrollments in these courses grow, students, especially those students whose interest has not traditionally been in GWS, have asked that we consider developing a minor specifically on LGBT/Queer Studies. Northern Illinois State University, University of Minnesota and Indiana University, among others, offer similar minors, some connected to women's studies, others interdisciplinary stand-alone programs. Given the strength and diversity of the University of Illinois Gender and Women's Studies Program and the ability of many of its affiliates to regularly offer courses in sexuality studies, we are in a particularly good position to respond to student requests and provide this minor. As the field of LGBT/Queer studies grows nationally—with its own peer-reviewed journals, book series, and graduate minors—a minor in LGBT/Queer Studies will give our students a competitive edge if they apply to graduate school. It will also prepare UIUC graduates as they enter the job market at large, where there is an increasing demand for employees with expertise in and sensitivity to issues of diversity, including diverse sexualities.

**Budgetary and Staff Implications:**

- a. No staff or additional dollars are needed. The minor will draw on courses already regularly offered by GWS and will rely on the Associate Director and existing faculty for advising.
- b. We expect a slight increase in demand for required and elective courses. The required GWS courses will continue to be taught regularly; electives will be offered more frequently according to student demand.
- c. Discussions with other units and instructors offering crosslisted electives have been positive. Many instructors crosslist their courses in order to encourage GWS students to enroll; the LGBT/Queer minor will further promote diversity in the classrooms.
- d. There will be no additional impact on the library, which already offers excellent resources for sexuality studies.

**Requirements:**

The minor requires 18 hours of courses.

Required courses:

GWS 370 Intro to Queer Studies (3 credits)

GWS 470 Trans Bodies and Politics (3 credits)

Or

GWS 458 Postcolonial Queer (3 credits)

4 other additional courses should be selected from the following list. Additional coursework may be approved by the GWS advisor.

ANTH/GWS 258 Sex in Nature and Culture

GER/GWS 270 Sexuality and Literature

GWS 470 Trans Bodies and Politics

LLS/GWS 465 Race, Sex, Deviance

GWS/PS 478 Sex, Power, and Politics

GWS 325 Lesbian Print Cultures

GWS 458 Postcolonial Queer

Other courses as approved by the GWS advisor

(Examples of previously offered courses that would be approved:

ASST 199: Gender, Sexuality, and Popular Culture in Contemporary Japan

GWS 395: Imperialism and Sexuality

Engl 460, ENGL 460: Literature of American Minorities

Topic: Gender and Sexuality in Latino/a Literature and Film  
Topic: Gender and Sexuality in Asian American Lit  
Engl 461, Topics in Literature  
Topic: American Narratives of Passing  
GWS 450: Topics in Bodies and Genders  
Topic: Gender Benders  
GWS 490: Transnational Sexualities  
GWS 495: Researching Queer Cultures

A student's plan of courses for the minor must be approved by the Gender and Women's Studies Program.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Expected enrollment:** Given the rate of inquiry from students not pursuing a GWS minor and GWS minors who would have liked to have received recognition for work in LGBT/Queer Studies, we expect approximately 15 minors in the first year. We expect the number of minors to increase steadily, at a rate of 5-10 per year for the first five years.

**Admission to the minor:** Students will meet with Jacque Kahn, Associate Director, to complete the paperwork to declare the LGBT/Q minor.

**Minor advisor:** Jacque Kahn, Associate Director

**CERTIFICATION OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION:**

The college of the student will confirm whether the minor has been completed, based on the course work designated by LAS and Gender and Women's Studies. If a Minor Modification Form is needed, LAS will review the course substitutions, in consultation with Gender and Women's Studies, and approve completion of the minor with the college of the student.

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2009

**CLEARANCES:**

  
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Head/Chair of the sponsoring department or unit:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee:

**Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog:**

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Queer Studies Minor**

The Gender and Women's Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary minor in LGBT/Queer Studies. In consultation with an advisor, students pursuing the minor will select from a variety of courses within interdisciplinary sexuality studies, including courses in LGBT/Queer theory, history, methodology, and contemporary issues. The minor requires a total of 18 hours, which includes 6 hours of required, upper level coursework and 12 hours of electives.

3 GWS 370- Intro to Queer Studies

3 GWS 470 Trans Bodies and Politics

OR

3 GWS 458 Postcolonial Queer

12 Electives selected from the courses listed below or approved by the GWS Program:

ANTH 258 Sex in Nature and Culture (same as GWS 258)

CWL 272 Sexuality and Literature (same as GWS 270)

GWS 325 Lesbian Print Cultures

LLS 465 Race, Sex, and Deviance (same as GWS 465)

GWS 459 Postcolonial Queer

GWS 470 Trans Bodies and Politics

GWS 478 Sex, Power, and Politics

Other courses as approved by the GWS advisor