

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 2919S  
Date of Senate Approval 04/04/19

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 22 (WGSS):**

**Revise the requirements for the Minor in  
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies**

**Effective Date: Fall 2019**

**1. Delete:** On p. 290, the requirements under **Minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies:**

Completion of at least 18 hours distributed as follows: WGSS 100, 365 or 451, 400; at least 6 additional hours from the courses below with 3-4 hours from the Humanities listing and 3-4 hours from the Natural Science / Social Science listing. Special topics or other courses may be substituted with the approval of the program director.

**Add:** On p. 290, in place of deleted entry:

Completion of at least 18 hours distributed as follows: WGSS 100, 365, and at least 10 additional hours from other WGSS courses and the courses below, with at least one course from the Humanities listing and one course from the Social Science listing. Other courses may be substituted with the approval of the program director.

**Impact:** The total number of hours required for completion of the minor remains the same. The changes outlined above will benefit students minoring in WGSS and will have minimal impact on faculty resources. The removal of WGSS 400 (Senior Seminar) as a requirement for minors will enhance flexibility for these students, allowing them to take an additional elective of their choice rather than engage in a significant senior project in WGSS, an endeavor typically required only of majors in most disciplines.

Consistent staffing of required courses continues to be a challenge for WGSS, due to faculty commitments in their home departments. Requiring WGSS 400 only for majors will result in smaller class sizes (in some years, too small to run a regular course), but will enable greater flexibility in how the course is offered (e.g., independent research conducted under the guidance of a content advisor, with less frequent class meetings), allowing us to redistribute WGSS faculty to ensure coverage of other required courses.

We expect the need for seats in WGSS 365 to increase slightly as a result of shifting it from option to requirement, but the impact will not be so large as to necessitate additional sections, in part because many minors already choose this course option. Furthermore, plans are in the works to offer the course 3 out of every 4 semesters in order to meet existing needs.

**Rationale:** Students minoring in WGSS are currently required to take the senior capstone, WGSS 400, in part to facilitate a shared capstone experience among majors and minors and in part to ensure adequate enrollment to run the course. While the WGSS Faculty value community and shared learning experiences for our students, we believe these can be accomplished through other courses and programming. Further, we do not believe that ensuring a particular enrollment should be prioritized at the expense of students' best interests. We also wish to bring the WGSS minor into alignment with minor requirements in similar fields; doing so will enable minors to enjoy a rich learning experience in WGSS, but also allow them to focus their efforts appropriately on senior projects in their major of choice.

Currently, minors can take either WGSS 365 (Feminist Theory) or WGSS 451 (Community Service Internship). Requiring WGSS 365 for all minors rather than having it be an option with WGSS 451 better aligns the WGSS curriculum with key learning goals. As we increasingly emphasize the concept of intersectionality in the program, it is more important than ever to ensure multiple exposures at different levels (not just introductory, but also intermediate/advanced) for all students. Completion of an internship, while highly valuable, entails a different set of learning outcomes than completion of Feminist Theory. Removing this option and requiring WGSS 365 will ensure that all majors *and* minors are adequately exposed to foundational theoretical material in the field. Importantly, the internship remains an elective option for both majors and minors.