

**Executive Summary
Southern Utah University
Minor in Women and Gender Studies**

Program Description

Southern Utah University proposes the establishment of a 21-credit interdisciplinary minor in Women and Gender Studies involving the departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, English, History, Communications, and Political Science. This program will be housed in the department of History and Sociology and will offer three core courses—Introduction to Women and Gender Studies, Research in Women/ Gender Studies, and a Women/Gender Studies Internship. In addition the program will be comprised of a diverse range of cross-listed courses from other departments in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The content of elective classes should exhibit explicit and implicit connections to women and gender in at least 50 percent of the curriculum as determined by a faculty advisory board. Students will follow one of two tracks in the program—Global Engagement or Social Dynamics. The minor in Women and Gender Studies will be directed by the chair of History and Sociology with two faculty coordinators—one for each track—from the interdisciplinary departments.

Role and Mission Fit

The minor in Women and Gender Studies fits with Southern Utah University's mission in all three core values. In terms of academic excellence, it will broaden students' understanding of women and gender studies by formalizing a connection between existing courses that have been a long-standing part of SUU's curriculum. The two tracks of Global Engagement and Social Dynamics correspond with the global engagement and service learning tracks at SUU as well as with the core values of involvement and personal growth and community and social responsibility. In addition, the capstone internship will involve a regional scholarly conference hosted by SUU during Women's Week in which students will present peer-reviewed papers with professionals from the region, enhancing experiential learning opportunities at SUU. The capstone internship will also provide opportunities for students to work with community centers in the region, engage in a study abroad program, or to complete this internship at an agency in another country or state.

Faculty

Number of faculty with Doctoral degrees	Tenure 7	Contract #	Adjunct #
Number of faculty with Master's degrees	Tenure #	Contract #	Adjunct #
Number of faculty with Bachelor's degrees	Tenure #	Contract #	Adjunct #
Other Faculty	Tenure #	Contract #	Adjunct #

Market Demand

Southern Utah University is one of the few institutions in the state to not offer a program in either women or gender studies. In order for our students to be competitive in their professional careers and in graduate school, they need to be aware of contemporary theory and research methods. The internships offered by

the Center for Women and Families will allow students to be a proactive force in the community by working with the Southern Utah Mobile Crisis Center, the Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center as well as the Family Support Center. This minor will also complement other programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences such as Communication, Psychology, and Political Science.

Student Demand

The impetus for a Women and Gender Studies program at SUU started over 20 years ago through the Women's Resource Committee and evolved into the student-generated Center for Women and Families. For the past several years, students have been requesting a program pertaining to women and gender studies that would build on events offered through the Center for Women and Families and on courses offered through Women's Week. Women's Week is an event of guest lectures and workshops pertaining to women and gender studies. Enrollment in the class offered through Women's Week has increased dramatically from 4 in 2008 and 79 in 2009. The Women's Week enrollment for spring 2011 is 79 and climbing. These numbers demonstrate an increased need for and a stable interest in a program that can expand offerings in Women and Gender Studies and coordinate the existent popular courses that pertain to this discipline. The director of the Center for Women and Families estimates that approximately 25 students would be interested in the minor. A committee of faculty, staff, and students will actively recruit for the minor during Women's Week 2011. The inclusion of the minor on the Academic Roadmap template demonstrates the administration's commitment to this program. The Center for Women and Families conducted a petition in spring of 2010. Also, students wrote comments in support of this program in their 2010 Women's Week response papers. Both of these documents are included in this report.

Statement of Financial Support

Indicate from which of the following the funding will be generated: (Provide the detail for funding as part of the "Financial Analysis" section included in the full proposal.)

- Legislative Appropriation*
- Grants*.....
- Reallocated Funds*.....
- Tuition dedicated to the program*
- Other*

Similar Programs Already Offered in USHE

Weber State University and Utah Valley University both offer interdisciplinary minors in Women Studies or Gender Studies. Utah State University has a Women and Gender Program that offers both a certificate and a minor. The University of Utah's Gender Studies Program offers both a major and a minor in the field.