

Referred to SCAD and SBRC

**Senate Committee on Academic Development
and
Senate Budget Review Committee**

Program Approval Submission

*This form is to be used when seeking approval for all new or substantially revised
programs of
study leading to a degree, diploma or certificate*

Faculty/School: School of Graduate Studies

Proposed New Program: Graduate Program in Gender Studies

Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2009

Date of Faculty Board Approval (Faculty of Arts & Science Committee of Departments):
May 23, 2008

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Signature of Dean

Date

May 18/08

Please note that program proposals must receive the approval of Faculty Board prior to being submitted to the Senate Office for referral to the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) and the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC), which will then make their recommendations to Senate.

The criteria requested in PART A should be regarded as the minimum criteria for the assessment of academic programs. Any unit planning a new program should show how not only the criteria listed below but also, where appropriate, those required by the Undergraduate Program Review Audit Committee and those of the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities have been taken into account. For further information, please refer to the Senate Policy "Policies and Procedures for Establishing New Undergraduate Programs"
(<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/policies/newprog/index.html>)

PART A

Part A: Objectives—Overview and Rationale of the Program

The MA Program in Gender Studies will emphasize the ways in which women, gender and politics are informed by questions of racism, colonialism, and globalization. Key areas will focus on the intersections of:

- gender, sexualities and feminist politics
- migratory and (post)colonial cultures (indigenous, transnational, global and diasporic)
- labour, class, and location
- cultural representation.

The program will be both cutting-edge and attendant to the traditional scholarly strengths of gender studies and women's studies. It will encourage interdisciplinarity, and support new ways of looking at issues of sex/gender. The dynamic and diverse nature of our program suits the social, cultural and educational needs of highly mobile local/global societies that are becoming increasingly fragmented and complex. Our emphasis on gender, migratory communities, colonialism, labour and representation also reflect perennial scholarly preoccupations: who we are, how we live and how we affect and are affected by our environments.

The proposed Masters of Arts degree in Gender Studies draws on the strengths of the Department to offer students a unique choice in terms of academic environments within a small, focused program at a highly regarded research-intensive university. The development of a graduate program in Gender Studies as proposed here is timely and relevant for the following reasons:

- First, gender studies is concerned for rapidly changing relations among women and between women and men in society, as well as the ways in which these changes are compounded for women by race, class, and sexuality. Students seek knowledge within this area both to understand better the society in which they live and work and the context of their society within a broader global community. In so doing, they will develop and expand their own powers of critical thinking. In the process students become better participants in society and are better equipped to function in a dynamic, evolving world.
- Second, the Department of Women's Studies and the School of Graduate Studies and Research receive every year a number of inquiries about graduate studies, even though we do not yet have a graduate program. There is an interest in and a market for the new program, both generally speaking and with specific regard to Queen's University.
- Third, the members of the Department of Women's Studies are excited about the possibilities that our proposed program offers, both to the students who participate

and to the faculty who will teach in the program. Our faculty are well suited to the proposed program as they do their research precisely on the intersection of women, cultures, and histories within the developing context of a global society.

- Fourth, and related to the previous point, is the fact that the graduate program would provide an opportunity to extend the work of the undergraduate curriculum in much more depth.
- Fifth, Queen's has continued to demonstrate strong support of its Women's Studies Department. This continued support, from both Queen's administration and a large, committed body of cross-appointed faculty members, has been matched by student enrolment in women's studies which is currently experiencing a period of growth as evidenced by higher than anticipated registration figures.
- Finally, the uniqueness of the program—in terms of the location of Queen's, faculty expertise, and the transnational focus—will draw students who are interested in studying questions of gender, location, culture, and activism in a smaller city and in a medium sized institution that offers smaller classes and greater opportunity for faculty-student mentorship.