

Women's and Gender Studies
Abbreviated Overall Assessment Plan
April 2008

The following types of data will be collected to assess the goals and outcomes listed in the WGS strategic plan. All data were collected during the 2007-2008 school year, and collection will continue in future years. However, actual assessment will only occur on items 3A, 5A, and 5B in order to pilot rubrics for Goals 2 and 3 (assessment of data set 2A will occur next year given the rubrics were not in place for embedded assessment this year). Given when thesis defenses and the comprehensive exam occur, the actual data collection will not occur until May, and over the summer we plan to compile and assess the data.

1. At entrance to the program: Embedded assessment by the graduate admissions committee.
 - A. Writing sample, to conduct preliminary assessment of Goal 3.2 (written communication skills). Because assessment is preliminary, Scale Level 3 will be “novice” rather than “unacceptable.”
 - B. Statement of purpose, to conduct preliminary assessment of Goals 1 (diversity), 2 (theory), and 4 (praxis). Because assessment is preliminary, Scale Level 3 will be “novice” rather than “unacceptable.”
2. On completion of the first year:
 - A. Final essay in Graduate Seminar in Women's Studies, to assess Goal 1 (diversity) and intermediate progress on goal 3.2 (written communication skills). Embedded assessment by class instructor.
 - B. Papers of student's choice from non-core classes completed during the first year to assess intermediate progress on goal 3.2 (written communication skills). External assessment by SOA committee members.
3. On completion of comprehensive exams: Embedded assessment by exam graders.
 - A. Comprehensive exam on theory, to assess Goal 2 (theory).
 - B. Comprehensive exam on theory, to assess Goal 4 (praxis).
4. At completion and presentation of thesis prospectus: Embedded assessment by thesis committee.
 - A. Prospectus, to assess Goal 1 (diversity) and 2.4 (thesis method)
 - B. Presentation, to assess Goal 3.1 (oral communication)
5. At completion of thesis and defense. Embedded assessment by thesis committee.
 - A. Thesis, to assess Goal 2 (theory and method) and final assessment for 3.2-3 (written communication)
 - B. Presentation, to assess Goal 3.1 (oral communication)
 - C. Exit-statement and self assessment, to assess Goal 4 (praxis)
 - D. Vita, to assess Goal 4 (praxis)

Goals and Outcomes (revised 9-21-07 to better fit SOA)

Goal 1: To enable students to explain intersectional identity, global awareness, and social inequality. Students will:

- Outcome 1.1 identify, analyze, and interpret intersections between sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, religion, ethnicity, age, physical and mental ability and nationality, both locally and globally, both in the present and in the past
- Outcome 1.2 describe, examine, and evaluate strategies available for studying with, learning about, and writing about persons of diverse cultures in ways that do not distort, exploit, or colonize
- Outcome 1.3 comprehend and analyze the many facets of social inequality

Goal 2: To enable students to develop a facility with feminist theories and methods appropriate to the study of women and gender. Students will:

- Outcome 2.1 comprehend, apply, and evaluate several feminist theories appropriate to the study of women and gender
- Outcome 2.2 list and discuss the historical precedents and contemporary applications of a variety of feminist theories
- Outcome 2.3 apply several theoretical frameworks to substantive areas of concern to the student and the academic discipline
- Outcome 2.4 demonstrate graduate-level proficiency in selecting and using research methods and theory appropriate for production of a thesis, including proficiencies in the most current electronic technologies of research

Goal 3: To enable students to possess the capability to produce orally and in written form according to the standards appropriate to education at the graduate level. Students will:

- Outcome 3.1 offer oral presentations at regular points throughout the course of graduate study (in the graduate seminar, prospectus presentation, thesis presentation) which demonstrate increasingly sophisticated skills in oral communication
- Outcome 3.2 compose written essays throughout the course of graduate study that conform to nationally recognized standards for scholarly production and publication at the graduate level
- Outcome 3.3 author a thesis that conforms to nationally recognized standards for scholarly production and publication at the graduate level

Goal 4: To enable students to assess links between academic inquiry and civic engagement. Students will:

- Outcome 4.1 discuss the relationship between feminism, feminist theory and modes of civic engagement