

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies at Appalachian State University

Appalachian State University requests authorization to establish a BA in Women's Studies degree (CIP 05.0207) effective August 2008.

Program Description

ASU proposes developing existing concentrations within the BA in Interdisciplinary Studies into separate degree programs. The proposed BA in Women's Studies, to be housed in the newly created University College, will build on the current concentration as well as the existing graduate certificate program in Women's Studies, utilizing more than 60 faculty from 18 disciplines. The interdisciplinary training includes development of global and international perspectives, models for organization and processes of dialog with community and nonprofit organizations, the ability to work with community groups in understanding social structures, and skills with which social problems and public policies can be analyzed. The major will address the complex issues of civic responsibility, diversity, equality, and democratic aspirations in both the local and global community. The 35 Women's Studies courses at ASU have a combined enrollment of over 800 students, and it is anticipated that majors in the program will exceed 20 students. Students will be encouraged to double major because the program emphasizes ways in which Women's Studies can enhance one's career prospects when paired with a more technical major.

UNC Tomorrow Relevance

The program primarily responds to UNC Tomorrow findings relating to global readiness, community development, and outreach and engagement. It addresses ASU's strategic goal of "educating students to be responsible citizens and effective leaders in the global society of the 21st Century. The program will also address several of the goals and learning outcomes of ASU's new General Education curriculum.

Resource Implications

The faculty teaching courses for this degree are already located in departments across campus, and the number of faculty is adequate for the program. The majority of courses are now offered as part of departmental offerings. A full-time program director is in place through a reassigned time allocation. Moving this and other interdisciplinary degree programs out of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (which will be dissolved) into the newly created University College will save some resources associated with a departmental infrastructure, including the department chair position.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the ASU request to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree in Women's Studies (CIP 05.0207) effective August 2008.