

Mission Statement (1997 - 2008)

The Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies *at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology* brings together *feminist* scholars and teachers at eight Boston-area institutions devoted to graduate teaching and research in women's studies and to advancing interdisciplinary women's studies scholarship.

The field of women's studies needs trained teachers and scholars to advance the important developments in women's studies made over the past 25 years. In the 1990s graduate programs in women's studies have emerged, yet they remain small and underfunded and in most cases are bound within conventions of the traditional disciplines. These programs cannot keep up with the number of graduate students seeking advanced training in gender analysis. Women's studies for the twenty-first century needs to develop *theory across disciplines* and to reconnect theory to practice. A new women's studies agenda must address the shifting global context of women's social and economic lives, the implications of technology and a deteriorating environment, and the interconnected dynamics of *gender and power across cultures*.

In pursuit of this mission, the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies--

- Provides graduate courses;
- Promotes faculty development;
- Builds intellectual community;
- Offers a model of institutional change

**This mission statement is featured in the 1997-2002 Strategic Plan. Italics mark the words and phrases that were adopted at the May 2001 Board Retreat and the recent move to MIT.*

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