

GCWS Statement of Purpose

(from the 2015 - 2020 Memorandum of Agreement)

Since 1992, the GCWS has brought together scholars from nine local universities and across many disciplines to collaborate, share resources, and create intellectual community. The GCWS advances the study of women and gender, strengthens and supports faculty research and teaching, and enriches graduate education for students in a wide range of fields. In team-taught, interdisciplinary seminars at the cutting edge of their research questions, faculty and graduate students explore new avenues of inquiry, develop new knowledge, and learn new pedagogical skills.

The GCWS offers its seminars to students matriculated in graduate programs at all of our member institutions. The seminars explicitly integrate gender analysis with issues of class, race, culture, ethnicity, and sexualities; when appropriate, they also consider the practical or policy implications of feminist theory. Courses are designed to foster a dynamic interchange among scholars and to provide intellectual stimulation for faculty and students pursuing feminist work in many disciplines. The GCWS sponsors additional workshops and programs to promote both individual and collaborative scholarship in Women's and Gender studies.

The nine member institutions in the GCWS are:

Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Harvard University
MIT
Northeastern University
Simmons College
Tufts University
University of Massachusetts, Boston

Additional institutions may become members of the GCWS, with the consent of the Board of Directors. Designed to rotate amongst member institutions, the GCWS is currently hosted by MIT, for purposes of administrative support and services.

Among the many benefits member institutions receive by participating in the GCWS are the following:

1) **Enhanced graduate education** through innovative interdisciplinary courses available to students who are enrolled at member institutions. Admission is by application: students eligible to apply include doctoral candidates; master's candidates, with the recommendation of their advising faculty; and advanced undergraduates doing work pertinent to the seminar, with the recommendation of their advising faculty.

2) **Unique teaching and leadership opportunities** for qualified faculty at member

institutions to invent and teach pioneering courses that energize their own scholarship and pedagogy through productive interdisciplinary collaboration and to develop administrative skills and academic leadership.

- 3) **Intellectual community** and support among faculty and students across all nine member institutions through workshops, conferences, and other programs.
- 4) **Mentoring relationships** ranging from the formal courses and workshops to the informal support, encouragement, and advice so crucial to a flourishing academic life and so critical to graduate students, especially, in an increasingly competitive market.
- 5) **Professionalization for graduate students** including opportunities to plan and participate in workshops, conferences, colloquia, and informal networking. Students who participate in the annual, year-long Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies find it instrumental in helping them shorten their time-to-degree.

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

Please Contact the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality for more information:

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