

Interdisciplinary Programs:

The interdisciplinary programs are high quality degrees because students benefit from taking courses from faculty who come from diverse disciplines. The college offers interdisciplinary programs in **Women's Studies** (a degree program as of Fall 2004), **Humanities/Humanistic Studies, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences**, and an **Associate of Science/Associate of Art** degree. The interdisciplinary programs offered through the Dean's Office in the College of Arts and Sciences are unique within the college because they are not housed in a department, no faculty exclusively affiliated with them (except for the women's studies program), and most of the programs are not tied to a single discipline within the college. The one exception is the women's studies program that now has dedicated faculty, from other disciplines, who teach courses in the program. Courses in the interdisciplinary programs are drawn from a wide range of departments within the college that, when taken together, fulfill the program degree requirements. The programs are central to the mission of K-State because they provide a general liberal arts education that provides greater flexibility for students to diversify their educational experiences, which may not be available within a single focused area of study.

There is substantial need for these degrees, particularly as evidenced by the number of life sciences and social science majors. While the humanities and physical sciences programs have lower enrollments, they are still valuable because they provide unique programs for students and incur little or no costs associated with administrators, faculty, staff, or resources. A description of each program is provided below.

Women's Studies, B.A./B.S., CIP Code: 05.0207

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program that utilizes the social construction of gender as the framework for understanding the social and cultural milieu in which women live. This framework includes an examination of gender in the context of diversity, including the variables of class, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, and sexual identity. The mission of the women's studies program is to stimulate an on-going campus-wide examination of diversity issues focused on but not limited to gender, provide students with a critical framework with which to examine themselves and their society, promote interdisciplinary research that incorporates the social construction of gender, and prepare students for careers and/or graduate study in a variety of disciplines and professions.

Since 1977, the women's studies program was a secondary major offered within the Office of the Provost. Over the years, the secondary major grew steadily in faculty, students, and course and degree offerings. The program became an important part of the university, contributing to a climate of diversity, interdisciplinary studies, and awareness and academic study of women's issues. Early in 1991, the program was moved to the College of Arts and Sciences. In Spring of 2004, the women's studies undergraduate major (30 credit hours) was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents and which became a viable bachelor's degree program in Fall 2004.

Within the Kansas Regents system, K-State joins KU and WSU in offering an undergraduate degree in women's studies. The program requires students to read, write, discuss, and think critically. In the program, students link knowledge to social action appropriate to the needs of either the University or the local community. The program also requires students to examine how the social construction of gender has affected both their own choices in life and the broader issues of the distribution of power and resources in society. Hence, course materials are drawn from the arts, humanities, social sciences, physical and biological sciences, and human

service professions, as well as from people of different genders, social classes, races, ages, ethnicities, nationalities, and sexual identities.

Courses taught for the program also fulfill requirements for majors in other departments. For example, Introduction to Women's Studies meets a Western Heritage requirement in the humanities and it fulfills a general education requirement for students throughout the university. The courses significantly contribute to the wider efforts at K-State to educate students and the university community about issues of diversity in human culture and society.

Students in the secondary major are representative of the quality of students entering the bachelor's program this academic year. The secondary major students have exerted themselves to get an "extra" degree on top of their primary major and actively seek out interdisciplinary learning opportunities. These students tend to be creative, open to learning, able to consider various perspectives, and interested in the ideas of others. Employers welcome knowledge about and competency around gender issues and other types of human diversity. Graduates of the secondary major program are employed in women-related organizations like women's shelters, community service agencies, women's advocacy groups, and human resources. Many of the graduates continue on to graduate school in law, public policy, education, and other related fields. With the development of the new bachelor's degree, the secondary major will not longer be offered once all currently enrolled students have graduated.

As of the 20th day enrollment figures (i.e., September 2004) for the new degree program, five students had declared women's studies as their major. This number has increased to 15 as of January 2005 and its growth is expected to exceed the minimum BOR's requirements within the first three years.

Humanities/Humanistic Studies, B.A., CIP Code: 24.0103

Need brief (1 or 2 sentences) description about it distinctiveness.

Life Sciences, B.S., CIP Code: 26.9999

Need brief (1 or 2 sentences) description about it distinctiveness.

Physical Sciences, General, B.S., CIP Code: 40.0101

Need brief (1 or 2 sentences) description about it distinctiveness.

Social Sciences, CIP Code: 450101

Need brief (1 or 2 sentences) description about it distinctiveness.

Associate of Science/Associate of Art, CIP Code: 30.9999

Larry—I'm still working on this section since I just spoke with Betty around 2pm today.

Secondary Programs (Majors):

Similar to the interdisciplinary degree programs, the secondary major programs are not housed in a department, they have no faculty exclusively affiliated with them (except of the American Studies/Civilization), and are not tied to a single discipline. They are rather sets of courses drawn from a range of college departments that, when taken together, fulfill the requirements for the secondary major. They remain central to the mission of K-State because they

provide a general liberal arts education focused on diversity that is not commonly offered within the college. As with the interdisciplinary programs, students in the secondary major programs benefit from faculty who come from diverse disciplines to teach the courses within the programs. A description of each secondary major program is provided below.

American Studies/Civilization, CIP Code: 05.0102*

The American Ethnic Studies program is committed to graduating students with either a secondary major or minor who have the knowledge, personal attributes and skills to successfully live and work in a diverse world. America's future depends upon our ability to develop a citizenry that is multiculturally competent. Dynamic changes occurring throughout the global world regarding demographic changes, political conflict, and changing economic orders, will require institutions of higher learning to graduate students who are comfortable in dealing with cultural differences, and who can provide effective multicultural leadership. The American ethnic studies program prepares students to face these challenges. A competency based curriculum focusing on the total student experience provides learning opportunities for students who can operate competently, confidently, and comfortably within a multicultural setting and with the tools to adapt to a rapidly changing multicultural environment.

Latin American Studies, CIP Code: 05.0107*

The Latin American Studies program promotes understanding of the nations and cultures commonly referred to as "Latin American" through its commitment to interdisciplinary study. The program provides students not only a field of academic study, but also a useful background for various careers. The program encourages a distribution of regional and topical coursework that is approved by the Latin American Studies Advisory Committee and administered by the Director of International and Area Studies. Students who complete the secondary major in Latin American Studies are expected to demonstrate the following within their areas of knowledge or competence: (1) reading and speaking capability in Spanish or Portuguese; (2) basic geographic knowledge of the geographic, demographic, political, racial and ethnic "landscape" of Latin America today; (3) ability to understand and analyze cultures other than their own; and (4) an integration of their program of study into a meaningful and coherent whole.

International Studies, CIP Code: 05.0199*

The international studies program promotes understanding of the international community through its commitment to interdisciplinary study. The program provides students not only a field of academic study, but also a useful background for various careers. The program encourages a substantial distribution of foreign and international coursework under the direct guidance of an interdisciplinary faculty committee. Students who complete the secondary major in international studies are expected to demonstrate the following within their areas of knowledge or competence: (1) reading and speaking capability in a foreign language; (2) basic geographic knowledge of the world; (3) ability to understand and analyze cultures other than their own; (4) some understanding of developmental processes; and (5) an integration of their program of study into a meaningful and coherent whole.