

All Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), which the faculty adopted in spring, 2007 were assessed. Graduate Certificate earners should be able to:

1. analyze the development and significance of gender and sexuality, including the importance of “race”/ethnicity, class, and global location;
2. articulate the significance of the interdisciplinary character of women’s studies as a field;
3. demonstrate knowledge of the theories, methods, methodologies, and ethics of women’s studies research and how they relate to disciplinary practice;
4. define and carry out independent research in women’s studies; and
5. communicate knowledge and research on women’s studies in written and oral form.

Student Learning Outcomes were measured

- using a student assessment survey completed by the faculty members teaching Women’s Studies 810 in Spring 07 and Spring 08. Responses to the survey are based on the faculty members assessment of student performance as demonstrated in class discussions, the final course paper, student presentations and exams—a direct measure
- using a program assessment survey completed by students after taking all courses required for the certificate—an indirect measure

Faculty placed all five 2007-2008 graduate certificate earners at the proficient or distinguished levels, with the exception of the communication student learning outcome for one international student. [Students’ performance on the outcomes was ranked on a 4 point scale as unsatisfactory (1), basic (2), proficient (3), or distinguished (4).] For the students who completed the foundational course, WOMST810, faculty placed all thirteen 2007-2008 class members and graduating certificate earners at the proficient or distinguished level for all student learning outcomes, with the exception of three students who were assessed at a basic level of skills in communication and one student who was seen as having basic skills in independent research. Faculty placed six WOMST 810 students at the distinguished level for all learning outcomes. At least two of these distinguished students are enrolled in Ph.D. programs, one at KSU in Human Ecology and one at the University of California-Riverside in English. By summer 2009, it is expected that another 10 students will have completed the graduate certificate.