

Sample Course Proposal

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Certificate Proposal

I am interested pursuing an undergraduate certificate in public policy with a focus on women's policy issues. As a women's studies major, I am aware of the many pressures and obstacles that women have to face in society. As such, I would like to complete the certificate program, as I believe that it will help me to gain a better understanding of the policy-making process and allow me to find opportunities to apply the knowledge that I have gained as a women's studies student to make a difference in women's lives.

The following is my proposed course plan for the five elective courses.

Theorizing Women's Issues (WOMENSST 301) – This course provides an overview of gender and analyzes the issues women face in national and international contexts. I completed this course as part of my major and believe it is relevant to my certificate, as it provides a background in the issues that must be considered by those who work in women's policy.

Gender and Sexuality (WOMENSST 393H) – This course focuses on the theories of gender construction and development of sexuality. As with the women's issues course, it provides the fundamentals for understanding the issues relevant to women's policy-makers. However, it goes deeper than the women's issues course, as it teaches the theoretical framework necessary in the development of solutions to the policy problems facing women.

Social Change (SOCIOL 327) – Social change is a course that analyzes the changing roles of social groups in American society since the 1960's. It discusses the history of social change and the expansion of equality. It also discusses how some of the policies that resulted in expanding equality for women and other groups are being attacked. Understanding this legacy of change and the current political climate will be an important part of knowing how to deal with these contemporary challenges as an activist.

Political Economy of Women (ECON 348) – This course discusses women's issues from an economic perspective. It will provide a basis for understanding the economic implications of various policies aimed at women, particularly welfare and health care policy, and will help me to view policy from a different perspective.

Public Finance (ECON 313) – This course discusses the federal budget and how federal programs are paid for. It also discusses the impacts of social-welfare spending taxes. This course is important for someone interested in policy, as it provides an introduction to dealing with budgetary issues and analyzing what policies are fiscally possible.

This proposed plan of study satisfies the requirements for the certificate program. More importantly, however, it addresses my policy interest directly and, coupled with the other required courses, will provide me with the basic knowledge and skills that I will need to be a successful activist for women's equality.