WOMEN’S STUDIES PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

**Mission Statement:** The Women’s Studies Program at UWRF, although housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, has a university-wide mission. This interdisciplinary program emphasizes an awareness of gender relations in culture, the academy, the work world, and the political sphere. The program promotes students’ development of ethical and engaged citizenship through a commitment to academic excellence, social justice, and service. With courses addressing gender issues in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, the minor in Women’s Studies equips women and men with the critical tools for rigorous intellectual inquiry. It also promotes a sense of community among students, faculty, and staff and ultimately, the ability to work together toward the goal of a just and equitable society.

**Outcomes:** As a result of taking a minor in Women’s Studies, students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the ways in which gender impacts upon the social world; and
2. Apply knowledge of Women’s Studies curriculum in internship/service learning environments.

**Assessment:** Both direct and indirect outcome measures will be used as follows:

1. A written examination toward the end of their minor program testing knowledge of concepts and theories learned in classroom settings;
2. Prepare an internship/service learning portfolio illustrating their ability to apply concepts/theories to practical experiences; and
3. Participate in an exit interview, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the program and faculty, offering suggestions for improvement, and discussing career goals.

**Timeline:** Currently the WMST committee is revising WMST 200, INTRODUCTION to WOMEN’S STUDIES, to FOUNDATIONS OF WOMEN’S STUDIES, a 300 level course that meets the university multidisciplinary requirement. In addition, specific requirements of the internship/service learning course are under development. WMST 379 will become a required 3-6 credit course. As revisions to the minor are accomplished, assessment, as described above, will be implemented.

**Data:** Results of written examination will be available for review; examples of internship/service learning portfolios will be archived; and, summaries of exit interviews also will be available for review.

**Evaluation:** The committee will work closely with Tricia Davis to evaluate results.

Barbara Lynn Werner, Ph.D., UWRF Women’s Studies Coordinator
Submitted: January 21, 2007