UC SANTA BARBARA

The Doctoral Emphasis Program in Feminist Studies

The Department of Feminist Studies, with over sixty core and affiliated faculty members in nineteen departments, serves as a model of interdisciplinary work and scholarly collaboration at UCSB. Through Spring 2012, almost 70 students have graduated from UCSB having completed the doctoral emphasis. More than 50 other students currently participate in the emphasis. Feminist Studies doctoral emphasis students are required to successfully complete four seminars designed to develop critical and analytic understanding of feminist theory and pedagogy as well as the study of women, gender, and sexuality. Feminist Studies as an inter-departmental set of conversations and intellectual questions also supports a multifaceted undergraduate curriculum at UCSB; doctoral emphasis students are encouraged to apply to teach Feminist Studies courses as teaching assistants and associates as part of their training. Applicants must first be admitted to, or currently enrolled in, a UCSB Ph.D. program participating in the Feminist Studies graduate emphasis, currently including:

- Anthropology
- Asian American Studies
- Counseling, Clinical, & School Psychology
- Communication
- Comparative Literature
- Film & Media Studies
- French
- German
- Hispanic Languages & Literatures
- History
- History of Art Linguistics
- Sociology
- Theater Studies
- Music
- Political Science
- Religious Studies

Students enrolled in an affiliated program can submit an application for the doctoral emphasis at any stage of their work, though we encourage early application. Applications will be considered throughout the year.

The Doctoral Emphasis Curriculum

Students pursuing the emphasis in Feminist Studies will successfully complete a program of four graduate courses that has been approved by the Director of the Doctoral Emphasis and will also include a member of the Feminist Studies departmental or affiliated faculty on their dissertation committees. Courses must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Feminist Theories. A one quarter graduate seminar in interdisciplinary feminist theory offered by any department, including Feminist Studies 250 AA-ZZ.

2. Issues in Feminist Epistemology and Pedagogy (Feminist Studies 270). A one quarter seminar that considers Feminist Studies as a distinct field. It offers an interdisciplinary exploration of feminist theories of knowledge production and teaching practices. Readings cover past and present critical debates and provide theoretical approaches through which to analyze interdisciplinary epistemological and pedagogical issues.

3. Graduate Seminar in Feminist Studies (Feminist Studies 200-290 or 594 AA-ZZ). A one quarter seminar offered by a Feminist Studies faculty member on topics of central concern to the field.

Or Research Seminar in Feminist Studies (Feminist Studies 280). A one quarter seminar designed to provide experience in the research, writing, and critique of scholarly papers based on original research in the interdisciplinary area of feminist studies. Check with Graduate Advisor or Director for information about which FEMST 280 offerings enroll doctoral emphasis students.

4. Topical Seminar. A one quarter graduate seminar that addresses topics relevant to the study of women, gender, and/or sexuality. This seminar must be taken outside the student’s home department; it may be fulfilled either by another graduate seminar in Feminist Studies or a seminar in another department.

To apply, please submit the following materials:

A) Application Form, Letter of Application, and CV

The letter should describe any relevant previous coursework, your anticipated research specialty in your home department, and its relation to interdisciplinary scholarship in Feminist Studies. (Lack of prior course work in Feminist Studies does not preclude admission, so long as a compelling statement of research interest congruent with the graduate emphasis makes the case.) In the letter and application form, please indicate your home department and include full contact information, including address, email, phone number(s), and perm number.

B) Letter of Recommendation

A letter of recommendation from a UCSB faculty member should be sent, preferably by email, to the Department Chair of the Feminist Studies Department.

Send application materials, preferably as attachments to an email, to the Department Chair of the Feminist Studies Department (email address listed on our website). Your application will be reviewed by a faculty committee within three weeks. Additional information about the department and the application form can be found at http://www.femst.ucsb.edu.