

The Interdepartmental Graduate Concentration in Women's Health

The Field of Women's Health

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The Field of Women's Health

The field of Women's Health has grown across many disciplines since the women's health movement during the late 1960's and early 1970's in the U.S. Women's health-related research is conducted in many fields in the health sciences, the social sciences, and in the humanities, reflecting both the many factors that affect health and illness and the multidisciplinary nature of health research. The multidisciplinary nature of health and health research has been integrated successfully within the field of Women's Health, and has been institutionalized through the establishment of certain federal offices, federally sponsored meetings, broad based Women's Health organizations and services, and in scholarship represented in numerous texts, journals, publications, and conferences.

Concentration Description

This Concentration is sponsored by the UIC College of Nursing, the School of Public Health, and the Gender and Women's Studies program. Its development was facilitated by the UIC National Center of Excellence in Women's Health and the Center for Research on Women and Gender. It is first offered to students beginning in Fall 2006. The Concentration is housed within the College of Nursing.

This concentration is an elective concentration for graduate students, consisting of core and elective courses across several academic units. The Concentration curriculum can be completed without the need to change existing graduate college or departmental academic requirements. In the case of certain academic units, however, students may need to complete additional hours beyond the minimum required for a masters or a doctoral degree within their home school, college or department.

This Concentration encompasses the multidisciplinary nature of Women's Health and provides training in the foundations of Women's Health through its structure and content. The Core courses provide a broad overview of the field and issues within Women's Health, and they address the need for a conceptual and applied background in Women's Health. The elective allows a student to pursue an issue or area of professional interest in Women's Health. The multidisciplinary requirement in this Concentration ensures that a student has significant exposure to a paradigm other than the dominant paradigms used within their own school or department.

Core courses provide foundational knowledge and address concepts essential to an understanding of the field of Women's Health, including gender issues, culture, social issues, holistic approaches, multidisciplinary, and

they reflect the ethical foundations of the field. These elements are addressed initially in the introductory course to the field of Women's Health. Theoretical and methodological aspects of Women's Health, including multidisciplinary and privileged knowledge, are addressed in the theory/methods course choices. A student is then able to explore a specific aspect of Women's Health more fully through the Women's Health Issues course. Additional professional goals can be met through the elective by either selecting an additional Women's Health related course or through independent study.

Targeted Students

This Concentration is primarily beneficial for students who will pursue careers in Women's Health administration, research, teaching, and program and policy development. A few students who receive clinical training may also choose to elect this Concentration, and will be better prepared to provide comprehensive healthcare to women. It will provide graduate students with scientifically grounded, state of the art knowledge and skills in the multidisciplinary field of Women's Health. Graduate students electing this Concentration develop a plan of work related to their professional goals. Concentration students receive their graduate degrees after having fulfilled the requirements of the Graduate College, their major academic units, and this Concentration. Successful completion of this Concentration will be reflected on students' transcripts once students complete their degree programs and graduate from the University.

The Interdepartmental Graduate Concentration in Women's Health will be offered in conjunction with the following degree programs: M.S. and Ph.D. in Nursing; Master of Public Health, Doctor of Public Health, M.S. and Ph.D. in Public Health. Students within any of the existing Concentration programs within either the School of Public Health or the College of Nursing are eligible to participate in the Concentration.

Program Outcomes:

Students who complete this Concentration will have a good theoretical understanding of the inter-relationship between gender, culture, psychosocial factors, biomedical factors, holistic and population based approaches to health and illness. They will be able to critique the complex causes of the failures within health care systems and in how specific health issues are addressed. This will enable them to begin to articulate better solutions to the provision of health care in the U.S. and abroad. These issues are all rooted in the concepts of equity and equality. Thus, students electing the concentration will have an appreciation for ethical foundation of Women's Health, for the gendered nature of health, for the population focus of public health which promotes prevention and wellness, and will understand how this applies in a variety of socio-cultural settings.

Concentration Summary and Requirements:

1. Course Requirements Outline

General Course Requirements

- 4 courses for 12 credit hours minimum
- Course Distribution:
 - 3 Core courses and 1 Elective course (min 3 hours)
 - Core Courses (one each):
 - Introductory Women's Health course
 - Women's Health Specific Issues course
 - Theory/Methods course

Interdepartmental Course Hour Requirements

Definition: Home Area = Sponsoring Unit

- Overall: At least 6 hours outside of Home Area

- Specifically:
 - At least 3 hours in social sciences/humanities (GWS = 3 hrs)
 - At least 3 hours in health related sciences (SPH, CON = 3 hrs)

Examples:

- SPH student: Intro Women's Health course (from Nursing) fulfills core and 3 hours Interdepartmental requirement. Takes 1 GWS course and 2 SPH courses.
- CON student: Takes 1 GWS course, 1 SPH course, and 2 CON courses.

2. **Requirements:** In addition to fulfilling requirements for a master's or doctoral degree within their home department, students must:

- a) **Formally elect the Concentration.** Students must formally elect the Concentration by discussing their intent with their primary advisor in their home department, by submitting a plan of study to the Director of the Concentration, and by informing their home department. Students should submit a 500 word proposal indicating their interest in the Concentration, what they hope to learn from this Concentration, the relation of the Concentration to their future career goals, and their anticipated course of study in the Concentration
- b) **Select a Concentration advisor.** Students must select a Concentration advisor from among the Designated and Affiliated Faculty in the Interdepartmental Graduate Concentration in Women's Health. Students may choose a Concentration advisor either within their major academic unit, or from another academic unit. If a student's primary advisor in their home department is not a Concentration faculty member, then the student will select a faculty member from among the Concentration faculty to serve as their Concentration advisor. The Concentration advisor assists students in developing a plan of study for the Concentration.
- c) **Complete a minimum of 4 courses totaling a minimum of 12 credit hours.** Students will complete a minimum of 4 courses totaling a minimum of 12 graduate credit hours for this Concentration in Core and Elective courses.
- d) **Fulfill Core course requirements for the Concentration.** Students must satisfactorily complete 3 core courses: an introductory Women's Health course (Issues for Research and Practice in Women's Health), one course from a designated list of Women's Health courses that deal with a range of Women's Health issues, and one Women's Health theory/methods course from among a designated list of courses.
- e) **Electives.** One course is required for a minimum of 3 credit hours in Women's Health related courses. This requirement may be met with an independent study or thesis research after approval by the Concentration advisor as part of the student's plan of work for the Concentration. The student, in consultation with the Concentration advisor, develops a plan of work for their independent study or thesis research. This plan of study specifies the goals for the semester, a reading list, and any expected product. A copy of this plan is submitted to the Director of the Concentration. For thesis research to count toward the Concentration, it must also be approved by the student's primary academic unit.
- f) **Interdepartmental requirement:** Because Women's Health is a multidisciplinary field, students will be exposed to a paradigm that differs from those used within their home School, College or Department by taking a minimum of 6 credit hours outside of their home area. Home area refers to the Sponsoring Unit. Each student will incorporate this requirement into their plan of work, in consultation with their advisor. For cross-listed courses, the primary department controlling the course is considered to be the Home Area for the purposes of this Concentration. At least one course for a minimum of 3 credit hours must be taken through the Gender and Women's Studies Program, and one course must be taken in the health related sciences either in the School of Public Health or the College of Nursing.
- g) **Grades:** Students must obtain an A, B, or Satisfactory grade for all courses in this Concentration.

Courses:

CORE INTRODUCTORY COURSE – required of all students

NuWH 550, NuAS 550, NuSC 550. Issues for Research and Practice in Women’s Health. 3 hours.
Analysis of gender-related definitions of health and illness in theory issues and research evaluation criteria for women’s health care practice are developed as a basis for research.

CORE WOMEN’S HEALTH ISSUES COURSES – select one

CHSc 421: Family Perspectives on Disability
CHSc 441, GWS 441: Introduction to Maternal and Child Health
CHSc 456, NuSc 455, NUWH 455: Women’s Health: A Primary Health Care Approach
CHSc 543: MCH Policy and Advocacy
CHSc 595: Seminar in Community Health Sciences: MCH Leadership Seminar
NUSc 441: Wholistic Health: Community Focus
NuSc 450, GWS 450, NuMH 450: Women and Mental Health Nursing
NuMc 524: Dimensions of Midwifery and Women’s Health Practice

CORE THEORY/METHODS COURSES – select one

CHSc 434: Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Public Health
CHSc 584: Community Organizing for Health
GWS 501: Feminist Theories
GWS 502: Feminist Methodologies
NuSc 555, NuWH 555: Theories and Methods in Women’s Health Nursing Research

ELECTIVE COURSE LISTING – select one

CHSc 419, GWS 419: Public Health Aspects of Sexuality and Women’s Health
CHSc 527: Critical Issues in Long-Term Care Policy
CHSc 528: Societal Analysis of Aging, Health and Health Care
CHSc 545: Reproductive and Perinatal Health
CHSc 547: Public Health Approaches to Maternal and Child Nutrition
CHSc 548: Readings in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology
CHSc 554: International Women’s Health: Current and Emerging Issues
CHSc 594: Advanced Special Topics in Community Health Sciences: Family Planning Policies and Practices
GWS 403: Culture and Sexuality: Cultural History of Same-Sex Relations
GWS 412, ARCH 412: Women and the Environment
GWS 424, CRJ 424: Gender, Crime, and Justice
GWS 439, GER 439: Gender and Cultural Production
GWS 469, ENGL 469: Women's Literary Traditions
GWS 470, AAST 470, ENGL 480: Reading Black Women Writing
GWS 472, AH 434, ENGL 472: Women and Film
GWS 484, HIST 484: Topics in the History of Women
GWS 485, POLS 485: Gender and Politics
GWS 490: Advanced Topics in the Study of Sexuality
GWS 494: Advanced Topics in Gender and Women's Studies
GWS 515, PSCH 515: Psychology of Women and Gender
GWS 540, LING 540: Language and Gender
GWS 547, CRJ 547: Race, Class, and Gender Dimensions of Crime and Justice
GWS 594: Special Topics in Gender and Women's Studies
GWS 596: Independent Study
IPHS 598: Research in Public Health Sciences – M.S.

IPHS 599: Research in Public Health Sciences – Ph.D.
NuSc 565, NuWH 565: Advanced Research in Women's Health
NuSc 570, NuWH 570: International Dimensions in Women's Health
NuSc 575, NuWH 575: Minority Women's Health Nursing
NuSc 596: Independent Study: Graduate
NuSc 598: Master's Thesis Research
NuSc 599: Doctoral Thesis Research

Designated and Affiliated Concentration Faculty

Designated Faculty

Affiliated Faculty

Designated Faculty – Designated Faculty are faculty who are recognized as either researchers or educators in Women's Health. Designated Faculty will serve as Concentration Advisors. They are eligible to be members of the Executive Committee.

Gender and Women's Studies Faculty

1. Jennie Brier, Ph.D. History, Rutgers University; Assistant Professor, History and Gender and Women's Studies (GWS), UIC LAS
2. Elena Gutierrez, Ph.D. Sociology, University of Michigan: Assistant Professor, Latin American and Latino Studies and GWS, UIC LAS
3. Lynette Jackson, Ph.D. History, Columbia University; Associate Professor, African American Studies and GWS, UIC LAS
4. Gayatri Reddy, Ph.D. Anthropology, Emory University; Assistant Professor, Anthropology and GWS, UIC LAS
5. Stephanie Riger, Ph.D. Psychology, University of Michigan; Professor Psychology and GWS, UIC LAS
6. Katrin Schultheiss Ph.D. History, Harvard University; Associate Professor, History and GWS, UIC LAS

College of Nursing Faculty

1. Barbara L. Dancy, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.; Ph.D. Clinical Psychology, St. Louis University; Professor, Public Health, Mental Health and Administrative Nursing, UIC CON
2. Tonda L. Hughes, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., Ph.D. Nursing, University of Illinois at Chicago, Post-Doc – UIC School of Public Health; Associate Professor, Public Health, Mental Health and Administrative Nursing, UIC CON; Director of Research, UIC National Center of Excellence in Women's Health; Faculty Affiliate, Community Health Sciences, UIC SPH
3. Carrie Klima, MS, Ph.D; M.S. UIC Midwifery; Ph.D. Nursing, University of Connecticut; Clinical Assistant Professor, Maternal Child Nursing, UIC CON
4. Beverly McElmurry, M.S.N., EdD, FAAN. M.S.N. University of Minnesota, EdD Northern Illinois University; Professor, Public Health, Mental Health, and Administrative Nursing; Associate Dean for Global Health, UIC CON
5. Karla Nacion, M.S., Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago. Clinical Associate Professor, Maternal Child Nursing, UIC CON; Co-Director of Clinical Core, UIC National Center of Excellence in Women's Health; Coordinator, UIC Midwifery
6. Dorrie W. Schwertz, Ph.D., Pharmacology, Medical College of Virginia; Associate Professor, Medical-Surgical Nursing, UIC CON; Director, Core Biological Laboratory, UIC CON

7. Joan Shaver, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.; Ph.D. Physiology and Biophysics, University of Washington, Seattle; Dean and Professor, UIC College of Nursing; President, American Academy of Nursing

School of Public Health Faculty

1. Noel Chavez, PhD, St. Louis University, Associate Professor Community Health Sciences (CHS) UIC SPH, Interim Director of CHS, Co-Director MCH Program
2. Stacie Geller, PhD, University of Arizona, Associate Professor OB/GYN College of Medicine, Departmental Affiliate CHS, Director UIC-CRWG, Director UIC-COE
3. Emily Godfrey, MD, MPH,; MD – Medical College of Wisconsin, MPH – University of Rochester; Assistant Professor, UIC College of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine; Departmental Affiliate, CHS, UIC SPH; Consulting Physician, OB/GYN Stroger Hospital Cook County
4. Arden Handler, DrPH, University of Illinois at Chicago, Professor Community Health Sciences UIC SPH; Co-Director Maternal and Child Health Program, UIC SPH
5. Memoona Hasnain, MD, MHPE, Ph.D., M.B.B.S. Dow Medical College, University of Karachi, MHPE University of Illinois at Chicago, Ph.D. University of Illinois at Chicago; Director of Research and Assistant Professor UIC Department of Family Medicine, Adjunct Assistant Professor UIC Department of Medical Education, Departmental Affiliate CHS, UIC SPH
6. Tamar Heller, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago, Professor and Head, Institute on Disability and Human Development, Director, RRTC on Aging with Developmental Disabilities; Associate Professor Community Health Sciences
7. Michele Issel, PhD, University of Washington, Clinical Associate Professor Community Health Sciences, Adjunct Assistant Professor UIC CON
8. Joan Kennelly, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago, Research Assistant Professor Community Health Sciences, UIC SPH
9. Claudia Morrissey MD, MPH; MD The Chicago Medical School, MPH Johns Hopkins School of Public Health; Deputy Director Center for Research on Women and Gender and the UIC National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health, Director Women in Science and Engineering Program and Women in Science and Engineering System Transformation Initiative, Departmental Affiliate CHS, UIC SPH
10. Nadine Peacock, PhD, Harvard University, Associate Professor Community Health Sciences,
11. Deborah L. Rosenberg, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago, Research Assistant Professor Epidemiology and Biostatistics, UIC SPH
12. Susan Scrimshaw, PhD, Columbia University, Professor Community Health Sciences, Dean UIC School of Public Health

Affiliated faculty – Affiliated faculty may be from any school, department, college, or Unit of the University. They are recognized as working in areas related to Women’s Health, but are not primarily considered to be Women’s Health scholars.

Affiliated faculty will inform students about the Concentration and may serve as Concentration Advisors.

Gender and Women's Studies Faculty

1. John D'Emilio Ph.D. History, Columbia University; Professor, English and GWS, UIC LAS; Director Gender and Women's Studies, UIC
2. Judith Kegan Gardiner Ph.D. English, Columbia University; Professor, English and GWS, UIC LAS; Co-Chair Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women, UIC
3. Norma Claire Moruzzi Ph.D. Political Science, Johns Hopkins University; Associate Professor, Political Science and GWS, UIC LAS; GWS Director of Graduate Studies
4. Beth E. Richie Ph.D. Sociology, City University of New York; Associate Professor, Criminal Justice and African American Studies and GWS, UIC LAS; Director of African American Studies Department, UIC
5. Margaret (Peg) Strobel Ph.D. History, University of California at Los Angeles; Professor, History and GWS, UIC LAS; Director of Jane Addams Hull House Museum, UIC

College of Nursing Faculty

1. Colleen Corte, Ph.D., R.N., Ph.D. Nursing, University of Michigan; Assistant Professor, Public Health, Mental Health, and Administrative Nursing, UIC CON
2. Geraldine Gorman, RN, MA, Ph.D., MA English Literature, Loyola University Chicago, Ph.D. Nursing, Loyola University; Assistant Professor, Public Health, Mental Health, and Administrative Nursing, UIC CON
3. Arlene Miller, M.S.N, Ph.D., M.S.N. Public Health Nursing, University of Illinois at Chicago; Ph.D. Counseling Psychology, Northwestern University; Associate Professor and Interim Department Head, Public Health, Mental Health, and Administrative Nursing, UIC CON
4. Kathleen Norr, Ph.D., Sociology, University of Michigan, Associate Professor, Maternal Child Nursing, UIC CON
5. JoEllen Wilbur, M.S.N., Ph.D., M.S.N. Public Health Nursing, Ph.D. Nursing Science, University of Illinois at Chicago; Professor, Public Health, Mental Health and Administrative Nursing, Associate Dean for Research Facilitation and Administration, UIC CON

School of Public Health Faculty

1. Faith G. Davis, PhD, Yale University, Professor Epidemiology and Biostatistics, UIC SPH
2. Virginia Martinez, JD, Departmental Affiliate CHS, Director International Center for Health Leadership Development, UIC SPH
3. Naoko Muramatsu, PhD, University of Michigan, Associate Professor Community Health Sciences, UIC SPH
4. Jesus Ramirez-Valles, PhD, University of Michigan, Associate Professor Community Health Sciences, UIC SPH
5. Myrtis Sullivan, MD, MPH, University of Illinois School at Chicago; Clinical Assistant Professor Community Health Sciences, UIC SPH; Attending Physician, Pediatrics, Stroger Hospital Cook County

Additional information:

Contact:

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Carrie Klima
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