



The University of Utah
College of Nursing

March 25, 2008

Dr. David Chapman
Dean, Graduate School
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Dean Chapman,

Attached is a proposal to the Graduate Council to establish a "Certificate in Women's Health." This certificate represents two years of work on the part of the Certificate Co-chairs, Patricia Murphy CNM, DrPH and Stephanie Richardson RN, PhD (College of Nursing), Janet Shaw PhD (College of Health), Caren Frost PhD, MPH (College of Social Work), along with the Center of Excellence in Women's Health at the University of Utah.

The Colleges who will house the certificate program are the College of Nursing, the College of Health and the College of Social Work. The Deans of the College of Nursing and Health met several times to discuss the certificate, and the Dean of the College of Social Work is very supportive of the effort.

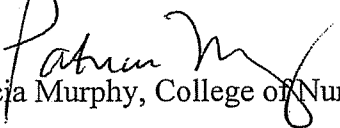
The Certificate Directors will be Dr. Patricia Murphy, Dr. Caren Frost, and Dr. Janet Shaw. The College of Nursing (and Dr. Murphy) have agreed to be the primary contact and to house the certificate administratively.

The knowledge base established for the certificate is based on a broad articulation of the various domains of women's health (the Domains of Health are described at: <http://uuhs.utah.edu/coe/womenshealth>) The committee first established a key course— Issues in Women's Health- which was developed and piloted by Dr. Murphy and Dr. Frost with an interdisciplinary teaching grant. The certificate committee then combed the University Catalogue to identify additional courses that could be considered for the certificate. The committee verified with each department chair that the course was indeed taught and was appropriate in content, and ascertained from the department chairs any additional courses that could be part of the curriculum for the certificate.

We are interested in having the certificate approved this spring so that it can be available in the fall. The key course will be taught for the third time this summer and there are student who are interested in pursuing the certificate. Our goal will be to eventually have this certificate available online for distance education students as well.

Please review and advise us if there is any revision or additional information needed in order to have this presented to the Graduate Council. Members of the planning group are available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,


Patricia Murphy, College of Nursing

For:

Janet Shaw, College of Health

Caren Frost, College of Social Work

Stephanie Richardson, College of Nursing

Kathleen Digre, School of Medicine and Director of the Center of Excellence in Women's Health at the University of Utah.



The University of Utah

College of Nursing

Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Women's Health Proposal 3-25-08

Background

Women's health is an area that is receiving increased attention in both health services and policy making institutions. Since 1960, when the World Health Organization defined health as "a complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being", those working in health-related services have increasingly recognized that health is a multidimensional concept that means much more than merely the absence of illness. In 1985, the Public Health Service Task Force on Women's Health Issues defined women's health issues as diseases or conditions that were unique to women, were more prevalent or more serious in women, or for which specific risk factors or interventions differed for women. Many of the issues that affect women's health have roots, consequences, and interventions that lie outside the traditional sphere of "health care". Accumulating research documents the critical importance of psychosocial and behavioral factors in a number of major chronic diseases and conditions that influence women's lives. Multidisciplinary teams that are able to approach women's health from this broad perspective are critical to making improvements in women's lives. Unfortunately, current graduate education for health care providers takes place predominately within disciplines. We propose to establish an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program to provide interested health care professionals with the multidisciplinary knowledge necessary to provide current and accurate health care to women, and particularly to minority women.

1. Need. 2007 is the right time to study women's health, in a cross-disciplinary program. In contemporary society, women not only work and engage in careers, but also retain their role as the primary caregivers for families. Women's health is a critical issue, not only for individual women but also for the health of families, since women assume the major role in negotiating for the health of both children and aging parents. Women have higher prevalence rates for a number of chronic illnesses, related in part to their unique physiology. Women report more days of poor physical and mental health and more days where they are limited in performing usual activities. Aging women are a growing proportion of the population; there are approximately 132 women aged 65 and older per 100 men in the same age group. Women are more likely to be hospitalized for mental health conditions. Approximately one in ten Utah residents have been victims of domestic violence and in 20 percent of domestic violence cases, the woman who was assaulted was pregnant at the time of the assault, according to national studies. In Utah older women are over 60 percent of adult abuse cases.

The University of Utah is the right place for a graduate certificate in women's health, due to our unique demographics. In 2003, US Census Bureau reported that Utah's population exceeded 2.3 million, a 29.6% population growth since 1990, over 2-fold

faster than the overall United States growth rate of 13.1%. Contrary to the ethnically homogenous image of the state, Utah's minority population has increased at an accelerated rate. Utah has 159,000 foreign-born residents, a 171% increase since 1990. The Hispanic population has increased 138%. Utah is unique in terms of its types of minority populations. Native American and Pacific Islander groups constitute 5% of Utahns. There are significant health disparities between minority and non-minority residents in Utah which are seen in outcome statistics as well as access rates. In 2001, 21.5% of Hispanic or Latino residents surveyed reported having no usual place for medical care, compared to only 7.7% of white residents. Culturally sensitive understanding of specific issues in this rapidly growing population is of critical importance in the education of those who will be providing health and social services to women in the state.

Women need providers who have obtained the specialized information contained in this certificate. Women in Utah access routine preventive services at low rates, and have among the highest rates of death from cerebrovascular accidents, influenza and pneumonia, diabetes and suicide. Other chronic diseases that are major causes of death and disability in women include arthritis, cancer, and depression. Likely contributing to increased rates of cardiovascular events and diabetes is a parallel increase in critical adverse health behaviors such as obesity and lack of exercise. Utah has experienced a 51% increase in obesity rates from 1989 to 2002. Ethnic minorities experience a disproportionate share of the diabetes and obesity burden.

Improving women's health thus must involve targeting emotional, social, cultural, and spiritual well-being, not just physical health. Those who deal with women's health issues, whether from the perspectives of a service provider or a policy maker must understand the social, political, cultural and economic context of women's lives, and how these both impact and are impacted by a biological health state. Evidence-based approaches to women's health that include psychosocial and behavioral factors, primary care access, community interventions, and health policy are the language of the next generation of women's caregivers. Graduates of the University's programs in nursing, social work, public health, health education, gender studies, and others, will benefit from the knowledge and skills provided in the proposed certificate program as they engage in careers that deliver a variety of services to women.

2. **Educational Objectives.** Objectives have been organized according to the three domains of knowledge critical to women's health.

The first domain addresses the health of individual women.

Individual Experiences of Disease, Wellness, Maturation, & Growth.

Upon completing courses in this domain, the student would be able to

1. Describe how women are physically and functionally different from men, particularly regarding health issues.
2. Anticipate and address disease and wellness transitions of women, including menarche, menopause, and birth.
3. Appreciate and address mental health of women across the life span.

The second domain addresses how women experience their world on a personal level.

Women's Roles, Responsibilities, Behaviors, and Beliefs.

Upon completing courses in this domain, the student would be able to

4. Illustrate the interrelationship between health and women's responsibilities, including family issues, and household responsibilities in the domestic sphere.
5. Critique policies and plans related to women's workplace issues affecting personal and family health.
6. Appreciate the diversity of women's local and international religion and moral choices relative to health issues.

The third domain addresses women's health on a global and world level.

Economics, Politics, and Women's Health.

Upon completing courses in this domain, the student would be able to

7. Critique national and international laws, policies, and statutes affecting women's health.
8. Debate current national and global religious and moral policies related to women's health.
9. Describe international and global economic and epidemiologic patterns of women's health issues.

3. Impact on Existing Programs. The academic program with the closest alliance to a graduate certificate in women's health with respect to content is Gender Studies. Gender Studies is an *undergraduate*, interdisciplinary academic program. Therefore, a graduate certificate in women's health would not detract from enrollment in the Gender Studies program.

The Department of Family and Consumer Studies offers an MS in Family Ecology. While some of the courses for the graduate certificate in women's health overlap with this graduate degree, emphasis in the MS in Family Ecology is not specifically on the role of women within the family. In fact, it is anticipated that students in this program will be interested in additional coursework to complete the graduate certificate in women's health to complement the MS in Family Ecology.

The graduate degrees in Nursing for women's health nurse-practitioners and nurse-midwives will not be adversely affected because a: those are clinical specialties and coursework in them is required for licensure, and b: the broader policy focus will augment and inform those clinical specialties.

Graduate students who wish to pursue both a graduate degree as well as the graduate certificate in women's health will be able to use course requirements for both the degree and for the certificate, where applicable. For example, students seeking a Master of Science in Exercise and Sport Science who are required to enroll in ESS 6320 Exercise, Gender and Disease for the MS would be able to use ESS 6320 toward the graduate certificate in women's health as well. Because some graduate programs have high credit hour requirements, taking additional credit hours to complete a graduate certificate could be a deterrent to enrollment in the certificate program. Being able to apply courses to both a graduate degree and a certificate will lessen the impact of the additional credits.

4. Courses.

Women's health is a robust topic. It must address women as individuals, as family and community groups, and as global citizens. Women's health must address physical wellness, and illness. Mental and emotional health of individuals and communities must be included. Laws, policies, and economic factors that create access to care, illness, and

the opportunity to raise healthy families are important to women's health. We recognize that a certificate program must offer courses that have a common, cogent area of study; we also understand that if the program were excessively parsimonious, we would risk eliminating an area of study crucial to understanding the forces and issues in women's health. Consequently, we have divided content into one core course that is required, and into three domains. Students will take one course in each domain, and may take more than one course in any domain.

We also recognize that our graduate students are busy and it can be difficult for them to add courses to already-intense programs of study. The certificate in women's health has been designed with an asynchronous online option, to maximize flexibility in scheduling, progression, and completing requirements. The core course now has an online section, and we plan to offer at least one course in each domain with an online section by the end of next year, and increase the number of online courses annually.

While these courses are mainly three-credit courses, there are a few two-credit courses; it is possible that a student may be one credit short of a certificate. In this case, each of the four faculty in the program are prepared to offer a one-credit independent study at the 7000 level.

Core course: Required

Department Catalog # Cross-list Course title Credits

NURS	6520	SW7080 SW 6622	Issues in Women's Health	3
Description: The purpose of the course is to provide students with an overview of key issues in the field of women's health. Students will develop conceptual skills to evaluate how social, cultural, and policy issues impact and are impacted by women's health issues.				

Domain I. Individual Experiences of Disease, Wellness, Maturation & Growth

Areas addressed: physical, psychological and emotional health.

The courses below address how women are physically and functionally different, particularly with health issues. Disease and wellness transitions are included, as well as mental health.

Department	Catalog #	Cross-list	Course title	Credits
FPMD	6320		Perinatal and Women's Health Epidemiology	3
Description: This course will cover the application of epidemiological methods to studies of perinatal, reproductive, and women's health, with a focus on current issues and controversies. Methodological, clinical, and health policy issues will be discussed with examples from both domestic and international settings. Students will learn to critically evaluate research articles, design epidemiologic studies, and apply health data to improve public health programs and policy.				
ANTH	6183		Sex and Gender: Biosocial Perspectives	3
Description: Why are females feminine, males masculine, and occasionally vice versa? Addresses the study of sex and gender differences from a biosocial perspective, with particular emphasis placed on the ways in which biological and cultural factors interact. Considers evolutionary, developmental, and socio-economic perspectives. Cross-cultural differences and similarities are emphasized.				
EDPS	6370		Psychology of Women	3
Description: Theoretical understandings of psychological development of women and implications for practice. Examination of classic and contemporary psychological views of women. Feminist developmental, constructivist, and multicultural perspectives are emphasized, as well as violence against women and its consequences.				
ESS	6320		Exercise, Gender and Disease	3
Description: Exercise and physical activity have been used as preventive measures to decrease disease risk. Further, the interaction of exercise with chronic disease risk may vary by gender or sex. This course will examine the epidemiology of chronic diseases with links to sedentary behavior, and how physical activity and/or exercise alter risk for these chronic disease states. Included will be the consideration of how gender or sex impacts the frequency and distribution of the disease itself as well as its interaction with exercise or physical activity participation.				
NUTR	5340		Nutrition and Women's Health	3
Description: This course is designed to address the many challenges that women belonging to various multicultural groups face in the area of health care. During the semester the course focuses on, as its central theme, diversity among women as it relates to the health and nutrition fields of study. Discussion topics include nutrition needs during pregnancy, birth, and infant care, certain genetic predispositions to disease as well as body image and body acceptance. Students have the opportunity to synthesize information and opinions formed by drawing parallels to their own lives and experiences. Health issues concerning women such as heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, premenstrual syndrome, polycystic ovary syndrome, and menopause are discussed.				
PSY	7465		Self-Regulation, coping, Adaptation and Health	3
Description: This seminar examines current theory and research on self-regulatory processes with a focus on the resources, skills, beliefs, goals, emotions, and social processes implicated in problem-solving and coping with chronic illness and other stressors. The course will discuss the importance of these concepts to understanding stress, coping, adaptation and physical and mental health.				

Domain II. Women's Roles, Responsibilities, Behaviors, and Beliefs

Areas addressed: social, intellectual and spiritual health

The courses below address women's responsibilities, care-giving behaviors, and family issues, from household responsibilities in the domestic sphere, to workplace issues, focusing on women's experiences of the world on a personal level. Includes religion and moral choices on a personal level.

Department	Catalog #	Cross-list	Course title	Credits
FCS	5370		Family Violence	3
Description: Multidisciplinary study of family violence and abuse including abuse and neglect of children, spouses, and the elderly; psychological, verbal, and sexual abuse, and courtship violence. Different theoretical perspectives for understanding violence in the family; current policy, treatment, and prevention efforts; controversies in studying family violence.				
FCS	5280		Divorce and Remarriage	3
Description: Covers the process and dynamics of divorce and remarriage for adults and their children.				
LAW	7074		Family Law	3
Description: This is an introductory course in family law. Topics include the law of marriage, divorce, and child custody, and the legal recognition of nontraditional family relationships. Possible other topics include family violence, balancing family and work responsibilities, and new reproductive technologies.				
NUTR	5350	HEDU 5350	Eating Disorders: Prevention and Treatment	3
Examines prevention of eating disorders focusing on current prevention programs and research. Creation of pilot prevention program will be required.				
HIST	7240		The Comparative History of Women and Gender	3
Description: Takes a comparative approach to the exploration of the history of women and gender. Provides students with grounding in the particularities of women's experiences in a global context and a theoretical understanding of the diversity of conceptions of gender and the methodological approaches historians use to explore gender in different cultural contexts.				
SOC	6340		Social Stratification	3
Description: Structure and changes in socio-economic inequalities. Status attainment in the United States in comparison with other societies. Advantages and burdens of social class, race, gender, and other factors considered from theoretical perspectives and available evidence.				

Domain III. Economics, Politics & Women's Health

Areas addressed: environmental, occupational and economic health

Courses below address laws, policies, and statutes that affect women's health, including religion and moral activism. International and global patterns, economics, epidemiology are included.

Department	Catalog #	Cross-list	Course title	Credits
ECON	5170	ECON 6170 GNDR 5170	Feminist Economics	3
Description: Theoretical and methodological issues associated with a feminist perspective on economics. Changing position of women in the world economy since the 19th century; patterns of gender discrimination in various economies; and centrality of women's work to capitalist development.				
ECON	5560	ECON 6560 GNDR 5560	Gender and Economic Development in the Third World	3
Description: The impact of economic development on the gender division of labor and gender-based control over resources in the Third World. Case studies of rural transformation and agricultural development, rural-urban migration, urbanization and industrialization, economic crisis and population growth. Examines policies and political struggles aimed at overthrowing gender bias in development processes.				
ESS	6760		Sociology of Sport	3
Description: This course will examine the influence of the social context on sport and physical activity, how sport and physical activity affect the social world we live in, and the interactions of these. Power relations will be demonstrated throughout the course with a focus on gender, race/ethnicity/culture, socioeconomic class, and ethnocentrism, media relations, violence, deviance, and sexuality.				
POLS	6140		Feminist Political Theory	3
Description: Exploration of the bases of feminist political theory and the influences and effects of feminist thought on various public political debates.				
HIST	6095		The Body and State in Modern Britain	3
Description: Explore the relationship between the bodies of different types of citizens and the British state. It begins with the 1832 British Anatomy Act, which allowed for dissection of the poor, and ends with the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948. Paying close attention to issues of gender, sexuality, class, race, and ethnicity, this course examines both governmental policies for managing, disciplining, and providing for the bodies of citizens, and the reaction of the public to these methods.				
FPMD	6308		Violence in the Workplace	2
Description: An introduction to and examination of the public health issue of violence in the workplace. The transition of the U.S. labor force from a predominantly agricultural/manufacturing base to a service/retail base and the increased employment of women has made intentional injury the second leading type of fatal workplace injury.				
POLS	5321	6321	Health Policy	3
Description: Meets with POLS 6321. Graduate students should register for POLS 6321 and will be held to higher standards and/or additional work. Introduction to health policy issues in the United States; needs and demands for public action; organization and nature of political support; process and problems of decision making in health policy areas.				
ECON	5190	6190	Health Economics	3
Description: Meets with ECON 6190. Graduate students should register for ECON 6190 and will be held to higher standards and/or additional work. Economics of health care, health-care delivery systems, public and private health insurance, location of health facilities, and health-care inflation.				

5. Assessment. Annually, the program will be assessed with the assistance of Mark St. Andre, Assistant Vice President of Assessment Activities for Undergraduate Studies. A report will be generated to include:

- a. Number of students enrolled by year.
- b. Number of matriculated/nonmatriculated students.
- c. Summary of credentials and academic records (i.e., GPA, GRE, etc.) of enrolled students.
- d. Number of certificates awarded by year.
- e. Student and peer evaluation of courses.
- f. Exit interviews of graduates of the program.

6. Faculty.

The certificate program will be co-hosted in three colleges: Nursing, Health, and Social Work (see letters of support). The physical home for the advisement and administration of the program will be the College of Nursing. The Center of Excellence (CoE) in Women's Health, through the School of Medicine, will provide a web presence for the program, though all co-hosts will provide links to the program's CoE website on their own home pages. Consequently, with such broad and enthusiastic support, we thought it best to name four faculty as the leaders for the program: Pat Murphy, College of Nursing, Caren Frost, College of Social Work, Janet Shaw, College of Health, and Elizabeth Joy, School of Medicine.

Patricia Aikins Murphy, C.N.M., Dr.P.H., is a certified nurse-midwife with over 25 years as a provider of women's health services, who also holds a doctorate in public health. Dr. Murphy has taught women's health issues in both nursing and medical school curricula (in New York). She is on the Board of Directors of the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, and is the deputy editor of the professional Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health. She holds the Annette Cumming Presidential Endowed Chair in Women's and Reproductive Health at the University of Utah College of Nursing. She has an adjunct appointment in the Department of Preventive and Family Medicine in the School of Medicine, where she participates as faculty in the Public Health Program. Dr. Murphy works with the Planned Parenthood Association of Utah, with the Utah Department of Health (for family planning and adolescent reproductive health issues), and provides women's health care services in a county health department clinic in the West Valley. She will be able to bring teaching, graduate advisement, and program management experience to the proposed program.

As a Research Associate Professor in the College of Social Work, Caren J. Frost brings a public health and anthropological focus to her work. Dr. Frost's Ph.D. (1995) is from the University of Utah's Department of Anthropology in Medical, Cultural, and Applied Anthropology. Dr. Frost conducts qualitative research studies with colleagues at Primary Children's Medical Center and at Huntsman Cancer Institute's High Risk Breast Cancer Clinic. Over the past five years, Dr. Frost has conducted research on the psychosocial aspects of women breast cancer patients and survivors through work with the High Risk Breast Cancer Clinic at Huntsman Cancer Institute. Dr. Frost is Chair of the Health Domain for second year master's level social work students, and is co-director of International Social Work Education. Since 2003, Dr. Frost has served as a Vice-Chair of the University's Institutional Review Board.

Janet M. Shaw, Ph.D., FACSM, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine. She is also an adjunct Associate Professor in the Division of Nutrition, within the College of Health. As the Co-Executive Director of the PEAK Academy, the clinical entity in the Department, she serves as the primary faculty member associated with the undergraduate

fitness leadership option. In addition to teaching the undergraduate course in exercise programming, she also teaches a graduate course in exercise and disease that pays particular attention to the female gender. The majority of Dr. Shaw's research has been in the area of exercise and women's health, notably in bone health and fall prevention. She has particular interest in the potential for exercise and physical activity to improve mental health in women. Dr. Shaw is an active member in the Center of Excellence of Women's Health at the University of Utah.

Elizabeth Joy, MD, MPH, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, is a Family Medicine physician and Sports Medicine physician at the University of Utah, where she serves as one of the team physicians and directs the Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship program. In addition, she directs the University of Utah's practice-based research network, the Utah Health Research Network, as well as the multidisciplinary Utah Sports Research Network. She completed a Family Medicine Residency and Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She completed her Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Utah. Dr. Joy held 2 terms of office on the Board of Trustees for the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, and has served on the Board of Trustees for the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). She is on the Editorial Boards for *The Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine*, and is a Section Editor for *Current Sports Medicine Reports*. She serves on the Exercise Is Medicine Task force for the ACSM, and was recently appointed to the American Heart Association's Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism Committee. She has authored many journal articles and textbook chapters on a wide variety of topics in sports medicine. Her research interests lie in the areas of physical activity assessment and promotion, the Female Athlete Triad, exercise during pregnancy, and curriculum development in musculoskeletal medicine.

7. Coordinator. Patricia Murphy (see above), who holds the Annette Cumming Presidential Endowed Chair in Women's and Reproductive Health, will coordinate the program and provide advisement to the student cohort. She will manage program budget and the part-time administrative assistant we anticipate needing.

8. Advisory Committee. Upon approval of the program, we will create an advisory committee. Membership will include college and departmental representatives from, for example, Pharmacy, Economics, Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies, Sociology, History, Health, Nursing, Law, Medicine, and Family and Consumer Studies. We would like to include two graduate student members. There will be no more than 12 members, not including student members, and not more than one member from a participating school or department at any given time. This committee will meet at least once per semester to provide support and guidance to advisors for the program, including approving courses and activities being used to fulfill the requirements.

9. Budget. The program requires no new infrastructure or library resources. The program does not require the hiring of new faculty members to create new courses. Staff assistance can be funded out of FTEs from the core course.

During the first two semesters that Issues in Women's Health (N6520/SW6621) was offered, 11 graduate students enrolled, total. Our survey of department chairs indicates that, with even modest marketing, program enrollment goals of 30 per year could be met by the end of the first year.

The core course charges differential tuition returning \$95.00 per credit hour to the home department. 26 students would need to be enrolled in the course to support and administrative assistant for one day each week to assist in program data management and marketing efforts.

Costs

Administrative assistant, \$18.00/hr for 8 hrs weekly	\$7488.00 annually
Supplies, office equipment and infrastructure	donated

Income

\$95.00 per student credit hour, 3 credit course, 27 students	\$7695.00 annually
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Income from enrollment in courses other than the core course would be returned to home departments.

D. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION/PROGRESSION CRITERIA

1. An applicant for admission to this graduate certificate program must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A bachelor's degree from a fully accredited college or university,
- An undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0,
- Recommendation of the director of graduate studies in the college or department in which the student is matriculated, or other letter of recommendation, if non-matriculated.

2. Students must meet the following minimum requirements in order to receive the certificate:

- A GPA of at least 3.4 in courses they wish to record for the certificate.

Documentation of completion of their coursework, with grades, to the program director.

Institutions Submitting Proposal:

College of Nursing, College of Health, College of Social Work

College, School or Division in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located:

College of Nursing

Department(s) or Area(s) in Which Program/Administrative Unit Will Be Located:

College of Nursing

Program/Administrative Unit Title:

Certificate in Women's Health

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code: _____

Certificate, Diploma and/or Degree(s) to be Awarded:

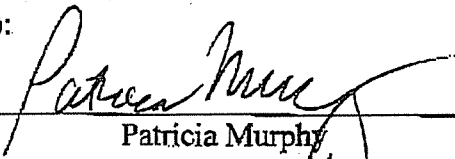
Certificate in Women's Health

Proposed Beginning Date:

Fall 2008

Institutional Signatures (as appropriate):

Certificate Director _____

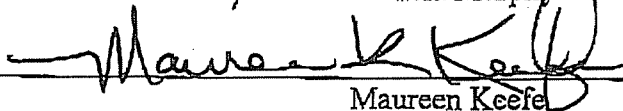


Patricia Murphy

4-8-08

Date

Dean _____



Maureen Keefe

4/8/08

Date

Graduate School Dean _____



David S. Chapman

Date

Chief Academic Officer _____

A. Lorris Betz

Date

President _____

Michael K. Young

Date



The University of Utah
College of Nursing

March 10, 2008

Dr. David Chapman
Associate VP, Graduate Programs
The Graduate School
University of Utah
302 Park Building

Dear Dr. Chapman and Graduate Council Members,

I am pleased to support the interdisciplinary graduate certificate in women's health for the University of Utah. There is increasing recognition that the health needs of women throughout the lifespan require an understanding of the various domains that affect health, from the physical and psychological to the emotional, intellectual, spiritual occupational and environmental issues that create health lies. This recognition demands interdisciplinary education. The College of Nursing is ideally suited to be the home of the certificate, given our strengths in the education of women's health clinicians and our history of providing interdisciplinary education.

Dr. Patricia Aikins Murphy, CNM, DrPH, who is on our faculty, holds the Annette Poulson Cumming Presidential Endowed Chair in Women's and Reproductive Health, and has been dedicated in pursuing this educational option since coming to the University. Providing such interdisciplinary educational opportunities is consistent with the mission of her chair, and she is well positioned to take a lead in coordinating and advising within the program. She has been part of the steering committee for the National Center of Excellence in Women's Health since its inception at the University.

Dr. Murphy received an interdisciplinary teaching grant for the development and teaching of the interdisciplinary course in women's health that will serve as the anchor for this certificate. She and her colleague Dr. Caren Frost have worked together with faculty from the Colleges of Nursing and Health, and School of Medicine, to enlist campus-wide support for broadening that single course into a certificate.

Sincerely,

Maureen R. Keefe, R.N., Ph.D., FAAN
Dean and Professor
Louis H. Peery Presidential Endowed Chair



College of Social Work

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

395 SOUTH 1500 EAST, ROOM 101 • SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84112-0260 • (801) 581-6191 • FAX (801) 585-3219 • WWW.SOCWK.UTAH.EDU

Monday, September 10, 2007

Patricia A. Murphy, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
College Of Nursing
10 S 2000 E Front Room 448

Dear Dr. Murphy:

This letter is to endorse a graduate certificate in women's health for the University of Utah. As Dean of the College of Social Work, I see a tremendous need for more interdisciplinary exploration and discussions about women's issues in general and for a focus on women's health in specific. Further, an emphasis on an enhanced connection between the medical and social/behavioral sciences is warranted to strengthen the focus on women's health issues.

As you know, Dr. Caren J. Frost, a Research Associate Professor in the College of Social work, developed and taught a course titled "Issues in Women's Health" along with you. I support this interdisciplinary teaching effort, which has been ongoing for over two years, because it provides cross-pollination of ideas for our faculty and our students. Student interested in women's issues have enjoyed this course, and have found the discussions therein to be very stimulating. Dr. Frost has mentioned to me the need to continue building on this type of course development, and I wholeheartedly agree with her suggestions.

Again, I believe that a graduate certificate in women's health would be an asset for our College. In addition, social work students would benefit immensely from participation in this certificate. The certificate for our Masters of Social Work and doctoral students would enhance their understanding of the issues women face globally and locally.

Sincerely,

Jannah H. Mather, PhD
Dean and Professor

JM/cf



The University of Utah

College of Health

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES
AND DISORDERS

EXERCISE AND
SPORT SCIENCE

HEALTH PROMOTION
AND EDUCATION

NUTRITION

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

PARKS, RECREATION
AND TOURISM

PHYSICAL THERAPY

March 26, 2008

David Chapman, Dean
Graduate School
302 Park Building
University of Utah

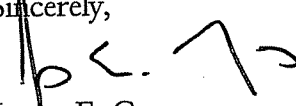
Dear Dean Chapman:

I am pleased to extend my support for the proposed Graduate Certificate in Women's Health, developed by Drs. Patricia Murphy and Stephanie Richardson in the College of Nursing, Caren Frost in the College of Social Work, Janet Shaw in the College of Health and Kathleen Digre in the School of Medicine. I have had the opportunity to meet with these individuals and Dean Keefe early in the development of the Certificate and understand that the College of Nursing will serve as its administrative home. However, students in the College of Health who are interested in the Certificate may receive input regarding its requirements from Dr. Shaw.

The graduate Certificate in Women's Health has been thoughtfully designed to reflect a broad spectrum of topics. The course options address women's health from individual, social, intellectual, spiritual, economical and political perspectives. The Certificate offers a unique program of study that will be of interest to graduate students in the College of Health.

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Women's Health represents an important perspective that fills a void at the University of Utah. I hope that it will be given full and thorough consideration.

Sincerely,


James E. Graves
Dean and Professor

JEG:np



The University of Utah

Department of Family & Preventive Medicine

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH

Michael K. Magill, M.D.
*Hicken Professor and Chairman
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine*

*Executive Medical Director, Community Clinics
University Hospitals and Clinics*

April 11, 2008

Patricia Murphy, CNM, DrPH
Associate Professor
College Of Nursing
NURSING BLDG
10 S 2000 E FRONT RM 448
Salt Lake City, UT 84132

Dear Dr. Murphy:

This is a letter in support of the Certificate in Women's Health, as well as Dr. Elizabeth Joy's participation in this effort. Women's Health is an important topic in Family Medicine. I understand that this program will be administratively housed in the College of Nursing. The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine supports your efforts in this area, and look forward to working with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Michael Magill, M.D.

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