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To: Professor Linda Wilbrecht, Chair, L&S Executive Committee
From: Leslie Salzinger, GWS Chair
Re: LGBT Minor Requirements, changes for the April 6 meeting of the L&S Executive Committee
Date: April 4, 2025

Dear Chair Wilbrecht,

UC Berkeley's Department of Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) administers the LGBT Minor. We are proposing changes to the Minor requirements, as well as a change in the name of the Minor to Queer and Trans Praxis.

The LGBT Minor is an important curricular option for Berkeley students. The field of queer studies offers significant theoretical perspectives on culture, politics, and normativity; furthermore, the experiences and creativity of LGBTQ+ people and communities are vibrant and their study is inspiring for our students. The process of generating changes to the LGBT Minor has been long and careful. For several years rethinking the Minor and its name have been addressed piecemeal in GWS faculty meetings and in our hallways. In Fall 2024, I appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the Minor. This Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of all GWS faculty who teach in the Minor, undertook a study of the Minor with two goals in mind: to identify courses in need of updating in order to reflect the current state of the field (including identifying new courses that would contribute significantly to the curriculum), and to identify improvements in order to increase enrollment in the Minor. The subcommittee proposed reducing the number of required courses from six to five, streamlining the requirements, changing some of the required courses, and updating the name of the Minor itself. The proposal that we submit today is the result of study and detailed deliberations carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee, thorough discussion in a faculty meeting, and a unanimous vote by all GWS Senate faculty in December 2024. We now bring this proposal to the L&S Executive Committee for your review, advice, and – we hope – approval.

Change to Minor Name

The rationale for the new name, Queer and Trans Praxis, has two parts. First, the terms “queer” and “trans” better represent the terminology of the field, appeals more to students, and signals our place of national leadership in scholarship in the area. LGBT is an outdated name; indeed, in practice we do not use it in course titles. Instead, for some time we have used the term “queer.” Importantly, an overwhelming majority of our students already refer to the Minor as “The Queer Studies Minor.” A quick survey in current classes demonstrated that students prefer the term “queer” to “LGBT.” Moreover, GWS has built on its existing strength in trans studies in recent years through two additional junior hires and this change has already had repercussions for course content which is now increasingly inclusive of trans studies. The renaming underlines this scholarly cluster and makes it visible to students. Second, the notion of praxis in the Minor’s title acknowledges and highlights a significant goal of the minor: to bring theory, activism and practice together. This is a fundamental goal of our pedagogy, and again is in line with scholarly work in the field. In December 2024, the GWS Department voted unanimously in favor of the new name.

Changes to requirements for the minor

We suggest some changes to our current LGBT Minor curriculum to align our offerings with the current state of the field, and also to make the Minor more amenable and appealing to students, with the express goal of increasing enrollment. In brief:

- (1) We propose to reduce the requirements for the Minor from six to five, upper-division courses.
- (2) We propose to require that three of the four electives be offered by GWS (as GWS or courses in the Minor itself)
- (3) We propose that students must have completed at least one of the QTP courses required for the Minor in order to declare. As with all minors in L&S, students are required to declare their minor at least one term prior to the term they plan to graduate.

Basic Requirements

Current LGBT Minor Basic Requirements*	Proposed [QTP*] LGBT Minor Basic Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of six (6) courses are required for the minor.• All courses must be completed on a letter-graded basis.• At least three upper-division courses used to satisfy the minor must be taken at Berkeley.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of five (5), upper-division courses are required for the minor.• All courses must be completed on a letter-graded basis.• At least three upper-division courses used to satisfy the minor must be taken at Berkeley.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the four electives, at least two must be [QTP] LGBT classes, at least one must be GWS or [QTP] LGBT, and at least one must be GWS, [QTP] LGBT, or on an approved list of classes taught in other departments or approved by the student advisor.
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*QTP would be the new three-letter CIPF code corresponding to the new name for the Minor, if approved. See name change proposal, below.

Changes to Courses in the minor

The current LGBT Minor specifies a narrow path of course selection. It requires one lower-division introductory course, one upper division course in the History of Sexuality, a choice between three upper division courses on questions of representation, a choice between two upper division courses on trans-cultural studies of sexuality, and two electives. The Ad Hoc Committee proposes a broader path of courses, with one upper division anchoring course required of all students.

Course Requirements

Current LGBT Minor Course Requirements	Proposed [QTP*] LGBT Minor Course Requirements
<p>Lower division introductory course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBT 20AC: Sexual Politics and Queer Organizing in the US (Please note that Sociology 135 can be used in substitution of this course ONLY during semesters that LGBT 20AC is NOT being offered). <p>2. Upper division course on the History of Sexuality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBT 145/Comparative Literature 185/English 171 – Interpreting the Queer Past: Methods and Problems in the History of Sexuality <p>3 – Upper division course on Questions of Representation (<i>choose one</i>):</p>	<p>Required course in theory and praxis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [QTP] LGBT 1XX “Theory and Methods in Queer and Trans Praxis** <p>Four upper-division, elective courses, at least two of which must be upper-division [QTP] LGBT courses, one of which may be either an upper-division [QTP] LGBT course or an upper-division GWS course, and one of which may be either an upper-division [QTP] LGBT course, an upper-division GWS course, or a course taught in another department. All elective courses outside [QTP] LGBT offerings must be on the list of courses approved for the minor or be approved by the [QTP] LGBT student advisor.</p>

- LGBT 146
- LGBT C146A/Gender & Women's Studies C146A – Cultural Representation of Sexualities: Queer Literary Culture
- LGBT C146B/Gender & Women's Studies C146 – Cultural Representations of Sexualities: Queer Visual Culture

4 – Upper division course on Trans-Cultural Studies of Sexuality (*choose one*):

- LGBT C147B/Anthropology C147B: Sexuality, Culture and Colonialism
- LGBT C148/Ethnic Studies C126: Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality

5/6 – Electives:

- In addition, two upper division elective courses from LGBT or GWS are required. These are to be chosen from a list of electives approved for the minor program.

*QTP would be the new three-letter CIPF code corresponding to the new name for the Minor, if approved. See name change proposal, below.

**[QTP] LGBT 1XX “Theory and Methods in Queer and Trans Praxis” is a new course GWS is proposing to add. See below, under “Course details.” This is currently being considered by COCI for approval.

Course details:

(1) We propose one new upper division course to be required of all [QTP] LGBT Minors: “Theory and Methods in Queer and Trans Praxis.” It will be limited to 15 students, with priority given to Queer and Trans Praxis minors, then GWS Majors and GWS Minors. This course will be an intellectual and community anchor for students in the minor. (Model syllabus is provided in the appendix.)

All other courses discussed below would be electives.

(2) We propose to keep the following existing courses, currently listed as offered in the LGBT Minor, changing only their CIPF codes:

[QTP] LGBT 145: Interpreting the Queer Past: Methods and Problems in the History of Sexuality

[QTP] LGBT C147B: Sexuality, Culture and Colonialism

[QTP] LGBT C148: Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality

(3) We propose to combine two existing courses into one, under a new name. The existing courses are

LGBT and GWS C146A Cultural Representation of Sexualities: Queer Literary Culture, and

LGBT and GWS C146B Cultural Representation of Sexualities: Queer Visual Cultures.

The new combined course will be called:

[QTP] LGBT 14X Queer Cultural Production

(4) We propose three additional new courses. All of these have been taught previously as Special Topics, Senior Seminars, etc. Sample syllabi are provided in the appendix. These courses are:

Transnational Queer Resistance

Trans Studies

Asexuality Studies

All these new courses are currently in the process of being submitted to COCI for approval.

Impact on Students

The new name will correspond more accurately to the actual content of the Minor and provide students with a name for their degree that addresses the current state of the field. Queer and Trans are also more recognizable in the NGO job market where many of our students seek employment. We hope that all these proposed changes to the Minor will make the Minor more accessible and meaningful to our students. Students who are already taking classes toward the Minor would be able to complete either set of requirements. As of Fall 2025, students starting the Minor will need to conform to the new set of requirements. We will publicize these changes on our website and in classes.

Staffing changes and resources requirements

We require no new staff or resources.

Proposed changes to CIPF Codes

We would like to switch from LGBT to QTP (Queer and Trans Praxis).



April 23, 2025

Dear L&S Executive Committee:

I support the revising and renaming of the LGBT minor within Gender & Women's Studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raka Ray".

Raka Ray
Dean of Social Sciences