

**Office of the President
California State University, Chico**



Executive Memorandum 21-021

July 12, 2021

From: Gayle E. Hutchinson, President

Subject: Approval to Change the Name of the Minor in Sexual Diversity Studies to the Minor in Queer and Trans Studies

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate and with the concurrence of the Provost, I approve changing the name of the Minor in Sexual Diversity Studies to the Minor in Queer and Trans Studies. This name change will be effective fall 2022.

Policy Title:	EM 21-021 Approval to change the name of the Minor in Sexual Diversity Studies
Contact:	Department of Multicultural and Gender Studies
Supersedes:	
Revision:	
Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:	

Undergraduate Program Name Change

Current Program Name: Minor in Sexual Diversity Studies

Propose Name Change to: Minor in Queer and Trans Studies

Complete only if applicable

Program named above is:

☐ Option within _____
(degree program name)

☐ Minor

☐ Certificate

Please attach the following required documents:

1. **Rationale for Change**. Provide as much detail as possible; rationale should address disciplinary convention, recruitment and employment issues, and titles used at other institutions. For Degree Name Changes see [Chancellor's Office requirements](#).

When the Sexual Diversity Studies minor was established almost two decades ago, campus climate was such that we had to speak in euphemisms. Despite the fact that our program name was outdated and indeed non-compliant with disciplinary terminology, it was the name that we could get through curriculum committees and Academic Senate at the time. This change is long overdue and brings us into the mainstream.

While minor programs are not named on diplomas, they are named on transcripts. Truthfully, our current name is so vague as to be unintelligible or confused with another sexuality-focused program (such as exist in some health departments). When our graduates are looking for employment and wish to highlight their ability to work with and for LGBTQIA2S+ populations, we want the degree name on their transcript to be clear and familiar.

Queer/Trans Studies is a name that is reflected (with minor differences) in programs across the country. The term "Queer" has been firmly institutionalized within academia. As of 2018, within the CSU there were 8 standalone minors focusing on LGBTQIA2S+ identities and communities; 5 of them used Queer Studies in the program title. On the national stage, Queer Studies programs thrive at Washington State, Oregon State, Indiana University, Wesleyan, Yale University, and the University of New Hampshire. The terms "Trans" or "Transgender" are less prevalent, except of course the myriad programs including the "T" in varying versions of LGBTQ Studies (e.g. SF State, San Diego state, UC Berkeley, Cornell, University of Maryland, etc.) Nevertheless, some forward-thinking programs include the word Trans or Transgender in a more prominent ways in their title or feature a program entirely on Trans Studies. For example, Southern Oregon University offers a certificate program in Transgender Studies; The University of Victoria in Canada has an Endowed Chair of Transgender Studies, who serves as the Director of the internationally recognized Transgender Archives; the University of Arizona established themselves as leaders in the field for their [Trans Studies Research Cluster](#) and [Transgender Studies Quarterly](#) (Duke UP).

Some may ask why we did not choose one of the other potential names for our program. Without giving an exhaustive answer, we can share some of our insights. Very few programs in our discipline use the term "sexual diversity studies" in their program names. A Google search of the phrase produces a total of nine entries; seven of them refer to the same program at the University of Toronto, one refers to our program at Chico State, and the other to a LibGuide at St. Clair College, Also in Ontario. Many more programs, such as Princeton, NYU, and Brown have programs entitled Gender & Sexuality Studies.

These programs include focus on heteronormative gender, for instance “old school” Women’s Studies, in addition to looking at LGBTQIA2S+ communities. In MCGS, we have a minor in Women’s Studies that is separate, and we include heteronormative content in all of our programs except for Queer & Trans Studies. Programs as diverse as Cornell, the University of North Texas, and San Diego State University have chosen the acronym of LGBT to name their programs. The acronym is recognizable, yet it has been vilified as exclusive and culturally insensitive, and therefore modified so many times that even academics sometimes refer to it as “alphabet soup.” Any single variation of the acronym would be dated.

As a program name, Queer and Trans Studies is in line with our recent Minor Program Change, in which we eliminated courses that did not focus on LGBTQIA2S+ communities, created new courses (Coloring Queer: Imagined Communities; Queer & Trans California), and to the best of our ability required that courses have an intersectional lens. When it came to choosing a new name, we felt it important to foreground the word Trans, which often fades into invisibility in acronyms or euphemistic program names, just as scores and scores of trans folx testify as their own personal experience. Despite the abhorrent history of the word “queer,” when it was used primarily as an epithet to shame and attack persons who did not conform to social expectations around gender and sexuality, in contemporary parlance the word has been reclaimed by the very populations that felt its heavy censure. Starting in the 1980s, activist groups such as ACT Up and Queer Nation proudly embraced their difference and demanded equal human rights. Queer is a political and politicized term, and as such it is reflective of who we are as a faculty. In fact, in our Mission we describe ourselves as “a diverse community of scholars and activists working together to critically examine gender, sexuality, socioeconomic class, ability, race, and ethnicity and to cultivate social justice through informed activism.”

We request to use the CIP code that HSU used for their Multicultural Queer Studies minor: of 30.9999, Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, Other. Definition: Any instructional program in multi/interdisciplinary studies not listed above.

2. **Evidence of Consultation.** Provide evidence of consultation with faculty, students, and other stakeholders (staff, community members, etc.)

May 2020 Faculty meeting discussion item.

Survey sent out September 2020 to faculty, staff, and student staff plus interns; from the 8 responses, 7 indicated they definitely supported the new name, and the other respondent didn’t mind one way or the other.

100% consensus at Faculty meeting In October, 2020.


September 2020 e-mail consultation with Sociology professors with expertise in sexuality; professors opposed the name change, stating it was outdated (in their field). We replied with the evidence from above.

Survey sent October 23, 2020 to MCGS majors and minors, and to members of the campus LGBTQ Faculty & Staff Affinity Group.

3. **Catalog copy of program.**

Required Signatures:

The Department of Multicultural & Gender Studies
has reviewed and approved this name change:


Susan Green (Nov 18, 2020 09:17 PST)

Chair, Department Curriculum Committee

Nov 18, 2020

Date


Susan Green (Nov 18, 2020 09:17 PST)

Department Chair

Nov 18, 2020

Date

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences has reviewed
and approved this name change:

William Nitzky

Chair, College Curriculum Committee

Nov 18, 2020

Date

Ryan Patten

Ryan Patten (Dec 2, 2020 14:26 PST)

College Dean

Dec 2, 2020

Date

The Minor in Sexual Diversity Studies

Course Requirements for the Minor: 21 units

The following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, are required of all candidates for this minor.

Minor Core: 6 units

2 courses required:

MCGS 310	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Issues and Identities	3.0 FS GE USD
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Prerequisites: MCGS 155 or WMST 170 recommended.

OR (the following course may be substituted for the above)

MCGS 310W	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Issues and Identities (W)	3.0 FS GE USD W
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Prerequisite: MCGS 155 or WMST 170 recommended.

MCGS 380W Gender, Race, Sexuality, Science, and Society (W) 3.0 SP W

Recommended: MCGS 155, MCGS 310, or WMST 170.

Humanities: 3 units

1 course selected from:

MCGS 315	Performance of Identity	3.0 FS GE USD
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This course is also offered as THEA 315.

QTST 370	Coloring Queer: Imagining Communities	3.0 F1
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Recommended: MCGS 310.

RELS 402	Religion, Sex, and Gender	3.0 SP
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WMST 443	Gender and Sexuality in Early America	3.0 S2
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This course is also offered as HIST 443.

Social Science: 3 units

A course taken to fulfill the Social Science requirement may not also fulfill the Social Justice requirement.

1 course selected from:

CHLD 333W Children's Gender and Sexuality Development (W) 3.0 FS GE W
 Prerequisite: Junior standing.

CHLX 410 Latinx Gender and Sexualities 3.0 S1
 Prerequisite: CHLX 157 or MCGS 310W.

MCGS 401W Sexual Minorities Law/Politics (W) 3.0 SP GE USD W
 This course is also offered as POLS 401W.

MCGS 458 Leading Social Change 3.0 FA
 This course is also offered as CHLX 458, WMST 458.

MCGS 480 Sex Work, Queer Desire, and Transfeminism 3.0 F2
 Prerequisites: MCGS 155, WMST 170.
 This course is also offered as CHLX 480, WMST 480.

QTST 320 Queer and Trans California 3.0 FA

SOCI 433 Constructing Sexualities 3.0 INQ

Social Justice: 3 units

1 course selected from:

CHLX 410 Latinx Gender and Sexualities 3.0 S1
 Prerequisite: CHLX 157 or MCGS 310W.

MCGS 458 Leading Social Change 3.0 FA
 This course is also offered as CHLX 458, WMST 458.

MCGS 480 Sex Work, Queer Desire, and Transfeminism 3.0 F2
 Prerequisites: MCGS 155, WMST 170.
 This course is also offered as CHLX 480, WMST 480.

QTST 320 Queer and Trans California 3.0 FA

Minor Capstone: 6 units

2 courses required:

MCGS 389 Informed Activism and Internship 1.0 -3.0 FS

Note: MCGS 389 must be taken for at least 3 units. This is a letter-graded internship.

MCGS 495W Senior Seminar in Multicultural and Gender Studies (W) 3.0 SP GW W
 Prerequisite: GE Written Communication (A2) requirement.