

Women's Studies Practicum (WMST 494) with University Women's Professional Advancement

Advanced undergraduate and MA students are invited to participate in a Women's Studies practicum with University Women's Professional Advancement (UWPA). UWPA's stated mission is to enhance opportunities for the professional development and advancement of women faculty and staff at SIUC. More information about UWPA can be found on their website, <http://www.success.siu.edu/uwpa>. Students who are interested in working in administrative or academic positions upon graduation may enjoy the opportunity to contribute to improvements of policies and procedures related to women employees at SIUC.

The practicum would involve working with UWPA staff to research, coordinate public discussion about and make recommendations regarding an issue of importance to women at SIUC. Each student's practicum topic may be different, but some likely topics include: family leave policies, sexual harassment, pay equity, or promotional opportunities for women.

Practicum expectations are three-fold.

- 1) Students will be expected to spend a minimum of 100 hours (for 3 credits) working with UWPA during the course of the practicum.
- 2) Students will complete a journal and log of activities, which will be due mid-semester and at the end of the practicum.
- 3) Students will be expected to write a final research paper on their practicum topic. The paper should be a minimum of 10 pages long and include a description of the problem addressed, a critical analysis of contemporary research on the topic and possible responses to the problem, a thorough assessment of SIUC's current actions in this area, and a list of recommendations on what SIUC could and/or should do to address the problem more effectively.

Interested students should contact Michelle Hughes Miller, Director of University Women's Professional Advancement, uwpa@siu.edu, for an application. All selected practicum students will be interviewed prior to placement with UWPA.

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