

African and African American Studies
Proposal for a Certificate in African American Studies and Gender Experiences in
Medicine
In Collaboration With the Wright State University
Boonshoft School of Medicine

Prepared By:
Professor Paul R. Griffin, African and African American Studies
Associate Dean Gary LeRoy, Boonshoft School of Medicine
Ms. Jacqueline Neal, Biology and Health Professions

March 2, 2009

Dean Charles Taylor
The College of Liberal Arts
Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio 45345

Dear Dean Taylor:

Enclosed is a copy of the proposal for a Certificate in African American and Gender Experiences that will be a collaborative program between the College of Liberal Arts' African and African American Studies Program and the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. Ms. Jacqueline Neal, Director of Advising, Biology and Health Professionals will provide additional guidance and supervision of the program.

Also enclosed is a letter from Associate Dean Gary LeRoy, Boonshoft School of Medicine, affirming this collaboration.

It is our hope that the Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee will find this proposal satisfactory and an important asset to the College of Liberal Arts and our work for collaborations and diversity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul R. Griffin,
Director, African and African American Studies
Special Assistant to Provost for Outreach

Program Title- Undergraduate:

Certificate in African American and Gender Experiences in Medicine

Location:

The program will be offered by the Wright State University African and African American Studies Program in collaboration with the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. The program is formally housed in African and African American Studies.

Purpose:

The purpose is to provide students who are planning careers in Medicine the opportunity to study the history and experiences of African Americans and women. Satisfactory completion of this study will give students knowledge of how distinctive social, educational, economic, familial, racial, and gender dynamics shaping the worldviews and struggles of African Americans and women impact interactions between these patients and healthcare industries.

Rationale:

The need for a Certificate in African American and Gender Experiences in Medicine is best summed up in words taken from a statement from *The Office of Minority Health*: “The increasing population growth of racial and ethnic communities and linguistic groups, each with its own cultural traits and health profiles, presents a challenge to the health care delivery service industry in this country. The provider and the patient each bring their individual learned patterns of language and culture to the health care experience which must be transcended to achieve equal access and quality health care.”¹

The words from the *Office of Minority Health* make it clear that the historical\life experiences and longstanding views of minority populations toward health care institutions and vice versa are “central in the delivery of health services treatment and preventive interventions;” and, in some cases, the non-delivery of such treatment or prevention.

A Certificate in African American and Gender Experiences in Medicine will provide Wright State University health care students an understanding of and, hopefully, an appreciation for the unique cultures of African Americans and women that they otherwise would not be able to acquire in the usual courses of study.

By offering a certificate in this area, Wright State University will place itself on the cutting edge of universities that are concerned about how to broaden traditional training in the health care fields to include an opportunity for formal study in the cultural experiences and health care outlooks of an ever increasing segment of the American population.

Impact on Degree Programs:

The Certificate Program in African American and Gender Experiences in Medicine is designed to help students reach two goals. The first objective is for students to acquire academic competencies\ understanding in the cultural individualities and worldviews of African Americans and women. The second is for students to learn how cultural and gender realities interact with health care institutions and how they can draw on what they

have learned about these relationships to help improve both communication and understanding between the two. The certificate will not negatively affect enrollment in any existing degree programs. In fact, it holds every promise of facilitating the work of the existing degrees that concentrate on health care.

Admission and Program Requirements:

The Certificate Program will be available to all sophomore, junior, and senior undergraduate students who are planning careers in Medicine. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required for admission into the program and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in certificate courses is required for satisfactory completion of the certificate.

The Certificate requires the satisfactory completion of 20 credit hours. These hours are comprised of three foundation courses (4 credit hours each for a total of 12 credit hours) and two elective courses (4 hours credit each for a total of 8 credit hours). The foundations courses are required of all students. Students, in consultation with Ms. Jacqueline Neal and Dr. Paul Griffin, will select the two elective courses from a body of five courses. (Initial contact will be with Ms. Jacqueline Neal, Advisor, Biology and Health Professions.) These two courses can be selected from courses offered by African and African American Studies, or the Department of Anthropology, or the Department of Biological Sciences, or Community Health, or the Department of Communication, or the Department of Nursing, or the Department of Philosophy. Both the foundation and elective courses are a part of existing Programs' or Departments' course inventories.

Foundation Courses:

AFS 200 What is the African and African American Experience? (4 credit hours):

A historical and methodological analysis of both African Histories and cultures and the history of the Diaspora struggles of persons of African descent to create a life and distinct culture among world civilizations.

NUR 212 Nursing for Health and Wellness Lifestyle (4 credit hours): Emphasizes concepts, models, theories and methodologies consistent with a philosophy of health and wellness in the context of human diversity. Incorporate self-directed activities to promote maximum health in self and others.

WMS 200 Approaches to Women's Studies (4 credit hours): Introduces historical and contemporary feminist thought and explores the importance of gender as a category of analysis to understand social, political, and economic forces.

Elective Courses:

AFS 300 African American Perspectives and Models of Success (4 credit hours): A critical study of real-life problems impacting African American life, e.g. economics, education, crime, gender issues, urban problems, globalism, etc. This course utilizes real-life models of success as examples of how to effectively overcome these problems.

ATH 458 Anthropology of Women's Health (4 credit hours): Integrates biological and sociological dimensions of women's health throughout the world. It examines cross-

cultural variation in disease and illness and the sociocultural contexts that define models of women's health.

BIO 370 Bioethics (4 credit hours): Provide an opportunity to learn\discuss issues in biology, medicine, and health; recognize, compare, contrast, approach, bioethical situations and problems; acquire and separate factual knowledge from opinion; and demonstrate critical thinking.

COM 325 Health Communication (4 credit hours): Examination of the basic themes and issues that have developed in health communication research including physician-patient and nurse-patient communications, organizational communications in health care organizations, and relationships among care providers.

HED 231 Community Health (4 credit hours): This course addresses the population-based aspects of health. Topics include epidemiology, assessing need, environmental and consumer health, at-risk populations and community based agencies.

PHL 312 Moral Problems (4 credit hours): Investigation and discussion of moral issues as they arise within major areas of society. Emphasis on studies in such areas as medicine, law, family, business, and politics.

Program Staffing and Coordination:

The Certificate will be under the supervision of Dr. Paul R. Griffin, Director of African and African Studies, Dr Gary LeRoy, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions, Boonshoft School of Medicine, and Ms. Jacqueline Neal, Director of Advising, Biology and Health Professions.

Costs:

The projected costs of a Certificate Program in African American and Gender Experiences in Medicine are minimal. No programs or departments involved will need to contribute any additional resources beyond those which they already are encumbered for the courses that will comprise the certificate The program also will not require any additional technological services or library holdings.

Start Date:

The plan is for the program to begin during the fall quarter of 2009.

Catalog Description:

The Certificate in African American and Gender Experiences in Medicine seeks to broaden pre-med students' understanding of how racial, gender and other socio-political and cultural forces impact health care industries.

Eligibility: The certificate is available to all pre-med students. To be admitted into this program, students must carry a minimum GPA of 2.7

Requirements: Students must complete a total of 20 credits hours. All students must complete the following three foundation courses with a minimum GPA of 3.0: AFS 200 What Is the African American Experience?; Nursing 212 Nursing for Health and Wellness

Lifestyle; and WMS Approaches to Women's Studies. All students must complete with a minimum GPA of 3.0 two elective courses which can be chosen from the following: AFS 300 African American Perspectives and Models of Success; ATH 458 Anthropology of Women's Health; BIO 370 Bioethics; COM 325 Health Communication; HED 231 Community Health; PHL 312 Moral Problems.

¹The United States Department of Health and Human Services.