

Dear Students,

The campus has recently approved two new options for doctoral students in Education. We are now an official participant in the Feminist Studies Interdisciplinary Emphasis. This week the campus approved the Black Studies Interdisciplinary Emphasis and we are a founding member of this emphasis. We will soon be adding links from the department website to these emphases.

As I hope you know, we are already departmental partners six other emphases: Applied Linguistics; Cognitive Science; Language, Interaction, and Social Organization; Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences; Technology and Society; and Global Studies.

Participating in an interdisciplinary emphasis related to your research interests has a number of potential benefits for you. If you complete the requirements, the emphasis is added to your transcript and diploma. This can help with finding jobs in the future. Through these emphases, you also have access a wider range of courses and meet faculty from other departments. Faculty from other departments can serve on doctoral dissertation committees and add expertise that is not available within the department.

We are hoping that our departmental participation in the these emphases will help you to achieve your goals in these difficult times for the university and department. Since I became chair nearly three years ago, seven faculty have left our department, primarily because of retirement. We have not been allowed to replace any of them because of the state budget crisis. In addition, we ended our partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo so faculty from that campus are no longer available to work with our students. This has meant a heavier workload for the rest of the faculty.

During these changes, we have worked to sustain our doctoral program. The number of graduate courses has increased from 73 courses in 2009-2010 to 88 this academic year. At the same time, the faculty have been working harder to get more grants that provide graduate student employment and support research agendas.

Based upon student input this year, I'll be asking faculty to provide better descriptions of special topic seminars that they offer and we'll be trying to make course information available sooner. This should help with future planning.

Betsy

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary Betsy Brenner, Professor  
Chair, Department of Education  
3137/3153 Education Building  
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9490

[805-893-7118](tel:805-893-7118)

[805-893-7264](tel:805-893-7264) FAX

[betsy@education.ucsb.edu](mailto:betsy@education.ucsb.edu)

<http://www.education.ucsb.edu/Faculty-Research/Faculty-Listing/bio.php?first=Mary&last=Brenner>