

UNLV Graduate College  
New Programs & Program Review Committee

March 10, 2016

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the Social Science Methods Certificate proposal to be housed in the College of Liberal Arts. I am aware that Dr. Rebecca Gill has been working on this proposal in concert with our Associate Dean over the past year. I am impressed by the scope and breadth of the final proposal and believe that it will be a benefit to our students and faculty. I outline the reasons for my support below.

Based on the proposal, it is clear that the certificate would bolster our graduate students' research methods training and better position them to be competitive on the job market. Particularly for students who plan to either enter the academy or obtain employment as professional researchers, this advanced research methods certificate is ideal and may be the additional accomplishment on their vita that boosts their marketability.

Dr. Gill has done extensive research on these types of certificate programs and has done the appropriate outreach and consultation among faculty and staff here at UNLV. The Social Science Methods Certificate has broad support among the social science faculty in the College and is a means of encouraging teaching and research collaboration among our faculty. It will serve as a venue for facilitating interdisciplinary work in the College and, eventually, across the university.

Dr. Gill has painstakingly modeled the proposal on the best practices of similar certificate programs in other highly ranked research universities such as those at Duke and Stanford. From the standpoint of the College, it appears to be a straightforward certificate program that will require few resources but have a real impact on our graduate research methods offerings and the methodological rigor of our graduate programs.

Given that the College of Liberal Arts has a high concentration of social science departments it is a natural home for the Social Science Methods Certificate. The College offers a wide range of social science methods courses already and has a strong and growing contingent of faculty who are actively engaged in and pursuing advanced methods training. I expect that this certificate will enhance the reputation of our social science graduate programs and substantially augment our students' graduate education and methodological credentials.

I support the proposed Social Science Methods Certificate without reservation.

Sincerely,



Chris Hudgins  
Dean