

# Women's and Gender Studies M.A.

## Women's and Gender Studies Major

The Master of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies is interdisciplinary in nature and is under the jurisdiction of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Students interested in this program must submit a completed Application for Admission to Graduate Study and should refer to their MyUNiverse Student Center To-Do list or contact the Director of Women's and Gender Studies for any other application requirements. Graduate information and application for graduate admission can be found at <https://admissions.uni.edu/application>.

The Graduate Record Examination (General Test) **is not** required for admission to the program.

The Women's and Gender Studies curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students who strive for analytic clarity and rigor in gender-focused research. Students may employ the skills in reflective and critical analysis as well as the broad base of knowledge that they obtain in the program to

1. prepare for a Ph.D. program with a disciplinary or interdisciplinary focus on gender or,
2. prepare for a career in the public or private sector in the areas of gender and wellness, gender and violence prevention, or another area based on student interest or,
3. satisfy strong intellectual interests and curiosity while pursuing advanced education in the liberal arts.

Through core courses and selected electives, students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies will accomplish several objectives: examine theories concerning the social and historical constructions of gender; explore how gender identity and sexual orientation help define human relationships; recognize that women's lives have been under-represented in traditional disciplines and investigate previously neglected materials in order to identify women's as well as men's roles in cultural or social endeavors; study, compare, and evaluate an array of disciplinary perspectives on gender, including, but not limited to, cross-cultural, economic, sociological, historical, and literary perspectives; identify intersections of gender with race, class, age, sexual identity, and ethnicity, both locally and globally, both in the present and in the past; and employ new methodological and critical approaches to materials customarily treated in other ways, revising the content and assumptions of particular disciplines to address gender and related issues more effectively.

**Only graduate courses (course numbers 5000 or above) will apply to a graduate degree, even if the undergraduate course number (4999 or less) is listed. No exceptions will be made.**

The M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies has 2 tracks: thesis and applied (non-thesis). The thesis track requires a **minimum of 31 semester hours** of study; **15 hours of 6000-level course work is required**, which includes 6 hours of WGS 6299 Research in Women's and Gender Studies.

The non-thesis applied track requires a **minimum of 32 hours; 12 hours of 6000-level course work is required**, which includes 4 credit hours of WGS 6195 Graduate Internship in Women's and Gender Studies. The internship requirement is a culminating 120-hour internship project and research paper, which is supervised by two WGS faculty members and an internship site supervisor. The project may take a wide variety of forms, but it should meet the following 3 requirements; 1) shows evidence of theoretically informed and self-reflexive praxis; 2) shows evidence of knowledge and research skills appropriate to the project; and 3) is related to the student's focus area.

Additional non-program hours may be required if courses on a student's program of study have prerequisites which instructors choose not to waive.

Successful completion of an Social Justice Activism Portfolio is required for both tracks. Activism consists of intentional efforts to bring about some kind of change, be it social, political, economic, environmental, and so on. To enable students to assess links between academic inquiry and civic engagement, they will take advantage of opportunities to engage in social activism, both on and off campus. This will include participating in and/or organizing events and maintaining an electronic portfolio during the course of time in the program.

### Common core (13 hours – required for all students):

#### Required (4 Hours) 4

WGS 6289	Graduate Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies: Comparative Feminist Theories
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WGS 6291	Graduate Proseminar in Women's and Gender Studies
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#### Feminist Theories in the Social Sciences and Humanities (3 hours) 3

Select one of the following:

SOC 4071/5071	Feminist Theories in the Social Sciences
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COMM 4346/5346	Gender Issues in Communication
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#### History (3 Hours) 3

HIST 4260/5260	United States Women's History
	or HIST 4690/5690 (Modern European Women's History)

#### Research Methodology (3 Hours) 3

In consultation with and approval of thesis advisor, one course from the following or other course approved by the thesis advisor or program director:

COMMGRAD 6022	Communication Research Methodology
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ENGLISH 4120/5120	Literature, Gender and Intersectionality
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ENGLISH 4140/5140	Literary Criticism
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ENGLISH 6100	Methods of Graduate Study in English
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HIST 6050	Historical Methods
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## Women's and Gender Studies M.A.

PSYCH 6002	Research Design	
SOC/ANTH 4015	Qualitative Research	
KAHHS 6210	Quantitative Methods in KAHHS	
KAHHS 6215	Qualitative Methods	
RTNL 6410	Evaluation, Research and Accountability	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>13</b>

### Thesis Track

Common Core		13
WGS 6299 Research Women's and Gender Studies		6
Electives related to Thesis Topic <sup>1</sup>		12
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>31</b>

<sup>1</sup> With the approval of the thesis advisor, the student individually designs an elective sequence, selecting courses from the humanities, fine arts, social and natural sciences that best contribute to the student's thesis project.

### Applied Track

Common Core		13
WGS 6195	Graduate Internship in Women's and Gender Studies	4
RTNL 6406	Fundraising and Grant Seeking for Nonprofit Agencies	3
Electives in Focus Area		12
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>32</b>

### Focus Areas:

#### 1) Gender and Wellness

Required (choose one course from the following):		3
PH 3330	Health of Vulnerable Populations	
or PH 3310/5310	Health Policy and Advocacy	
Electives (choose 9 hours from the following):		9
PH 3320/5320	Global Service Mission	
PH 3660/5660	Public Health Theory	
PH 3140/5140	Planning and Evaluating Public Health Programs	
PH 3150/5150	Implementing Public Health Programs	

#### 2) Gender and Violence Prevention

Choose 12 hours from the following:		12
FAM SERV 3145/5145	Violence in Intimate Relationships	
COMM 4346/5346	Gender Issues in Communication	
CRIM 4331/5331	Women, Crime and Society	
WGS 6297 Practicum Women and Gender Studies		

#### 3) Individualized (tailored to student interests, with permission of advisor) 12

A Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies is also available. For requirements go to [www.uni.edu/](http://www.uni.edu/)

interdisciplinarymajorsandminors/programcertificates or in PDF copy go to the "Interdisciplinary" section.

For more information contact the Women's and Gender Studies office, Sabin 225, [wgs@uni.edu](mailto:wgs@uni.edu), or [www.uni.edu/womenstudies](http://www.uni.edu/womenstudies).

## Learning Outcomes

### Women's and Gender Studies, M.A.

**Goal 1: Methodology. Students will demonstrate graduate-level proficiency in research methods appropriate for a culminating project, such as a graduate-level thesis or internship research paper.**

- **Outcome 1a (Thesis Track):** Students will demonstrate graduate-level proficiency in research methods appropriate for a graduate-level thesis, which should clearly exhibit comprehension, application, and evaluation of feminist methodology appropriate to the study of women and gender.
- **Outcome 1b (Applied Track):** Students will demonstrate graduate-level proficiency in research methods appropriate for a graduate-level internship and research paper, which should exhibit comprehension, application, and evaluation of feminist methodology appropriate to the study of women and gender.

**Goal 2: Apply Research and Theory. Students will apply a broad knowledge of the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies. They will demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of feminist theory and research within a larger cultural discourse of intersectionality, global awareness, and social inequality. A culminating written project will adhere to graduate college and disciplinary standards.**

- **Outcome 2a (Thesis track):** Students will be able to research and write a master's thesis that makes an original, evidence-based contribution to the field. Students will be able to synthesize theory, previous scholarship, and original research and will communicate the significance of their findings.
- **Outcome 2b (Applied Track):** Students will be able to research and design an internship project grounded in the four theoretical Threshold Concepts (Social Construction of Gender; Privilege and Oppression; Intersectionality; and Feminist Praxis). They will summarize relevant literature and apply it to and evaluation of the project's results. They will produce graduate-level writing communicating the significance of their findings.

**Goal 3: Engage Reflectively. Students will be engaged and active citizens, capable of communicating the significance of feminism and gender studies in both personal and community contexts and evaluating links between academic inquiry and civic engagement.**

- **Outcome 3:** Students will be able to summarize and reflect on their development as activists in relation to their academic inquiry and experiences in civic engagement.

## Related Programs

- Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate