

# Master of Arts Degree Programs

The university offers a variety of interdisciplinary curricula to meet the growing need and interest in work beyond collegiate division. The following graduate programs are under the supervision and jurisdiction of several committees, departments, or colleges as indicated. The programs include:

## Graduate Majors (M.A.)

- Interdisciplinary Studies (p. 1)
- Women's and Gender Studies (p. 2) (also listed in College of Social and Behavioral Sciences)

## Master of Arts Degree Major in Interdisciplinary Studies

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) is a 30-hour master's degree program that allows students to choose between two to three concentration or subject areas, enabling them to meet their personal, academic and professional goals by drawing from interdisciplinary fields to create a unique, individualized course of study that can be tailored to their specific needs. Students can develop the competency needed for a variety of professional opportunities or to continue furthering graduate studies. The minimum number of units per concentration or subject area is six hours. This program is offered primarily as a non-thesis degree, although a thesis option is allowed.

Students can choose courses from a wide variety of concentration areas and can also select a unique concentration area with assistance from the Division of Graduate Studies. MAIS students are allowed to transfer UNI graduate certificates into the Master's program as concentration areas.

### Professional Skills

- Written communication
- Research abilities, analysis and interpretation
- Integration of diverse fields
- Build evidence-based arguments and insights

### Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students should be able to integrate the knowledge of two or more academic disciplines into interdisciplinary scholarship.
2. Students should be able to analyze and interpret data from scholarly literature of the discipline.
3. Students should be able to elaborate evidence-based arguments through the understanding of the fields of inquiry.

### Admissions

1. Statement. A 500-word narrative indicating the personal and professional objectives sought to be accomplished with this program. Indicate how the experiences encountered in your life and/or career align with the fields of inquiry selected as part of your program.
2. Transcripts
3. GPA of 2.75 or above

4. Two professional or academic references
5. Admission will be in consultation with the Division of Graduate Studies coordinator and faculty advisors from areas of interest and a plan of study will be devised accordingly.

### Culminating Experience

The final assignment should be aligned with the professional goals of the student and it is determined by the faculty advisors from the concentration or subject areas. Non-thesis options may include: a Portfolio Project; a Clinical Immersion Project; an Internship Project; or a Specialization Research Paper. Thesis projects should be completed in accordance with the Division of Graduate Studies policies. Non-thesis projects must be supervised by at least one regular member of the graduate faculty from at least one of the student's specialist areas and approved by the Division of Graduate Studies.

### Process

A program coordinator will draft a plan of study which will be approved by the Division of Graduate Studies. Students can transfer UNI certificates to create an interdisciplinary degree. Certificates are stackable. Certificates from accredited universities are accepted and follow UNI transfer rules.

Students interested in this program must submit a completed Application for Admission to Graduate Study, which includes transcripts of undergraduate and graduate credits, and send the names of two professional or academic references to Graduate Studies. Interested students should refer to their MyUNiverse Student Center To-Do list or contact the program director for any other application requirements. It is expected that students will have experience in the field prior to admission. 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.

**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.**

This major is available on the **non-thesis** and **thesis** options. A **minimum of 30 semester hours** of graduate course work is required for both options. A **minimum of 12 semester hours of 6000-level coursework** is required for the non-thesis option; a **minimum of 15 semester hours of 6000-level coursework** is required for the thesis option. The 30 hours are prescribed below.

### Option 1 with 3 Areas of Concentration

Required:	
A minimum of 6 semester hours from three focus areas	24
Elective	3
Research Class or Equivalent *	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30</b>

## Master of Arts Degree Programs

### Option 2 with 2 Areas of Concentration

A minimum of 9 semester hours from two focus areas	24
Elective	3
Research Class or Equivalent *	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30</b>

\* See "Culminating Experience" information above

## Major in Women's and Gender Studies

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

WGS 6291 Graduate Proseminar in Women's and Gender Studies

#### 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

COMM 4346/5346 Gender Issues in Communication

#### 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

ENGLISH 4120/5120 Literature, Gender and Intersectionality

ENGLISH 4140/5140 Literary Criticism

ENGLISH 6100 Methods of Graduate Study in English

HIST 6050 Historical Methods

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 Equity, Advocacy, and Policy	
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	
SOC 3050/5050	Men and Masculinities	
CRIM 4331/5331	Women, Crime and Society	
WGS 6297 Practicum Women and Gender Studies		

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

interdisciplinary majors and minors/program certificates 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, or [www.uni.edu/womenstudies](http://www.uni.edu/womenstudies).

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