

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Why study women, gender and sexuality?

- Confront social problems around gender and sexuality
- Collaborate with students and faculty from across the social sciences and humanities
- Build expertise on issues that matter most to you

If you are interested in how gender, race, class, and sexuality structure our world and interactions with one another, and if you are passionate about issues of social justice and inequality, then a degree in WGSS may be a great fit for you.

Students in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies develop a broad set of skills to critically analyze social issues from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including anthropology, history, law, literature, political science, psychology, and sociology. They learn to employ different methods and modes of analysis to better identify, critique, and productively understand the status of women in society and how structures of inequality interact with gender and sexuality.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

First- and Second-Year Preparation

It is recommended that students complete WGSS 101, the introductory course, and consult the undergraduate advisor.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Majors must complete 30 total credit hours, with a maximum of 6 credits at the 100 or 200 level and a minimum of 12 credits at the 500+ level. In addition, majors must complete a course in each of the following areas.		
Introduction:		3
WGSS 101	Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	
	or WGSS 102 Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Honors	
Social Science Perspective:		3
Satisfied by any one course (3 hours) that is cross-referenced between WGSS and a social science department, including Anthropology; Political Science; Psychology; Social Welfare; or Sociology.		
Eligible courses include:		
SOC 220	Sociology of Families	
SW 303	Human Sexuality	
WGSS/ANTH 325	Language, Gender, and Sexuality	
SOC 326	Health, Gender, and Society	
ANTH 372	Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies	
AAAS 388	The Black Woman	
WGSS/ANTH 389	The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond	
WGSS/PSYC 410	Intimate Relationships	
AAAS 415	Women and Islam	
SOC 450	Gender and Society	
WGSS/PSYC 468	Psychology of Women	
HSES 489	Health and Human Sexuality	
WGSS/PSYC 502	Human Sexuality	
WGSS/POLS 517	Policing the Womb	
WGSS/PSYC 521	Women and Violence	
WGSS 562	Gender and Politics	
WGSS 600	Feminist Contemporary Political Theory	
WGSS 652/AMS 650	Jazz and American Culture	
WGSS 653	Gender, Peace, and Conflict	
WGSS/POLS 662	Gender and Politics in Africa	
Humanities Perspective:		3

Satisfied by any one course (3 hours) that is cross-referenced between WGSS and a humanities department, including Classics; Communications; English; Film and Media Studies; Global and International Studies; History; History of Art; Humanities; Indigenous Studies; Jewish Studies; Latin American & Caribbean Studies; Philosophy; or Religious Studies.

Eligible courses include:

WGSS 305/
HIST 405 Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the North American West

ENGL/EVRN
306 Global Environmental Literature

WGSS 311/
AMS 323/
HIST 332/
HUM 332 Sex in History

WGSS/HIST
319 History, Women, and Diversity in the U.S.

WGSS/HIST
320 From Goddesses to Witches: Women in Premodern Europe

WGSS/HIST
321 From Mystics to Feminists: Women's History in Europe 1600 to the Present

WGSS/HIST
322 LGBTQ U.S. History, 1600-1900

WGSS/HIST
323 LGBTQ U.S. History, 1900-Present

WGSS/HIST
324 History of Women and the Body

WGSS 350/
AAAS 352 Black Love and Romance

WGSS 364 Pregnancy in Modern Literature

WGSS/HUM
365 Taking the Red Pill: Men and Masculinities Today

WGSS/HIST
386 Trans: A Global History

EALC 418 Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
or EALC 618 Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times

FMS 420 International Women Filmmakers

WGSS/COMS
440 Communication and Gender

WGSS/REL/
HUM 477 Gender and Religion

PHIL 504 Philosophy of Sex and Love

WGSS/AMS
510/HIST 530 History of American Women--Colonial Times to 1870

WGSS/AMS
511/HIST 531 History of American Women--1870 to Present

WGSS/CLSX
515 Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture

WGSS/CLSX
516 Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture

HA/WGSS 533 Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848

HA/WGSS 534 Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900

WGSS 540 Skin, Sex, and Disease

WGSS 549/
HIST 649 History of Feminist Theory

WGSS/COMS
552 The Rhetoric of Women's Rights

ENGL 572 Women and Literature: _____

EALC 575 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature
or WGSS 37 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature
or EALC 375 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature

WGSS/AAAS/
HIST 598 Sexuality and Gender in African History

Theoretical Perspective: 3

Satisfied by one course (3 hours) that addresses theoretical issues in gender, sexuality, and feminism.

Eligible courses include:

WGSS 312 Black Feminist and Womanist Ethics

WGSS 329 Introduction to Queer Theory: Tools for Deconstructing Gender

WGSS 344 Black Feminist Theory

WGSS 359 Introduction to Feminist Theory

WGSS/PHIL
381 Feminism and Philosophy

PHIL 504 Philosophy of Sex and Love

WGSS 549/
HIST 649 History of Feminist Theory

WGSS 600 Feminist Contemporary Political Theory

International Perspective: 3

Satisfied by any one course (3 hours) that focuses primarily on global or non-US contexts.

Eligible courses include:

WGSS/HIST
320 From Goddesses to Witches: Women in Premodern Europe

WGSS/HIST
321 From Mystics to Feminists: Women's History in Europe 1600 to the Present

WGSS/HIST
335 History of Jewish Women

WGSS/GIST
355 International Women's Rights

WGSS/HUM
366 Fat, Food and the Body in Global Perspective

REL 370 Judaism and Sexuality

ANTH/AAAS
372 Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies

WGSS 376/
EALC 375 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature

or EALC 575 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature

WGSS/AAAS
380 African Art and Gender

WGSS/ANTH
389 The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond

AAAS 415 Women and Islam

FMS 420 International Women Filmmakers

WGSS 514 Politics of Human Trafficking

WGSS/CLSX
515 Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture

WGSS/CLSX 516	Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture	
WGSS/HA 533	Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848	
WGSS/HA 534	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900	
WGSS 553	Making a Pandemic: The History and Politics of HIV/AIDS	
WGSS 565	Gender, Culture, and Migration	
WGSS/ANTH 583	Love, Sex, and Globalization	
WGSS/HIST/AAAS 598	Sexuality and Gender in African History	
WGSS 653	Gender, Peace, and Conflict	
WGSS 662	Gender and Politics in Africa	
General Electives		9
Satisfied by all WGSS courses.		
Eligible courses include all those listed above and the following:		
WGSS 111	Introduction to Human Sexuality Studies	
WGSS 196	Study Abroad Topics in: _____	
WGSS 327	Perspectives in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
WGSS 331	Sex and Gender in New Media	
WGSS 333	The Politics of Physical Appearance	
WGSS 339	Feminism and Social Change	
WGSS 351	When We Lead: Minorities and the Legislative Process	
WGSS 396	Studies in: _____ (Can be designated as social science or humanities perspective by petition.)	
WGSS 397	Study Abroad Topic in: _____	
WGSS 498	Independent Study	
WGSS/ISP 567	Native Feminisms	
WGSS 563	Gender, Sexuality and the Law	
WGSS 650	Service Learning in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies	
WGSS 696	Studies in: _____	
Research Methods		3
Satisfied by: (suggested for the junior year)		
WGSS 501	Doing Feminist Research	
Capstone Project		3
Satisfied by successful completion of WGSS 601. For students pursuing department honors, successful completion of the WGSS 498/WGSS 499 sequence (each for 3 credits) fulfills the capstone requirement.		
WGSS 499	Honors in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (By permission of honors supervisor)	
WGSS 601	Seminar in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (Spring Only)	
Total Hours		30

Note: Courses with a blank (____) vary by semester and may be repeated for credit. These courses will always count as general electives. If they include significant theoretical, disciplinary, or international

perspectives, they may count toward specific requirements within this program as well. Confirm with the major advisor.

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 30 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 24 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Hours at Advanced Levels

Satisfied by a maximum of 6 hours at the 100-200 level and 24 hours at 300-600 level (at least 12 of which must be at 500-600 level)

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

Overlap Policies

Students who wish to pursue more than one program offered by the department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies may do so with the following restrictions: No more than four courses may be used to fulfill requirements for both the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major and the Human Sexuality major – two of which would be WGSS 501 and WGSS 601. No more than two courses may overlap between any of our majors and minors, or between our two minors – one of which would be WGSS 501. Students earning an undergraduate certificate in addition to another WGSS program can overlap one course – the introductory-level requirement.

For students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree, refer to this sample 4-year plan for a BA in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/ba-bgs/ba/>) or use the left-side navigation.

For students pursuing a Bachelor of General Studies degree, refer to this sample 4-year plan for a BGS in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Womens-Studies/>) or use the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- apply various theoretical frameworks, including but not limited to intersectionality, to analyze women, gender, and sexuality.
- reflect critically on their role in systems of oppression and sites of liberation.
- develop interdisciplinary skills in qualitative research and analysis.

Summary

- 3.5 GPA in the WGSS major
- A senior honors thesis related to WGSS written over two semesters (in two three-credit courses)
- *Double majors*: earn Honors in both majors with one thesis that is relevant to both programs.

GPA Requirements

Students need a 3.5 GPA in their WGSS major to qualify for Departmental Honors. There is no minimum for a student's overall GPA.

Honors Thesis

Students write an honors thesis that is pertinent to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. An honors thesis is a piece of original research or other project supervised by a faculty member of any department. In most cases, the result will be a written document of some length, but the student and thesis advisor may also agree on alternative, creative formats for the thesis project.

To complete the project, students must take 6 credit hours of honors thesis work (3 hours per semester for 2 semesters) and they must earn an A or B in the first semester and an A the second. For these 6 hours, students typically enroll in:

- WGSS 498 Independent Study in the fall of the senior year
- WGSS 499 Honors in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies in the spring of the senior year

After completing these credits, the honors thesis or project must be reviewed and approved by a three-member thesis committee. The thesis committee must include the advisor and two other faculty members. At least one of the committee members must have a faculty appointment in WGSS or serve as WGSS affiliate faculty.

Typical Timeline

- Fall Semester of the Junior Year: Take WGSS 498 to develop research interests and an idea for your thesis. Enroll in other courses that let you develop expertise in this area.
- Spring Semester of the Junior Year: Get to know faculty members who share similar research interests by enrolling in their courses or visiting them in office hours. Identify a professor willing to supervise the thesis. **Inform the WGSS Honors Coordinator!**
- Fall Semester of the Senior Year: Enroll in 3 credit hours of . Begin researching the thesis topic. Form a three-person faculty committee in consultation with the thesis advisor. Before enrolling for spring courses, **complete the Honors Intent Form (<https://collegeundergrad.ku.edu/departmental-honors/>)**.
- Spring Semester of the Senior Year: Enroll in 3 credit hours of WGSS 499. Finish the thesis and submit to the committee for approval.
 - If the thesis is passed, the thesis advisor needs to **sign and submit the Honors Certification Form** to College Undergraduate Academic Services (<https://collegeundergrad.ku.edu/contact-us/>) at least a week before the end of the graduation term. The thesis advisor should also notify the Honors Coordinator of the result.

Double Majors

With proper planning, double majors in WGSS and a second academic program may complete a single honors project to satisfy departmental honors in both of their majors. The honors project must still meet the standards set by both departments. For example, a student double majoring in WGSS may work with an advisor from their second major and enroll in credits from the second major, as long as their project addresses themes of gender and sexuality. They must convene a faculty committee to approve the project, and at least one member of that committee must be a member of the WGSS Department or serve as WGSS affiliate faculty.

Students pursuing this option are encouraged to work closely with the WGSS Honors Coordinator to make sure the project in their second major meets WGSS requirements.