

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Human Sexuality

Why study human sexuality?

- Explore the diverse range of human sexual practices and taboos
- Compare scientific, historical, and creative understandings of sexual desire
- Learn to analyze and address problems of sexual violence, reproductive justice, and LGBTQ inclusivity

Human Sexuality students focus on the social, political, and medical constructions of human sexuality. They draw from interdisciplinary methods, theories, and research to better understand how the social construction and lived experiences of sexuality relate to society, politics, medicine, and social movements.

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

Students are encouraged to take WGSS 111 and meet with the academic advisor.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

Students must complete 10 courses (30 hours) in the major, including a maximum of 2 courses (6 hours) at the 100 or 200 level and a minimum of 4 courses (12 hours) at the 500+ level.

In addition, students must complete coursework in the following areas:

Code	Title	Hours
Introduction		3
WGSS 111	Introduction to Human Sexuality Studies	
Social Science Perspective		3
Satisfied by one course (3 credit hours) that addresses sexuality from a social scientific perspective.		
Eligible courses include:		

SW 303	Human Sexuality	
WGSS/ANTH 325	Language, Gender, and Sexuality	
SOC 326	Health, Gender, and Society	
AAAS/ANTH 372	Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies	
WGSS/ANTH 389	The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond	
PSYC 410	Intimate Relationships	
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 600	Feminist Contemporary Political Theory	
Humanities Perspective		3
Satisfied by one course (3 credit hours) that addresses sexuality from a humanistic perspective.		
Eligible courses include:		
WGSS 305/ HIST 405	Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the North American West	
WGSS 311/ HIST 332/ AMS 323/ HUM 332	Sex in History	
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/AAAS 344	Black Feminist Theory	
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 376/ EALC 375	Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature	
EALC 418	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times	
REL/WGSS/ HUM 477	Gender and Religion	
PHIL 504	Philosophy of Sex and Love	
CLSX/WGSS 515	Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture	
CLSX/WGSS 516	Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture	
WGSS 540	Skin, Sex, and Disease	

WGSS/COMS The Rhetoric of Women's Rights
552

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

International Perspective 3

Satisfied by any course (3 hours) that addresses sexuality with a focus primarily on global or non-US contexts.

Eligible courses include:

WGSS/HIST History of Women and the Body
324

WGSS/ANTH Language, Gender, and Sexuality
325

WGSS/GIST International Women's Rights
355

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

REL 370 Judaism and Sexuality

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

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

or EALC 575 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature

FMS 420 International Women Filmmakers

WGSS 514/ Politics of Human Trafficking
GIST 471/
POLS 471

WGSS/CLSX Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture
515

WGSS/CLSX Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture
516

WGSS 553 Making a Pandemic: The History and Politics of
HIV/AIDS

WGSS/ANTH Love, Sex, and Globalization
583

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

Electives 12

Satisfied by four additional courses (12 credit hours) that address sexuality.

Eligible courses include any of the above courses or the following:

WGSS 101 Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Studies

or WGSS 10 Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Studies, Honors

WGSS 327 Perspectives in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and
Transgender Studies

WGSS 329 Introduction to Queer Theory: Tools for
Deconstructing Gender

WGSS 331 Sex and Gender in New Media

WGSS 333 The Politics of Physical Appearance

WGSS 339 Feminism and Social Change

WGSS 549 History of Feminist Theory

WGSS 563 Gender, Sexuality and the Law

Other Courses That May Count for Major Requirements:

The topics in the following courses vary by semester. If the majority of the course content addresses sexuality, this course may count toward a specific requirement within this program. Confirm with the major advisor.

WGSS 196 Study Abroad Topics in: _____

WGSS 396 Studies in: _____

WGSS 397 Study Abroad Topic in: _____

WGSS 498 Independent Study

ENGL 572 Women and Literature: _____

WGSS 650 Service Learning in Women, Gender and Sexuality
Studies

WGSS 696 Studies in: _____

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

Human Sexuality Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses (above), 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 specifically 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 Bachelors of Arts degree, refer to this sample 4-year plan for a BA in Human Sexuality (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/human-sexuality-ba-bgs/ba-human-sexuality/>) 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 Human Sexuality (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/human-sexuality-ba-bgs/BGS-in-Human-Sexuality/>) 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 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 Human Sexuality major
- A senior honors thesis related to Human Sexuality 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 Human Sexuality 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 the study of Human Sexuality. 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 501 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 WGSS 498. 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 Human Sexuality 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 Human Sexuality 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 human sexuality. They must convene a faculty committee to review the project, and at least one member of that committee must be a member of the WGSS Department or serve as 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.