

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 Admissions (<http://credittransfer.ku.edu/>) 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; Applied Behavioral Science; Communication Studies; Economics; Geography and Atmospheric Science; Linguistics; Political Science; or Psychology.		
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	
SOC 352	Sociology of Sex Roles	
ANTH 359	Anthropology of Sex	
ANTH 372	Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies	
WGSS 351	Women and Leadership: The Legislative Process	
WGSS/ANTH 389	The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond	
WGSS/PSYC 410	Intimate Relationships	
WGSS/COMS 440	Communication and Gender	
SOC 450	Gender and Society	
SOC 454	Women and Work	
WGSS/PSYC 468	Psychology of Women	
HSES 489	Health and Human Sexuality	
WGSS/PSYC 502	Human Sexuality	
WGSS 514	Politics of Human Trafficking	
WGSS/POLS 517	Policing the Womb	
WGSS/PSYC 521	Women and Violence	
WGSS/COMS 552	The Rhetoric of Women's Rights	
WGSS 562	Gender and Politics	
WGSS 600	Feminist Contemporary Political Theory	
SOC 617	Women and Health Care	
WGSS/POLS 630	Politics of Identity	

WGSS 653	Gender, Peace, and Conflict
WGSS/POLS/ AAAS 662	Gender and Politics in Africa
WGSS/PSYC 689	Conceptual Issues in Human Sexuality

Humanities Perspective: 3

Satisfied by any one course (3 hours) that is cross-referenced between WGSS and a humanities department, including African and African American Studies; American Studies; Classics; English; Environmental Studies; 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	Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the North American West
ENGL 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 330/ AAAS 340	Women in Contemporary African Literature
WGSS 350	Black Love and Romance
HIST 361	Youth, Sex, and Romance in Post-WWII United States
WGSS/HUM 364	Pregnancy in Modern Literature
WGSS/HUM 365	Angry White Male Studies
WGSS/REL 374	Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality
AAAS 388	The Black Woman
AAAS 415	Women and Islam
WGSS/EALC 418	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
or EALC 618	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
AAAS 434	African Women Writers
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
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WGSS/CLSX 515	Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture
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WGSS/CLSX 516	Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture
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HA/WGSS 533	Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848
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HA/WGSS 534	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900
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WGSS 540	Skin, Sex, and Disease
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WGSS 549/ HIST 649	History of Feminist Theory
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ENGL 572	Women and Literature: _____
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WGSS/HUM 575/HIST 625	The Body, Self and Society
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WGSS 576/ EALC 575	Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature
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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
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FMS 620	International Women Filmmakers
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WGSS 652/ AMS 650	Jazz and American Culture
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Theoretical Perspective: 3

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

Eligible courses include:

WGSS 329	Introduction to Queer Theory: Tools for Deconstructing Gender
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WGSS/ENGL/ AAAS 344	Black Feminist Theory
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WGSS 359	Introduction to Feminist Theory
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WGSS/PHIL 381	Feminism and Philosophy
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PHIL 504	Philosophy of Sex and Love
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WGSS 549/ HIST 649	History of Feminist Theory
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WGSS/AAAS 560	Race, Gender and Empire
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WGSS 600	Feminist Contemporary Political Theory
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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
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WGSS/HIST 321	From Mystics to Feminists: Women's History in Europe 1600 to the Present
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WGSS 330/ AAAS 340	Women in Contemporary African Literature
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WGSS/HIST 335	History of Jewish Women
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WGSS/GIST 355	International Women's Rights
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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 WGSS 57 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
WGSS/EALC 418	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
AAAS 434	African Women Writers
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/AAAS 560	Race, Gender and Empire
WGSS 565	Gender, Culture, and Migration
WGSS/ANTH 583	Love, Sex, and Globalization
WGSS/HIST/ AAAS 598	Sexuality and Gender in African History
FMS 620	International Women Filmmakers
WGSS 653	Gender, Peace, and Conflict
WGSS/AAAS 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 177	First Year Seminar: _____
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 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 (Fall Only)
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Capstone Project 3

Satisfied by one course (3 credit hours) dedicated to completing a summative capstone project (WGSS 499 is completed as part of a sequence with WGSS 498. When completed as a sequence, 498 fulfills an elective and 499 fulfills the capstone requirement.). Suggested for the senior year.

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)

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 Hours at Advanced Levels

Satisfied by a maximum of 6 hours at the 100-200 level and a minimum of 12 credit hours 500+ level.

- 100 & 200 level: maximum 6 hours (1 requirement and up to 1 elective)
- 300 & 400 level: remaining credit hours (up to 5 electives)
- 500 & 600 level: minimum 12 credit hours (2 requirements and at least 2 electives)

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 (<http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa/>).

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.

Summary

- 3.5 GPA in the WGSS major
- A senior honors thesis related to WGSS written over two semesters (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.

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 this could vary depending on the topic and what the student and thesis advisor agree on.

The senior honors thesis or honors project must be approved by a three-member thesis committee (the thesis advisor and two other faculty members, at least one of whom must be either in WGSS or serve as WGSS affiliate faculty).

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

- WGSS 498 Independent Study in WGSS
- WGSS 499 Honors in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

or

- WGSS 498 Independent Study in WGSS
- WGSS 601—Senior Capstone in WGSS

or

- Two Honors Research courses or two Independent Studies in any department

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 or in an Independent Study of another department. Begin researching the thesis topic. The student and thesis advisor should form a three-person faculty committee (the thesis advisor and two other faculty members, at least one of whom must be either in WGSS or serve as WGSS affiliate faculty). **Submit an Honors Intent Form** by 1 March to College Advising and Student Services, 109 Strong.
- Spring Semester of the Senior Year: In consultation with your thesis advisor, enroll in 3 credit hours of WGSS 499 or WGSS 601 or in an Independent Study of another department. Finish the thesis. Have the thesis committee read the thesis and vote to award Honors (or not). If the thesis is passed, the thesis advisor needs to **sign the Honors Certification Form**, which can be obtained by the student in the College Advising and Student Services office, 109 Strong; after the advisor signs this form, it is then submitted back to the College Undergraduate Academic Services, 109 Strong, 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

Students who are satisfying double majors and pursuing Honors in both majors may use one honors thesis for both majors if they get approval from both departments. The thesis must be related to both majors, and the thesis committee must include faculty members from both departments. Students must fulfill both departments' requirements for honors.

Typical Timeline

- Fall 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 of the Junior Year: Get to know faculty members who share similar research interests by enrolling in their courses or visiting