

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

## Why study women, gender and sexuality studies?

A major in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies provide students with a broad set of skills that allow for critical analysis of issues relating to women, gender, and sexuality. Students learn to employ interdisciplinary methods and modes of analysis to better identify, critique, and productively understand the status of women 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. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores 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.

### Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

## 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
<b>Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Core Knowledge and Skills</b>		

Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:		
Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Satisfied by one of the following:		3
WGSS 101	Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	
or WGSS 10	Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Honors	
WGSS 111	Introduction to Human Sexuality Studies	
Methods		
WGSS 301	Research Methods in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (Fall Only)	3
Social Science Core. Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:		3
WGSS 333	The Politics of Physical Appearance	
WGSS/ANTH 389	The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond	
WGSS/PSYC 468	Psychology of Women	
WGSS/PSYC 521	Women and Violence	
WGSS/POLS 562	Women and Politics	
WGSS 563	Gender, Sexuality and the Law	
WGSS/POLS 640	Politics of Reproductive Policy	
WGSS/ANTH 660	Human Reproduction: Culture, Power, and Politics	
WGSS/PSYC 689	Conceptual Issues in Human Sexuality	
Humanities Core. Core satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:		3
WGSS 311/ AMS 323/ HIST 332/ HUM 332	Sex in History	
WGSS/AAAS/ HIST 317	African American Women: Colonial Era to the Present	
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 327	Perspectives in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
WGSS 350	Black Love and Romance	
WGSS 430	Skin, Sex, and Disease	
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	
Theory. Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:		3
WGSS/ENGL/ AAAS 344	Black Feminist Theory	
WGSS/PHIL 381	Feminism and Philosophy	

WGSS 530	Sex and Gender in New Media		WGSS/HIST 321	From Mystics to Feminists: Women's History in Europe 1600 to the Present
WGSS 549/ HIST 649	History of Feminist Theory		WGSS 324	History of Women and the Body
WGSS/AAAS 560	Race, Gender, and Post-Colonial Discourses		WGSS 327	Perspectives in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
WGSS/ANTH 580	Feminism and Anthropology		WGSS 330/ AAAS 340	Women in Contemporary African Literature
WGSS/POLS 600	Contemporary Feminist Political Theory		WGSS/HIST/ JWSH 335	History of Jewish Women
SOC 601	Introduction to Feminist Social Theory		WGSS/AAAS 345	Popular Culture in Africa: Spiritual Thrills, Romance and Sexualities
International focus. Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following (not satisfying requirement above):		3	WGSS/PHIL 381	Feminism and Philosophy
WGSS/HIST 320	From Goddesses to Witches: Women in Premodern Europe		WGSS/AMS 510/HIST 530	History of American Women: Colonial Times to 1870
WGSS/HIST 321	From Mystics to Feminists: Women's History in Europe 1600 to the Present		WGSS/AMS 511/HIST 531	History of American Women: 1870 to Present
WGSS 330/ AAAS 340	Women in Contemporary African Literature		WGSS/AMS 512/HIST 532	History of Women and Work in Comparative Perspective
WGSS/ANTH 389	The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond		WGSS 513	Modern American Women in Film and Literature
WGSS/CLSX 515	Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture		WGSS/CLSX 515	Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture
WGSS/CLSX 516	Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture		WGSS/CLSX 516	Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture
WGSS/AAAS 560	Race, Gender, and Post-Colonial Discourses		WGSS 549/ HIST 649	History of Feminist Theory
WGSS/GIST/ AMS 565	Gender, Culture, and Migration		WGSS/AAAS 560	Race, Gender, and Post-Colonial Discourses (if not already used)
WGSS/ANTH 583	Love, Sex, and Globalization		WGSS/AMS/ GIST 565	Gender, Culture, and Migration
WGSS/HIST/ AAAS 598	Sexuality and Gender in African History		WGSS/HUM 570	Men and Masculinities
WGSS/POLS 653	Gender, War, and Peace		WGSS/HUM 575/HIST 625	The Body, Self and Society
WGSS/ANTH 660	Human Reproduction: Culture, Power, and Politics		WGSS/AAAS/ HIST 598	Sexuality and Gender in African History
WGSS/AAAS 662	Gender and Politics in Africa		WGSS/HIST 646	Witches in European History and Historiography
AAAS 415	Women and Islam		WGSS 652	Jazz and American Culture
ANTH/AAAS 372	Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies		AAAS 388	The Black Woman
<b>Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Required Electives</b>			AAAS 415	Women and Islam
Humanities Elective. Satisfied by any core humanities course not already satisfying core requirement above or any of the approved humanities electives (see catalog).		3	AAAS 434	African Women Writers
WGSS 311/ HIST 332/ AMS 323/ HUM 332	Sex in History		AAAS 545	Unveiling the Veil
WGSS/AAAS/ AMS/HIST 317	African American Women: Colonial Era to the Present		AMS 515	American Women and World War II
WGSS/HIST 319	History, Women, and Diversity in the U.S.		ANTH/AAAS 372	Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies
WGSS/HIST 320	From Goddesses to Witches: Women in Premodern Europe		EALC 418	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
			or EALC 618	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
			EALC 575	Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature
			ENGL/GIST 306	Global Environmental Literature
			ENGL 572	Women and Literature: _____
			FMS 410	US Diversity in Visual Culture
			FMS 620	International Women Filmmakers

HA 533	Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848	
HA 534	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900	
REL 475	Loving Relationships	
REL 477	Gender and Religion	
REL 677	Women in Christianity	
Social Sciences Elective. Satisfied by any core social science course not already satisfying core requirements above or any approved social science elective.		3
WGSS 333	The Politics of Physical Appearance	
WGSS 351	Women and Leadership: The Legislative Process	
WGSS/ANTH/ EALC 363	Gendered Modernity in East Asia	
WGSS/ANTH 389	The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond	
WGSS 430	Skin, Sex, and Disease	
WGSS/PSYC 468	Psychology of Women	
WGSS/PSYC 521	Women and Violence	
WGSS 530	Sex and Gender in New Media	
WGSS/POLS 562	Women and Politics	
WGSS 563	Gender, Sexuality and the Law	
WGSS/ANTH 580	Feminism and Anthropology	
WGSS/ANTH 583	Love, Sex, and Globalization	
WGSS/POLS 600	Contemporary Feminist Political Theory (if not already used)	
WGSS/POLS 630	Politics of Identity	
WGSS/POLS 640	Politics of Reproductive Policy	
WGSS/POLS 653	Gender, War, and Peace	
WGSS/ANTH 660	Human Reproduction: Culture, Power, and Politics	
WGSS/POLS/ AAAS 662	Gender and Politics in Africa	
WGSS/ANTH/ LAA 665	Women, Health, and Healing in Latin America	
WGSS/PSYC 689	Conceptual Issues in Human Sexuality	
WGSS/ANTH 789		
COMS/WGSS 440	Communication and Gender	
COMS 552	The Rhetoric of Women's Rights	
JOUR 534	Diversity in Media	
PSYC 410	Intimate Relationships	
PSYC 465	Stereotyping and Prejudice Across Cultures	
PSYC 502	Human Sexuality	
SOC 220	Sociology of Families	

SOC 326	Health, Gender, and Society	
SOC 352	Sociology of Sex Roles	
SOC 450	Gender and Society	
SOC 454	Women and Work	
SOC 521	Wealth, Power, and Inequality	
SOC 601	Introduction to Feminist Social Theory	
SOC 617	Women and Health Care	
SW 303	Human Sexuality in Everyday Life	
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Elective. Choose one additional course from any of the above lists that is not already satisfying another requirement. Courses designated with * may be used as Social Science or Humanities Electives by petition.		3
WGSS 396	Studies in: _____ (*)	
WGSS 498	Independent Study	
WGSS 650	Service Learning in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies	
<b>Capstone Experience. Seminar in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (to be taken in the student's final year), satisfied by:</b>		
WGSS 601	Seminar in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (Spring Only)	3

**Note:** Courses with a blank (\_\_\_\_) at the end of their titles are typically topics or seminar courses that may be repeated for credit. Usually these courses offer different topics each time they are taught. Students should check with the course instructor about the requirements to take the course and what the topic will be when it is offered.

## Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 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 18 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

### 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>).

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies can be found here: [Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies \(http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/ba-bgs/ba\)](http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/ba-bgs/ba), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies can be found here: [Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies \(http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Womens-Studies\)](http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/ba-bgs/BGS-in-Womens-Studies), or by using the left-side navigation.

### Departmental Honors in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major

### Summary

- 3.25 GPA KU overall & 3.5 GPA in the WGSS or HX 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.

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.

### GPA Requirements

Students need a 3.25 GPA overall and 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. A single thesis can be submitted to WGSS and to another department for Honors in both programs, if both programs agree.

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, earning 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 601—Senior Capstone in WGSS
- Two Honors Research courses or two Independent Studies in any department

### Typical Timeline

Junior Year (or very early in the first semester of the student's last year): Select a topic for a thesis; talk to professors about ideas; find a professor willing to supervise the thesis. **Inform the WGSS Honors Coordinator!**

First Semester of the Last 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.**

Second Semester of the Last 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 Advising and Student 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.