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 Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu/) 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:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WGSS 111 Introduction to Human Sexuality Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Social Science Perspective</strong></td>
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<td>SW 303 Human Sexuality</td>
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Satisfied by one course (3 credit hours) that addresses sexuality from a social scientific perspective.

Eligible courses include:

- WGSS/ANTH 325 Language, Gender, and Sexuality
- SOC 326 Health, Gender, and Society
- SOC 352 Sociology of Sex Roles
- ANTH 359 Anthropology of Sex
- AAAS/ANTH 372 Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies
- PSYC/WGSS 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/COMS 552 The Rhetoric of Women’s Rights
- WGSS 600 Feminist Contemporary Political Theory
- SOC 617 Women and Health Care
- WGSS/POLS 630 Politics of Identity
- WGSS/PSYC 689 Conceptual Issues in Human Sexuality

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Humanities Perspective</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Satisfied by one course (3 credit hours) that addresses sexuality from a humanistic perspective.</td>
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Eligible courses include:

- 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/ ENGL 344 Black Feminist Theory
- 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 365 Angry White Male Studies
- WGSS/REL 374 Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality
- ANTH/WGSS 389 The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond
- EALC/WGSS 418 Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Human Sexuality

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>REL/WGSS/HUM 477</td>
<td>Gender and Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 504</td>
<td>Philosophy of Sex and Love</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLSX/WGSS 515</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSX/WGSS 516</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGSS 540</td>
<td>Skin, Sex, and Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGSS/HUM 575/HIST 625</td>
<td>The Body, Self and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS/HIST/WGSS 598</td>
<td>Sexuality and Gender in African History</td>
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<tr>
<td>or EALC 618</td>
<td>Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times</td>
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<tr>
<td>or WSGS 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Honors</td>
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**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 324 History of Women and the Body
- WGSS/ANTH 325 Language, Gender, and Sexuality
- WGSS/GIST 355 International Women’s Rights
- 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 575 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature
  - or EALC 575 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature
- WGSS/ANTH 389 The Anthropology of Gender: Female, Male, and Beyond
- WGSS/EALC 418 Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
  - or EALC 618 Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times
- WGSS/CLSX 515 Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture
- WGSS/CLSX 516 Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture
- WGSS 553 Making a Pandemic: The History and Politics of HIV/AIDS
- WGSS/AAAS 560 Race, Gender and Empire
- WGSS 576/EALC 575 Love, Sexuality and Gender in Japanese Literature
- WGSS/AAAS/HIST 598 Sexuality and Gender in African History
- FMS 620 International Women Filmmakers

**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

**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 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

**Total Hours** 30
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 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 (http://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 (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/human-sexuality-ba-bgs/BGS-in-Human-Sexuality/) or use the left-side navigation.

Summary

- 3.5 GPA in the Human Sexuality major
- A senior honors thesis related to Human Sexuality 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 Human Sexuality major.

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 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

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 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.