Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Human Sexuality

Why study women, gender and sexuality studies?

Because much of what people think they know about women, gender, and sex is myth. Our department seeks to produce intellectually rigorous, analytical and creative work that embodies the perspective of gender in its local and global dimensions through teaching, research, and outreach activities.

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 Office of International Student and Scholar 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.

Introductory Survey - Choose 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

Survey - Choose one of the following: (3)

- HSES 489 Health and Human Sexuality
- PSYC 502 Human Sexuality
- SW 303 Human Sexuality in Everyday Life

Core Social Science - Choose one of the following: (3)

- WGSS 333 The Politics of Physical Appearance
- WGSS/PSYC 521 Women and Violence
- WGSS 530 Sex and Gender in New Media
- WGSS/ANTH 583 Love, Sex, and Globalization
- WGSS/POLS 640 Politics of Reproductive Policy
- WGSS/PSYC 689 Conceptual Issues in Human Sexuality
- AAAS/ANTH 372 Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies
- ANTH 359 Anthropology of Sex
- HSES 489 Health and Human Sexuality
- PSYC 410 Intimate Relationships
- PSYC 502 Human Sexuality
- SOC 352 Sociology of Sex Roles
- SOC 450 Gender and Society

Core Humanities - Choose one of the following: (3)

- WGSS 311/ HIST 332/ AMS 323/ HUM 332 Sex in History
- WGSS 327 Perspectives in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
- WGSS 345 Popular Culture in Africa: Spiritual Thrills, Romance and Sexualities
- WGSS 350 Black Love and Romance
- WGSS 430 Skin, Sex, and Disease
- WGSS 563 Gender, Sexuality and the Law
- AAAS/HIST/ WGSS 598 Sexuality and Gender in African History
- CLSX/WGSS 515 Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture
- CLSX/WGSS 516 Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture
- 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
- HIST 608 History of Sexuality
- PHIL 504 Philosophy of Sex and Love
- REL 374 Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality
- REL 477 Gender and Religion

Two Additional Core Courses - chosen from the Social Science and Humanities Core lists above (6)

Capstone Seminar (3)

- WGSS 601 Seminar in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (Spring Only)

Methods (3)

- WGSS 301 Research Methods in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (Fall Only)

Electives - choose two from the list below (or any course from the above lists, not already satisfying a requirement above) (6)

- WGSS 396 Studies in: _____
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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's Students can be found here: Human Sexuality (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/human-sexuality-ba-bgs/ba-human-sexuality), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in Human Sexuality can be found here: Human Sexuality (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/women-gender-sexuality-studies/human-sexuality-ba-bgs/BGS-in-Human-Sexuality), 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 WS 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 3.25 GPA overall and a 3.5 GPA in their Women's Studies major.

**Honors Thesis**

Student 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 on the WGSS Advisory Board).

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 499—Honors in WGSS
- and/or
- WGSS 498—Independent Study in WGSS
- and/or
- two Honors Research courses or two Independent Studies in any department

The last option would be especially relevant if the student plans to submit one honors thesis to both WGSS and another department in order to receive honors in both programs, or if the student's research advisor is not a member of the WGSS core faculty.

**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 WGSS 499 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 on the WGSS Advisory Board. **Submit an Honors Intent Form by 1 March to College Advising and Student Services, 109 Strong.**

Second Semester of the Last Year: Enroll in 3 credit hours of WGSS 498 or WGSS 499 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.

**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.