

# Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## Why study women, gender, and sexuality studies?

WGSS was built out of the dual goals of examining inequalities resulting from gender, race, sexual orientation, and class using an interdisciplinary lens and translating this research into meaningful, tangible knowledge that contributes to the betterment of communities. Our interdisciplinary faculty members are engaged in research that examines many of the cutting-edge issues vexing contemporary times, both domestically and internationally, such as discrimination, violence, human trafficking, health and inequality, and migration, to name a few. The common thread throughout these different areas of research is the focus on investigating the factors that create and contribute to vulnerability and power across time and geography.

WGSS students learn about the ways in which people's roles in society have been constructed and the ways in which these roles have changed and continue to change. WGSS courses will make you informed about, and sensitive to, issues of gender in relation to education, lifestyle, social roles and status, sexuality, legal status, and equity. You will face these issues at work, in society, and in your world; WGSS courses will help you to deal with them in an informed, responsible, and just manner.

## What will women, gender, & sexuality studies give me?

- Awareness of the issues facing people of all genders – and the world – today
- Knowledge of many different academic fields
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Strong writing and researching abilities
- A solid base on which to enter the workforce, pursue further education, and have an impact in the world
- Graduates of WGSS go on to do many different things, and the possibilities are endless

## Admission to Graduate Studies

### Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

## Graduate Admission

The Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies MA program accepts applications for fall admission only. All applications and admissions materials must be received by the deadline listed on the department's website (<https://wgss.ku.edu/graduate-admission-requirements/>) to be considered for admission for the following fall semester.

## Application Materials

Applicants should upload the supporting application documents listed below to the online application (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>). There is no need to send copies of application materials directly to the Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies department.

- Copy of official transcripts (<http://graduate.ku.edu/transcripts/>) from all colleges or universities attended
- Resume or CV
- Statement of purpose (no longer than two pages, single spaced)
- Three letters of recommendation

Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>).

## Contact

Visit the Department of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies website for detailed information about MA admission requirements (<https://wgss.ku.edu/graduate-admission-requirements/>).

## Required Course Work

At least 50% of course work for the master's degree must be taken at the 700-level or above.

Code	Title	Hours
WGSS 800	History of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies	3
WGSS 801	Feminist Theory	3
WGSS 802	Feminist Methodologies	3
Elective Theory Course		3
Elective Methods Course		3
15 hours of WGSS electives or courses with at least 50% of content related to gender and/or sexuality		15
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

## M.A. Final Exam

In the last semester of course enrollment, students will complete a written comprehensive exam based on M.A. program content. This exam covers material in WGSS history, theory, and methods. For students intending to continue with the PhD, this exam also serves as a Ph.D. qualifying exam. The examination committee will consist of instructors of WGSS 800, WGSS 801 (or alternate WGSS theory course), and WGSS 802. The exam consist of two questions submitted by each of the three instructors (students must choose one question from each course).

Further details about meeting the degree requirements can be found in the WGSS Graduate Student Handbook (<https://wgss.ku.edu/graduate-student-handbook-0/>).

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Elective Options</b>		
WGSS 501	Doing Feminist Research	3
WGSS 502	Human Sexuality	3
WGSS 510	History of American Women--Colonial Times to 1870	3
WGSS 511	History of American Women--1870 to Present	3
WGSS 514	Politics of Human Trafficking	3
WGSS 515	Gender and Sexuality in Greek Culture	3
WGSS 516	Gender and Sexuality in Roman Culture	3
WGSS 517	Policing the Womb	3
WGSS 521	Women and Violence	3
WGSS 531	LGBTQ Politics and Policy	3
WGSS 533	Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848	3
WGSS 534	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900	3
WGSS 540	Skin, Sex, and Disease	3
WGSS 549	History of Feminist Theory	3
WGSS 552	The Rhetoric of Women's Rights	3
WGSS 553	Making a Pandemic: The History and Politics of HIV/AIDS	3
WGSS 562	Gender and Politics	3
WGSS 563	Gender, Sexuality and the Law	3
WGSS 565	Gender, Culture, and Migration	3
WGSS 567	Native Feminisms	3
WGSS 583	Love, Sex, and Globalization	3
WGSS 598	Sexuality and Gender in African History	3
WGSS 600	Feminist Contemporary Political Theory	3
WGSS 601	Seminar in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies	3
WGSS 650	Service Learning in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies	3
WGSS 652	Jazz and American Culture	3
WGSS 653	Gender, Peace, and Conflict	3
WGSS 662	Gender and Politics in Africa	3
WGSS 696	Studies in: _____	3
WGSS 701	Seminar in: _____	3
WGSS 710	History of American Sexuality	3
WGSS 711	Feminist Jurisprudence	3
WGSS 713	The Politics of Marriage	3
WGSS 714	Politics of Human Trafficking	3
WGSS 717	Policing the Womb	3
WGSS 797	Directed Readings	1-3
WGSS 803	Feminist Pedagogy	1.5
WGSS 804	Professionalization Seminar in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	1.5
WGSS 811	Black Feminist Theory	3
WGSS 812	Affect and Queer Theory	3
WGSS 821	Woman and Violence	3
WGSS 835	Colloquium in the History of Gender	3

- Display Knowledge of the Field.
- Display Subject Area Expertise.
- Display Written and Oral Communication.
- Display Social Responsibility.
- Display Research Design.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to: