

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Degree: B.A., General Liberal Arts and Studies

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (<https://cas.umw.edu/wgst/>)

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major focuses on gender and sexuality as central categories of scholarly inquiry. This interdisciplinary program, leading to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in General Liberal Arts and Studies, emphasizes diverse perspectives on both the construction and the experience of gender and sexual identities in society, including their complex interactions with ability, age, class, ethnicity, national identity, race, and religion. Students learn to appreciate the breadth of human experience and the challenges that all people face as a consequence of their gender and sexual identities.

The purpose of the major is to provide students with interdisciplinary breadth; at the same time, students are encouraged to work with their faculty advisors to formulate their course work around issues or themes of particular interest.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of feminism as representing many forms of social movement working to eliminate systems of inequality and oppression, and working toward social justice, human dignity, and equality for all peoples.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of gender as an organizing principle in society, one resulting from historically embedded and contingent, yet ongoing, processes of social construction, knowledge production, legitimation, and institutionalized privilege.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of sexual identities and sexualities.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history and foundational texts of the discipline.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of WGST.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methodological implications of Intersectionality.
7. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate the key concepts of Women's and Gender Studies through a variety of different types of writing.
8. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate the key concepts of the discipline.
9. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of Women's and Gender Studies through attendance at cocurricular events.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Foundations Courses		
WGST 101	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
WGST 102	Perspectives in Sexuality	3
PHIL 220	Introduction to Feminism	3

Methods Course

Select one of the following: ¹		3-4
AMST 201	Introduction to American Studies	
ARTH 303	Methods of Art History	
ENGL 295	Methods of Advanced Literary Studies	
HISP 205	Documentation and Field Work	
PSCI 391	Research and Writing in Political Science	
PSYC 362	Research Methods for Psychology	
SOCG 364	Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis	
SOCG 365	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis	
SOCG 475	Public Sociology	

Electives

Select six elective courses ² 18

Capstone

WGST 485 Senior Project ³ 3

Total Credits 33-34

¹ Many of these courses have prerequisites; consult the sections of this Catalog where these course descriptions appear. Ideally, a student will choose a methods class in a discipline that is likely to support their work on the capstone project.

² Taken from at least three (3) different disciplines, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. One of the electives must emphasize difference in the form of race, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, or sexuality. Additionally, at least three of the six courses should be taken at the 300-400 level. The permanent list of approved electives appears below. An additional list of approved electives will be circulated by the program director each semester and posted on the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies website. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Study electives are searchable in the Banner schedule of courses.

³ All Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors will design a capstone project under the supervision of an affiliated faculty member. The student will submit a proposal for approval by a committee composed of the program director, the student's faculty advisor, and another member of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies advisory committee the semester before it is to be completed. The project provides students with the opportunity to engage in the creation of original material and to apply the methods and approaches that they have acquired in the major.

Women's and Gender Studies Electives List

Code	Title	Credits
AMST 305	American Gender and Sexuality	3
ANTH 212	Anthropology of Gender	3
ARTH 460	Seminar: Women and Western Art	3
CLAS 310	Women in Antiquity	3
ENGL 327	Jane Austen	3
ENGL 353	Asian-American Literature	3
ENGL 369	Women and Modernism	3
HIST 334	Early Modern European Women's History	3
HIST 326	History of Manhood in the US	3
HIST 368	Gender in Chinese History	3
HIST 462	Women in Latin America	3
LING 307	Language and Gender	3

PSCI 370	Gender and Politics	3
PSYC 349	Psychology of Human Sexuality	3
PSYC 350	Psychology of Women and Gender	3
RELG 310	Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity	3
SOCG 304	Social Stratification	3
SOCG 315A	Gender and Society	3
SOCG 331	The Family	3
SOCG 400	Sociology of the Body	3
SOCG 434	Gender and Work	3
SPAN 475	Hispanic Women Writers	3
THEA 250	Fashion History	3
WGST 300	Special Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3
WGST 400	Special Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3
WGST 491	Individual Study	3
WGST 499	Internship	1-3

General Education Requirements

The general education requirements for Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degrees (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-arts-bachelor-science-degrees/>) apply to all students who are seeking to earn an undergraduate B.A., B.S. or B.S.Ed. degree.

Students seeking a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree have a separate set of BLS general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-liberal-studies-degrees/>).

Electives

Elective courses are those that are not needed to fulfill a general education requirement or major program requirement but are chosen by the student to complete the 120 credits required for graduation with a B.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. degree or the BLS degree. These courses may be taken graded or pass/fail (or S/U in the case of physical education and 100-level dance). No student in a regular B.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. program may count more than 60 credits in a single discipline toward the 120 credits required for graduation.

Total Credits Required for the Degree: 120 credits

Plan of Study

This suggested plan of study should serve as a guide to assist students when planning their course selections. It is not a substitute for a student's Degree Evaluation or the Program Requirements listed for this major in the catalog. Academic planning is the student's responsibility, and course selections should be finalized only after speaking with an advisor. Students should familiarize themselves with the catalog in effect at the time they matriculated at the University of Mary Washington. Students should also familiarize themselves with general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/>) which can be fulfilled through general electives as well as major/minor course requirements. Course requirements and sequencing may vary with AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge or previous coursework, transfer courses, or other conditions. To be considered full-time, an undergraduate student must be enrolled in 12 or more credits for the semester.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall		
FSEM 100	First-Year Seminar	3
WGST 101	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
General Education Courses		9
Credits		15
Spring		
WGST 102	Perspectives in Sexuality	3
General Education Courses		12
Credits		15
Sophomore		
Fall		
PHIL 220	Introduction to Feminism	3
WGST Elective		3
General Education Courses		9
Credits		15
Spring		
WGST Methods Course		3
WGST Elective		3
General Education Courses or Electives		9
Credits		15
Junior		
Fall		
WGST Electives (2)		6
General Electives		9
Credits		15
Spring		
WGST Electives (2)		6
General Electives		9
Credits		15
Senior		
Fall		
WGST 485	Senior Project	3
General Electives		12
Credits		15
Spring		
General Electives		15
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

Note: Because of the flexibility of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGST) requirements, it is possible to begin a WGST major late in a student's sophomore year or sometimes later. WGST also works well as a second major because of the large number of electives that might overlap with the requirements in many Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences majors.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

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Affiliated Faculty

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