

WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (MA)

Master of Arts in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<https://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/>) (GA)

Department: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (<https://louisville.edu/wgs/>)

Program Website (<https://louisville.edu/wgs/graduate-studies/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): WGSTMA; WGSTMA_ACC

Program Information

Master of Arts in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

The Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Master of Arts degree program is open to qualified individuals with a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Any undergraduate major is acceptable for admission; however, students without some Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies background may be required to take preparatory courses before beginning the MA curriculum or in addition to the MA curriculum.

The 36 credit hour interdisciplinary degree program is organized around a nine (9) hour core, and a selection of electives in WGST. In addition, students complete either a thesis, a culminating exam or project, or an applied/creative project.

Faculty in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, as well as faculty in other departments of the university, offer courses in the MA program.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	Program Core	9
	Electives	21-27
	Thesis/Project/Exam Option	3-6
	MINIMUM TOTAL HOURS	36

The Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies MA may be completed in four semesters (fall/spring). Many courses can be taken online. Limited summer offerings may be available.

Soaring Scholar Program Accelerated BA-BS/MA in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Undergraduate students interested in the program's accelerated options should visit the catalog pages for the BA in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/majors/womens-and-gender-studies-ba/>) or the BS in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/majors/womens-gender-studies-bs/>) for more information.

Dual MSSW/MA in Social Work and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

The dual Master of Science in Social Work/Master of Arts in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program recognizes the value of professional education in two interrelated fields and encourages students

who have an interest in both Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Social Work to pursue these degrees simultaneously. Social workers and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies scholars often seek to address identical or related societal concerns, albeit from different perspectives; understanding both disciplines enhances one's effectiveness in both the analysis of and engagement with contemporary social and cultural issues. Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies courses strengthen the social worker's understanding of the historical foundations for policies and structures that have an impact on social institutions and human conditions; Social Work courses help Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies scholars or activists to better understand human behavior, conflict resolution and social welfare institutions. A Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Social Work combination provides the tools of social change for an historic problem of gender inequality and injustice.

The curriculum leading to a dual degree is a 78 credit hour program which combines credits in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science. Students take the core curriculum in both programs, but substitute elective credit hours with MA and MSSW credit hours. In addition, the Kent School of Social Work and Family Science has tailored its second year-long practicum to focus on issues of gender and women, adding that content and experience for the student.

Students must apply and be admitted to both programs in order to pursue the dual degree.

Admission Requirements

Master of Arts in Women's Gender Sexuality Studies

Students wishing to be admitted to the MA in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies must meet the following requirements for admission:

1. Students must meet the admission criteria established by the Graduate School. Submit a complete graduate application (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/apply-materials/application/>), submit official transcripts verifying the receipt of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, and pay application fee.
2. Students must have a 3.0 GPA in undergraduate work. Provisional admission is possible for students who do not meet this requirement.
3. Students must submit two letters of recommendation (submitted to the Graduate School). Letters of recommendation must be current (written within the last year), and letter writers must be familiar with the applicant's academic preparation for graduate study. Members of the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Admissions Committee may not be letter writers.
4. Students must submit one academic writing sample of at least five pages (a paper written as part of the requirements of a university or college course). The Graduate Admissions Committee will determine whether the student has the necessary level of competence in written communication to enter the MA program.
5. Students must submit a personal statement of one-two pages discussing how the MA in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies relates to the student's professional or personal goals.

Any undergraduate major is acceptable for admission; however, students without Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies background may be required to take preparatory courses before beginning the MA curriculum or in addition to the MA curriculum. This will be determined by the Graduate Admissions Committee.

Up to six (6) credit hours of graduate level coursework (receiving a minimum grade of B- or above) completed in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at another institution may be applied toward the student's University of Louisville degree, upon approval of the director.

Students enrolled in the University of Kentucky or Western Kentucky University graduate certificate programs may transfer up to twelve (12) credit hours of graduate-level work (graded a minimum of B- or above), upon approval of the director, Unit Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Affairs.

Students must maintain a 3.0 average in order to be in good standing.

Admission Requirements: Dual MSSW/MA

Students must apply and be admitted to both programs in order to pursue the dual MSSW/MA degree program. WGST admission requirements for the dual degree are the same as for the standalone MA. Admission requirements for the Kent School of Social Work & Family Science (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/graduate/programs-study/master-science-social-work/>) can be found on the MSSW page.

Program Requirements for MA

The Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies M.A. curriculum includes:

- Nine (9) core credit hours, including three (3) credit hours in Community Engaged Research Methods, plus three (3) credit hours of approved Theory and three (3) credit hours of Approved History courses
- a thesis, non-thesis project, practicum, creative/applied project or exam option

At least 18 of the 36 credit hours must be in courses at the 600 level.

Total 36 hours

Code	Title	Hours
CORE Courses Methods, Theory, History		9
WGST 604	Community Engaged Research Methods	
<i>Select 1 approved THEORY Course from the list below</i>		
WGST 608	Queer Performance	
WGST 611	Transnational Feminism	
WGST 622	The Body in Popular Media	
WGST 641	Feminism and Science Fiction	
WGST 656	Feminist Theory	
Or theory course approved by DGS and Chair		
<i>Select 1 approved HISTORY Course</i>		3
WGST 613	U.S. Social Justice Movements of the 20th Century	
WGST 632	History of American Sexualities	
WGST 642	African American Women and the History of Reproductive Justice	
WGST 691	Advanced Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Social Sciences (recent example: Postcolonial Bodies) ²	
Or a history course approved by DGS and Chair		
WGST ELECTIVES		21
Select electives, not chosen in another category (21-27 credit hours based on thesis, project, practicum or exam option)		

WGST 558	Women in Developing Countries - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
WGST 571	Francophone Women Writers - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
WGST 584	Women in East Asian History	
WGST 591	Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies: Social Sciences (recent example: Postcolonial Bodies) ²	
WGST 593	Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies: Humanities ²	
WGST 603	History of U.S. Feminisms	
WGST 608	Queer Performance	
WGST 609	Women and Medicine	
WGST 611	Transnational Feminism	
WGST 612	Gender, Race, Work, and Welfare	
WGST 613	U.S. Social Justice Movements of the 20th Century	
WGST 615	Seminar in the Sociology of Disabilities	
WGST 620	Women's Personal Narratives	
WGST 622	The Body in Popular Media	
WGST 625	Art and Trauma	
WGST 630	Feminism in Western Civilization	
WGST 631	Women in the Twentieth Century in Europe and the U.S.	
WGST 632	History of American Sexualities	
WGST 640	Women's Health in Africa	
WGST 642	African American Women and the History of Reproductive Justice	
WGST 643	Black Women's Voices	
WGST 644	Black Lesbian Lives	
WGST 645	Southern Women: Black and White	
WGST 656	Feminist Theory	
WGST 682	Health and Social Justice	
WGST 689	Independent Study: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Humanities	
WGST 690	Independent Study: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Social Sciences	
WGST 691	Advanced Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Social Sciences	
WGST 692	Advanced Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Humanities ²	
Thesis, Project, Practicum, or Exam Option¹		6
Select the thesis, non-thesis project, applied/creative project, practicum or exam option		
WGST 695	Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Practicum (or elective, which need not be in WGS)	
WGST 698	Master's Degree Project	
WGST 699	Thesis	
Exam Option (requires completion of 37 credit hours, plus an exam) ¹		
Minimum Total Hours		39

¹ Credit hours in each category may vary depending on whether thesis, project, or exam option is selected. Students who select the thesis, project, or practicum option will typically take 18-21 elective hours.

Students who select the exam option will typically take 24 elective hours. Please see your advisor to discuss the path to completion of 37 minimum hours required for the degree that will best fit your individual needs.

² As approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Up to six (6) credit hours of graduate level coursework (graded a minimum of B- or above) completed in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at another institution may be applied toward the student's University of Louisville degree, upon approval of the director.

Students enrolled in the University of Kentucky or Western Kentucky University graduate certificate programs may request a variance to transfer up to twelve (12) credit hours of graduate level coursework (graded a minimum of B- or above), approval is required from the Director of Graduate Studies(DGS), Unit Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Affairs.

Students must maintain a 3.0 average in order to be in good standing.

Program Requirements for Dual MSSW/MA

The Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies MSSW/MA curriculum includes:

- Nine (9) credit hours of core courses (three (3) credit hours of Community Engaged Research Methods, plus three (3) credit hours approved History and three (3) credit hours of Approved Theory courses)
- 18 credit hours of WGST electives at the graduate level;
- 51 credit hours of courses at the Kent School

Total 27 credit hours in WGST graduate-level courses

Code	Title	Hours
CORE Courses Methods, Theory, History		9
WGST 604	Community Engaged Research Methods	
<i>Select 1 approved THEORY Course from the list below</i>		
WGST 608	Queer Performance	
WGST 611	Transnational Feminism	
WGST 622	The Body in Popular Media	
WGST 632	History of American Sexualities	
WGST 641	Feminism and Science Fiction	
WGST 656	Feminist Theory	
Or theory course approved by DGS and Chair		
<i>Select 1 approved HISTORY Course</i>		
WGST 613	U.S. Social Justice Movements of the 20th Century	
WGST 632	History of American Sexualities	
WGST 642	African American Women and the History of Reproductive Justice	
WGST 691	Advanced Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Social Sciences	
Or a history course approved by DGS and Chair		
Electives		
<i>Select 6 electives, not chosen in another category:</i>		18
See Kent School for requirements		

WGST 603	History of U.S. Feminisms
WGST 610	Black Feminism in Action
WGST 612	Gender, Race, Work, and Welfare
WGST 615	Seminar in the Sociology of Disabilities
WGST 620	Women's Personal Narratives
WGST 630	Feminism in Western Civilization
WGST 631	Women in the Twentieth Century in Europe and the U.S.
WGST 633	Women in 19th-Century America
WGST 640	Women's Health in Africa
WGST 643	Black Women's Voices
WGST 644	Black Lesbian Lives
WGST 682	Health and Social Justice
WGST 689	Independent Study: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Humanities
WGST 690	Independent Study: Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Social Sciences
WGST 691	Advanced Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Social Sciences (recent example: Postcolonial Bodies) ¹
WGST 692	Advanced Topics in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies-Humanities ¹

Minimum Total Hours **27**

Up to six (6) credit hours of graduate level coursework (graded a minimum of B- and above), completed in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at another institution may be applied toward the student's University of Louisville degree, upon approval of the director.

Students enrolled in the University of Kentucky or Western Kentucky University graduate certificate programs may request a variance to transfer up to twelve (12) credit hours of graduate level coursework (graded a minimum of B- or above), approval is required from the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), Unit Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Affairs.

Students must maintain a 3.0 average in order to be in good standing.

¹ As approved by the director of graduate studies.