

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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Degree Requirements

Joint Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (JD/AM in WGSS) is a truly joint program in which students, under close mentoring by advisors in both Law and WGSS, take a carefully selected set of courses in the Law School and in the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, that have been tailored to the student's interests. Course work in Arts & Sciences provides students with advanced training in issues of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, class, and more. Whether students come from a gender and sexuality studies background already or are looking to supplement their JD with a gender and sexuality studies perspective, this program is designed to prepare lawyers with a deep understanding of the cultural impacts of gender and sexuality in the workplace, in policy, and in law.

Students entering this four-year program spend their first year taking the required 1L courses in the School of Law. Applications for the JD/AM are accepted from students who are applying to the Law School and those who are in their first year at the Law School. Students will only be admitted to the joint program after they have been accepted into the Law School.

Note: The AM in WGSS is conferred only on students in this joint program. WGSS does not offer a stand-alone AM.

JD/AM Program Requirements

Students in the program fulfill the usual JD requirements, including one ethics course, one upperclass writing course (seminar), 6 units of experiential credits in designated courses, and 67 units of law classroom credits. Because the upperclass JD curriculum may vary from year to year, students should choose their electives in consultation with their Law School advisors.

The AM requires 32 credit units, including at least 21 units from specific categories, with the remainder satisfied through elective courses in the student's area of interest. A 2-credit master's thesis is optional, in which case the student would complete 30 units of course work as well as the thesis. Electives may be drawn from 500-level courses in WGSS or from specific courses in the upperclass JD curriculum. To count toward

the 32 credits required for the AM in WGSS, courses *must* be taken for a grade, with the exception of Law School externships approved by the WGSS JD/AM program director and Supervised Instruction: Law, Gender & Justice.

Students in the joint JD/AM program may take Arts & Sciences courses during their second through fourth years. They must earn grades of B or higher in those courses in order to count them towards the JD/AM program. Students who do not complete the AM portion of the joint degree program are not eligible for the graduate certificate in WGSS.

For students pursuing the master's thesis option: Students who choose to write a thesis should determine a subfield of focus early in the program, preferably during the first year of study in Arts & Sciences. The following year, in collaboration with their advisors, students will develop a thesis project or a practicum with a substantial writing component.

During their final semester of courses, students take a comprehensive written examination that will test their competence in the field of study. The examining committee will consist of the director of graduate studies, the student's advisor, and one other faculty member who is either core or affiliated with WGSS.

Course Requirements

Note that any particular course can count only toward one required category.

Advanced Theory and Research (9 units):

| Code | Title | Units |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| WGSS 5000 | Advanced Feminist Theory | 3 |
| WGSS 5140 | Feminist Research Methodologies | 3 |
| WGSS 5150 | Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory | 3 |
| WGSS 5200 | Feminist Political Theory | 3 |

Advanced Seminars in Race/Ethnicity (3 units):

| Code | Title | Units |
|-----------|---|-------|
| WGSS 5165 | From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African-American Women Theorize Identity | 3 |
| WGSS 5401 | Intersectionality | 3 |

Advanced Seminars in Gender/Sexuality (3 units):

| Code | Title | Units |
|-----------|---|-------|
| WGSS 5085 | Everyday Unruliness: Feminist and Queer Resistance | 3 |
| WGSS 5135 | The Politics of Pleasure | 3 |
| WGSS 5150 | Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory | 3 |
| WGSS 5370 | Reformers and Radicals: Feminist Thinking Through History | 3 |

Advanced Seminars in Transnational Feminist and Gender Analysis (6 units):

| Code | Title | Units |
|-----------|---|-------|
| WGSS 5090 | Gender, Sexuality and Change in Africa | 3 |
| WGSS 5200 | Feminist Political Theory | 3 |
| WGSS 5245 | Transnational Feminisms | 3 |
| WGSS 5370 | Reformers and Radicals: Feminist Thinking Through History | 3 |

Electives in the Student's Area(s) of Interest (9-12 units):

These electives can be chosen from any 500-level WGSS courses and/or from the following Law School courses that *must* be taken for a grade (with the exception of LAW 802B/802C or an externship approved by the WGSS advisor).

| Code | Title | Units |
|--|--|--------------------|
| LAW 590D | Children's Rights Clinic | var.; max 8 |
| LAW 508C | Domestic Violence & the Law | 2 |
| LAW 590D | Employment Discrimination | 3 |
| LAW 548 | Family Law | 4 |
| LAW 8295 | Feminist Theories/Feminist Judgments (seminar) | 3 |
| LAW 8275 | Implicit Bias, Law, & the Legal Profession (seminar) | 3 |
| LAW 609S-01 | The Law of the Fourteenth Amendment | 2 |
| LAW 784 | Regulating Sex: Historical and Cultural Encounters | 2 |
| LAW 602D | Sexuality & the Law: Theory & Practice | 3 |
| LAW 802B & LAW 802C | Supervised Instruction: Law, Gender, & Justice (pass/fail, by selection only; can only count toward the JD portion of the program) | 3 |
| Semester-in-practice externship (specific placements only) | | var.; max 12 |

Thesis Procedures

Students who choose to write a thesis will determine a subfield of focus during the first year of study. During the second year, in collaboration with their advisors, students will develop a thesis project or a practicum with a substantial writing component. Students who do not complete the AM portion of the joint degree program are not eligible for the graduate certificate in WGSS. Students must earn grades of B or higher in graduate Arts & Sciences courses for those courses to count toward the AM in WGSS.

Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Graduate students interested in the graduate certificate in WGSS should first apply for admission to the Washington University department in which they wish to obtain an advanced degree. After being admitted, each student should notify their department advisor and the WGSS program director of their plans to obtain the WGSS certificate. In

addition, each student should submit an "Application for Admission to Certificate Program" form to the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, with a copy also given to the WGSS office. The earlier that the WGSS department knows who these students are, the earlier these students can be included in mailings about program activities, lectures, conferences and other events. Certificate application forms are available from the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences.

The graduate certificate in WGSS requires the completion of five courses, at least two of which must be drawn from 500-level or above home-based WGSS courses. The other three required courses must be drawn from 500-level or above home-based or cross-listed WGSS courses or from other program-approved, gender-based courses; students will consult with the program director for approval. Since the certificate requires three courses beyond those required for a student's home degree, participation in the certificate program may require an extra semester of graduate courses. Those students who are not interested in the certificate but who want to concentrate on gender within their disciplines to enhance their credentials and enrich their training may do so in accordance with the policies of their individual departments. Other students may participate in WGSS courses without commitment to a concentration.