

# Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, JD/AM

## Master's Candidacy

To earn a master's degree at Washington University, a student must complete all courses required by their department; maintain satisfactory academic progress; fulfill all academic and residence requirements; and file an Intent to Graduate. For a general layout of master's degree general requirements in Arts & Sciences, including an explanation of Satisfactory Academic Progress, students should review the Master's Degree Academic Information page of the Arts & Sciences *Bulletin*.

The Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (JD/AM in WGSS) is a 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

- **Total Units Required: 32**
- **Degree Length: 4 Years**
  - **Note:** Students must be enrolled in 9 graduate credits each semester to retain full-time status. As students complete their course work, if enrolled in fewer than 9 graduate credits, they must enroll in a specific Arts & Sciences graduate course that will show 0 units but does count as full-time status. Students should connect with their department to ensure proper enrollment prior to Add/Drop.

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.

## Thesis Requirements/Details

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 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.

## Required Courses

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 5150	Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory	3
WGSS 5140	Feminist Research Methodologies	3
WGSS 5200	Feminist Political Theory	3

### Advanced Seminars in Race/Ethnicity (3 units):

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 5013	Queer of Color Critique	3
WGSS 5401	Intersectionality	3
WGSS 5165	From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African American Women theorize Identity	3

**Advanced Seminars in Gender/Sexuality (3 units):**

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

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

Code	Title	Units
WGSS 5090	Gender, Sexuality and Change in Africa	3
WGSS 5245	Transnational Feminisms	3
WGSS 5370	Reformers and Radicals: Feminist Thinking Through History	3
WGSS 5200	Feminist Political Theory	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 604D	Adoption and Assisted Reproduction	3
LAW 812A	Critical Race Theory	2
LAW 868S	Feminist Legal Theory Seminar	3
LAW 590F	Employment Discrimination	3
LAW 609T	The Law of the Fourteenth Amendment	3
LAW 827S	Implicit Bias, Law & the Legal Profession Seminar	3
LAW 784	Regulating Sex: Historical and Cultural Encounters	2
LAW 802B	Supervised Instruction: Law, Gender & Justice (Tokarz)	3
LAW 602D	Sexuality and the Law: Theory and Practice	3
LAW 802C	Supervised Instruction: Law, Gender and Justice	3
LAW 668K	Semester In Practice Externship	-12

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