Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) at Washington University provides students with advanced training in issues of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, class, and disability. Whether they come from a gender and sexuality studies background already or are looking to supplement their work in another field with a gender and sexuality studies perspective, this program helps students to explore the issues that matter to them. In addition to solidifying students’ abilities to educate others in gender and sexuality issues and to integrate intersectional approaches with varied social issues and workplace challenges, this program can help students to develop specializations in a subfield appropriate for their individual plans and goals.

An understanding of gender and sexuality is central to discussions of law, social work, public health, economic inequality, business, and human rights. This program will prepare students to have the breadth and specialized knowledge that is increasingly needed and looked for in the workplace. Students will learn to think intersectionally — to understand the ways in which multiple identities interact with structural, social, and cultural inequalities — and to pursue interdisciplinary approaches to problems confronting the contemporary world.

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

The Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is a truly joint program in which students, under close mentoring by WGSS and law faculty, take a carefully selected set of courses tailored to the student’s interest in the Law School and in the Graduate School. 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.

Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Our graduate certificate program allows students in PhD programs to enhance their disciplinary studies with a concentration in gender studies.