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.

This program offers graduate certificate students an opportunity to meet and work with graduate students in other departments. Graduate certificate students are on the program's mailing lists, and they are invited to participate in a variety of events, including special guest lectures, conferences, faculty searches and informal gatherings.

In WGSS, graduate certificate students may engage in a teaching pedagogy opportunity if they so wish. The teaching pedagogy opportunity in WGSS takes place over two semesters. During the first semester, students undergo teaching preparation in which they observe the class that they will teach; they are mentored by the instructor, and they attend instructor meetings devoted to examining content and pedagogy. In addition, they develop a syllabus — often in consultation with their WGSS teaching mentor and their department adviser — that is reviewed carefully by WGSS faculty. These students may be undergoing mentored teaching experiences in their own departments during this first semester. During the next semester, students teach the WGSS course, and they are observed by WGSS faculty and, in some cases, by faculty in their own departments. These faculty use a rubric for their assessment that is made available to the student; students receive a written assessment that they then discuss with the observing WGSS faculty member. Sometimes students are observed and assessed more than once. Participation in this program broadens students' teaching experiences and their credentials for future job opportunities. The following departments are involved in this program: Anthropology, Art History, Education, English, German, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Romance Languages and Literatures.

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