

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, M.A.

The master's degree in Gender and Women's Studies provides advanced feminist training in gender analysis for students with a variety of academic backgrounds and career plans. The degree engages the multidisciplinary perspectives associated with gender studies and women's studies: queer studies, transgender studies, sexuality studies, race and ethnicity studies, disability studies, area and global studies, cultural studies, postcolonial and transnational studies.

The M.A. curriculum in Gender and Women's Studies draws from the strengths of current course offerings in the program, as well as from methodologies and course offerings in other fields and departments. Some courses investigate these topics at the global level while others focus on the local, regional or national levels. The curriculum ensures an overarching transnational and cross-cultural framework. Courses use interdisciplinary methodologies and/or disciplinary approaches.

The degree program is designed to be a two-year full-time sequence. All students are expected to maintain satisfactory progress in the graduate program in accordance with the regulations of the Graduate School and department policies.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet** the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) **of the Graduate School as well as the program(s)**. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following items are required as a part of the graduate application for the M.A. Program in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies:

1. One (1) copy of official transcripts or academic records from each institution attended. International academic records must be in the original language and accompanied by an official English translation. Documents must be issued by the school with the official seal/stamp and an official signature.
2. Three (3) letters of recommendation. We prefer that at least two of the letters come from academic sources. These letters may now be submitted on-line. Please see the Graduate School's web link for instructions.
3. Statement of reasons why you wish to pursue the M.A. Degree in Gender and Women's Studies (2–3 pages). In their personal statements, applicants should explicitly articulate their academic interests and goals, describe how an M.A. in Gender and Women's Studies complements those intellectual goals, and explain how the faculty and the program at UW–Madison is especially well matched with the applicant's interests.
4. Curriculum vitae or resumé.
5. Writing sample, such as a paper submitted for a course in an academic program. The admissions committee wishes to see an entire piece of written work, generally between 5 and 10 pages. We prefer an academic paper or policy memo (professional writing) because we are looking for presentation of argument as well as appropriate writing skills.
6. The Department of Gender and Women's Studies does NOT require GRE scores.

APPLICATION DUE DATE

Applications for fall admission is December 1.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Graduate School sets minimum requirements for admissions (<https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements/>).

Applications are submitted online to the Graduate School (<http://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/>).

Items that should be sent to the Graduate School are listed here (<http://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/process/>).

Questions on the application process can be directed to the Graduate Coordinator (<https://gws.wisc.edu/graduate/graduate-advising/>).

FELLOWSHIPS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Department of Gender and Women's Studies offers teaching assistant (TA) positions to incoming M.A. students. TA positions provide tuition remission, a stipend and health insurance. Our current departmental policy is to guarantee funding for four semesters to our new M.A. students through TA positions in our introductory courses. All TA positions are contingent upon evaluation and performance. Similar to probationary faculty, TAs are observed and reviewed each semester and will be provided with advising and guidance to improve their teaching practice. Students must be in good standing to be eligible for departmental funding. Availability of positions may be different for international students; eligibility is determined at admission. There are a limited number of TA positions; so do not count on these as support for

the entire 2 years of study. We encourage students to apply for positions elsewhere on campus.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

We offer TA positions to new M.A. students, including tuition remission, stipend and health insurance. We award new students at least 2 semesters of guaranteed funding and sometimes offer additional positions. Availability of positions may be different for international students; eligibility is determined at admission. There are a limited number of TA positions; so do not count on these as support for the entire 2 years of study. We encourage students to apply for positions elsewhere on campus.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement 30 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 16 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement 21 of the 30 credits applied toward the graduate degree credit requirement must be completed in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (<https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/>).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement 3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

Assessments and Examinations Students complete either a thesis or exam, and can read more about them here: <https://gws.wisc.edu/ma-requirements/>

Language Requirements Contact the program for information on any language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

30 credits, 15 of which must be in courses in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies

GEN&WS 880 Proseminar: Graduate Study in Gender and Women's Studies

GEN&WS 800 Research Methods in Gender & Women's Studies

A graduate level feminist theory course

A thesis project or exam

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

For well-prepared advanced students, the program may accept prior graduate coursework from other institutions toward the minimum graduate degree credit and minimum graduate coursework (50%)

requirement. The minimum graduate residence credit requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–Madison.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

For well-prepared advanced students, the program may decide to accept up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above completed at UW–Madison toward fulfillment of minimum degree and minor credit requirements. This work would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above.

UW–Madison University Special

The program may decide to accept up to 15 University Special student credits as fulfillment of the minimum graduate residence, graduate degree, or minor credit requirements on occasion as an exception (on a case-by-case basis). UW–Madison coursework taken as a University Special student would not be allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken at the 700 level or above.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

Students in the MA program are expected to carry 6 credits per semester. They may carry up to 12 although we do not encourage more than 9. Students who would like to carry fewer than 6 credits must apply in writing to the DGS for a waiver of this requirement and are not eligible to work as TAs.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Master's degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)

- Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

OTHER

To remain in good standing in the M.A. program, certain deadlines and expectation must be met in a timely fashion.

1. Students are expected to file their advisor form by the first week of classes of their second year of study.
2. Students are required to have a thesis or exam committee arranged by the first week of their fourth semester.
3. Students are required defend their thesis or complete their exams by the end of their fourth semester; formal requests for an extension of the time for the thesis or exam will be considered, but not guaranteed.
4. Filing the thesis or the written exam: The thesis or the written exam needs to be submitted to the DGS for filing by the designated thesis deposit deadline of the Graduate School.
5. Any incomplete grades must be resolved by the end of the following semester, unless a faculty extension is granted.
6. Students must be in good standing to be eligible for departmental funding.
7. Due Dates (Based on consecutive full time enrollment of all four semesters without summer sessions)

Formal requests for an extension of the time for the thesis or exam will be considered, but not guaranteed.

Failure to meet any of these requirements may result in a student being asked to leave the program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate the ability to read, understand, and critique the major concepts and theories related to feminism, women, and gender, and apply these critical perspectives across disciplines.
2. Understanding of historical and contemporary agency by people across a spectrum of gender and the ways this agency has shaped lives in various geographic settings.
3. Demonstrate the ability to analyze the intersections between gender and other socially meaningful categories, such as race, class, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, nation, religion, and sexuality, and to explain how gender functions as a social institution.
4. Demonstrate the ability to conduct interdisciplinary feminist analysis that (1) includes a critical literature review, (2) selects appropriate research methodologies, and (3) proposes an appropriate research design to collect, analyze, interpret, and present findings.
5. Develop and utilize strong cultural competencies (e.g., sensitivity to race/ethnicity/gender/disability/sexual orientation issues) to allow them to enter into various cultural, social, economic, civic, academic, and workplace settings.
6. Acknowledge and engage in ethical courses of action in research and collaborative practice.

PEOPLE

FACULTY

Professors Jill Casid (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/casid-jill-h/>), Finn Enke (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/enke-finn/>), Christine Garlough (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/garlough-christine/>), (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/hyde-janet-shibley/>) Jenny Higgins (<https://jennyhiggins.net/>), (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/higgins-jenny/>) Judith Houck (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/houck-judy/>), Janet Hyde (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/hyde-janet-shibley/>), (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/hyde-janet-shibley/>) Pernille Ipsen (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/ipsen-ernille/>), Maria Lepowsky (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/lepowsky-maria/>), Ellen Samuels (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/samuels-ellen/>), Aili Mari Tripp (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/tripp-aili-mari/>)

Associate Professors Anna Campbell (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/campbell-anna/>) Keisha Lindsay (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/lindsay-keisha/>), Sami Schalk (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/schalk-sami/>), Kate Walsh (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/walsh-kate/>)

Assistant Professors Ruth Goldstein (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/goldstein-ruth/>), LiLi Johnson (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/johnson-lili/>), James McMaster (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/mcmaster-james/>), Annie Menzel (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/menzel-annie/>), Benjamin Mier-Cruz (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/mier-cruz-benjamin/>), Marwa Shalaby (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/shalaby-marwa/>), Jess Waggoner (<https://gws.wisc.edu/staff/waggoner-jess/>)