

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, BA

The Gender and Women's Studies curriculum provides a platform for students to study how equity and social justice are connected to gender, sexuality, and identity. Gender and Women's Studies students explore the field through traditional disciplines, such as literature, history, anthropology, sociology, public health, education, law, biology, psychology, political science, and the visual arts. Students in our courses (https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/gen_ws/) develop strong analytical and communication skills through classroom discussion, writing, and independent projects. Undergraduates in our programs can pursue research skills through thesis writing, as well as professional development opportunities through career workshops with alumni and in our internship program. As a result, graduates from our programs apply a critical lens in fields like health and public policy, social justice and advocacy, reproductive justice, nonprofit administration, clinical medicine, software development, communications, and media production.

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN

Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

Declaring the major as early as possible allows students to best align major coursework with their interests.

Students declared in the Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies at the Undergraduate Level may not be declared in the Gender and Women's Studies major at the same time. Students who do wish to declare this major must first cancel their declaration in the certificate.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer

2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree 120 degree credits.

Residency Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

Quality of Work Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

Math Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH#160;96, or
- successfully completing MATH#160;96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH#160;112, MATH#160;113, MATH#160;114, MATH#160;141, MATH#160;211, or MATH#160;221.

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. Some courses satisfy more than one L&S degree requirement (visit College of Letters & Science: Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/#requirementstext>) for details).

This major can be paired with either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree requirements.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Communication Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Communication A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Communication B designation

Quantitative Reasoning Complete both:

- Part A: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation or eligible UW Placement Score; and
- Part B: one course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation

Ethnic Studies one 3+ credit course with the Ethnic Studies designation

Language Complete either:

- the fourth unit of one language other than English; or
- the third unit of one language other than English and the second unit of an additional language.

L&S Breadth: Humanities Complete 12 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation, which must include at least 6 credits with the Literature designation.

L&S Breadth: Social Sciences Complete 12 credits with the Social Science designation.

L&S Breadth: Natural Sciences Complete 12 credits with the Natural Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science designations, which must include both:

- one 3+ credit course with the Biological Science designation, and
- one 3+ credit course with the Physical Science designation.

Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Coursework at least 108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work at least 60 credits at the Intermediate or Advanced level

Major Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits at least 120 credits

UW-Madison Experience

- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit

Quality of Work

- 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison
- 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their School/College to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Majors in Gender and Women's Studies are required to take foundational work in GEN&WS courses reflecting each of four approaches to knowledge (humanities, social science, theory, and biological or health sciences), one course from three of four issue areas (sexuality, disability and embodiment, race/ethnicity, and global), and a capstone seminar or thesis.

All majors complete a minimum of 30 credits in GEN&WS including:¹

INTRODUCTORY GEN&WS

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 101	Gender, Women, and Cultural Representation ²	3
or GEN&WS 102	Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective	
GEN&WS 103	Gender, Women, Bodies, and Health	3
Total Credits		6

APPROACHES³

1 course from each area:

Biology and Health

Explore health as both a physiological and a socio-cultural experience, and recognize ways in which gender and other axes of social inequality influence health. Develop critical tools to place the medical field, scientific research, and public health and

policy organizations into social contexts, and recognize how these institutions both can reflect and perpetuate dominant ideologies. Learn about feminist approaches to, and histories of, science, medicine, and health activism.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 104	Gender, Sexuality, and Global Health	3
GEN&WS 521	Sex Lives of Women	3
GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	3
GEN&WS 524	Race, Gender, Health, and Medicine	3
GEN&WS 525	Gender and Global Health in Critical Perspective	3
GEN&WS 527	The Environment of the Womb: Epigenetics and Parent/Child Health	3
GEN&WS 528	Sexuality and Science	3
GEN&WS 529	The Science and Politics of Reproductive Health	3
GEN&WS 530	Biology and Gender	3
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 531	Women and Health in American History	3
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 532	The History of the (American) Body	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology	3
GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	3
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3
GEN&WS 536	Queering Sexuality Education	3
GEN&WS/ HIST SCI 537	Childbirth in the United States	3
GEN&WS 538	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health	3
GEN&WS 539	Special Topics in Gender and Health	3

Humanities

Engage with humanities-based theories, content areas, and methodologies as they relate to gender and women's studies. These include, but are not limited to, critical text analysis, discourse analysis, historical approaches and archival work, media studies, ethnography, and digital humanities. (GEN&WS courses with H, L or Z designations)

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 105	Intersectional Approaches to Disability Studies	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 134	Women and Gender in World History	3-4
GEN&WS/SOC 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Studies	3-4
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS 205	Women in Russian Literature in Translation	3-4
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	3

GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	3
GEN&WS 240	Feminist Approach to Research and Writing	3
GEN&WS/ ENGL 248	Women in Ethnic American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS 270	German Women Writers in Translation	3
FRENCH/ GEN&WS 285	Rebellious Women from the Global South	3-4
GEN&WS/ RELIG ST 305	Women, Gender and Religion	3
GEN&WS 319	Study Abroad: Gender, Women and the Humanities	3-4
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM 321	Asian American Feminist & Queer Cultural Productions	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 324	Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	3
GEN&WS 330	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/Ethnicity (Humanities)	3
GEN&WS/ CHICLA 332	Latinas: Self Identity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 342	Transgender Studies	3-4
GEN&WS 343	Queer Bodies	3
GEN&WS 344	Bi/Pan/Asexuality: Community & Representation	3
GEN&WS 345	Narrating Queer Lives	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 346	Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective	3-4
GEN&WS/ AMER IND 348	Queer Indigenous Studies	3
GEN&WS/ ENGL 350	Special Topics in Gender & Literature	3
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 351	Women and Gender in the Classical World	3-4
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 353	Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS/ HIST SCI/ILS 355	Sex, Gender, & the History of Medicine	3
GEN&WS/ ENGL 359	Visionary and Speculative Fiction: Social Justice Approaches	3
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 361	Sex and Power in Greece and Rome	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	3
GEN&WS 370	Topics in Gender and Disability	3
GEN&WS 374	Disability, Gender and Sexuality	3
GEN&WS/ENGL 401	Race, Sex, and Texts (How to do things with writing)	3
GEN&WS 410	Special Topics in Gender and Visual Culture	3

GEN&WS/ ART HIST 414	Contemporary Queer Art and Visual Culture	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 134	Women and Gender in World History	3-4
GEN&WS/ THEATRE 415	Introduction to Contemporary Feminist Theatre and Criticism	3	GEN&WS/SOC 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Studies	3-4
GEN&WS/ COM ARTS 418	Gender, Sexuality, and the Media	3	GEN&WS 240	Feminist Approach to Research and Writing	3
GEN&WS/ FOLKLORE 428	Gender and Expressive Culture	3	GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society	1-3
GEN&WS/ AMER IND/ ANTHRO/ FOLKLORE 437	American Indian Women	3	GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS/ SCAND ST 438	Sexual Politics in Scandinavia	3	GEN&WS 329	Study Abroad: Gender, Women in Society	3-4
GEN&WS 441	Contemporary Feminist Theories	3	GEN&WS 331	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/Ethnicity (Social Sciences)	3
GEN&WS 444	From Past Feminisms to Postfeminism: Feminisms for the 21st Century	3	GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 333	Black Feminisms	3
GEN&WS 445	The Body in Theory	3	GEN&WS/ CHICLA 334	Feminist Social Movements Across the Americas	3
GEN&WS 449	Special Topics in Feminist Theory	3	GEN&WS/ COM ARTS 336	Race, Gender, and Technology	3
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 450	Brazilian Women Writers	3	GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality	3
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 460	Carmen Miranda	3	GEN&WS 344	Bi/Pan/Asexuality: Community & Representation	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	3	C&E SOC/GEN&WS/ SOC 347	Gender and Sexuality in Rural Places	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 464	Asian American Women Writers	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 353	Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 519	Sexuality, Modernity and Social Change	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 354	Women and Gender in the U.S. Since 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 532	The History of the (American) Body	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 392	Women and Gender in Modern Europe	3-4
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER/ POLI SCI/SOC 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3	GEN&WS/ COM ARTS 418	Gender, Sexuality, and the Media	3
GEN&WS/ PHILOS 556	Topics in Feminism and Philosophy	3	GEN&WS 420	Women in Cross-Societal Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 624	African American Women's Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)	3	GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST 422	Women and the Law	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	3	GEN&WS 423	The Female Body in the World: Gender and Contemporary Body Politics in Cross Cultural Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 677	Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women's Writings	3	GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST/SOC 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	3
Social Science			GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective	3-4
Engage with social-science-based theories, content areas, and methodologies as they relate to gender and women's studies. These include, but are not limited to, scientific and clinical research, statistical analysis, mixed-methods approaches, and theories of social change. (GEN&WS courses with S or Z designations)			GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East	3
Code	Title	Credits	GEN&WS 441	Contemporary Feminist Theories	3
GEN&WS 104	Gender, Sexuality, and Global Health	3	GEN&WS/ ANTHRO 443	Anthropology by Women	3
			GEN&WS 444	From Past Feminisms to Postfeminism: Feminisms for the 21st Century	3
			GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
			GEN&WS 449	Special Topics in Feminist Theory	3

GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 469	Women and Politics	3-4
GEN&WS 472	Food for Thought: An Intersectional Approach	3
GEN&WS/ GEOG 504	Feminist Geography: Theoretical Approaches	3
GEN&WS 521	Sex Lives of Women	3
GEN&WS/ PSYCH 522	Psychology of Women and Gender	3
GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	3
GEN&WS 524	Race, Gender, Health, and Medicine	3
GEN&WS 525	Gender and Global Health in Critical Perspective	3
GEN&WS 527	The Environment of the Womb: Epigenetics and Parent/Child Health	3
GEN&WS 528	Sexuality and Science	3
GEN&WS 529	The Science and Politics of Reproductive Health	3
GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	3
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3
GEN&WS 536	Queering Sexuality Education	3
GEN&WS/ HIST SCI 537	Childbirth in the United States	3
GEN&WS 538	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health	3
GEN&WS 539	Special Topics in Gender and Health	3
GEN&WS 546	Men of Color Masculinities	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER/ POLI SCI/SOC 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3
GEN&WS/ PHILOS 556	Topics in Feminism and Philosophy	3
GEN&WS/ ED POL 560	Gender and Education	3

Feminist Theory

Explore feminist theoretical approaches, both national and international.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 333	Black Feminisms	3
GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality (Theory)	3
GEN&WS 441	Contemporary Feminist Theories	3
GEN&WS 444	From Past Feminisms to Postfeminism: Feminisms for the 21st Century	3
GEN&WS 445	The Body in Theory	3
GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS 449	Special Topics in Feminist Theory	3
GEN&WS 546	Men of Color Masculinities	3

GEN&WS/ AFROAMER/ POLI SCI/SOC 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3
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ISSUE AREAS ³

Race/Ethnicity

Explore the role of race/ethnicity as a tool of creating, identifying, materializing, and solidifying human difference. These courses may explore the construction and deployment of race/ethnicity anywhere in the world.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	3
GEN&WS/ ENGL 248	Women in Ethnic American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 267	Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM 321	Asian American Feminist & Queer Cultural Productions	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 324	Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	3
GEN&WS 330	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/Ethnicity (Humanities)	3
GEN&WS 331	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/Ethnicity (Social Sciences)	3
GEN&WS/ CHICLA 332	Latinas: Self Identity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 333	Black Feminisms	3
GEN&WS/ CHICLA 334	Feminist Social Movements Across the Americas	3
GEN&WS/ COM ARTS 336	Race, Gender, and Technology	3
GEN&WS/ AMER IND 348	Queer Indigenous Studies	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 353	Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 354	Women and Gender in the U.S. Since 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	3
GEN&WS/ AMER IND/ ANTHRO/ FOLKLORE 437	American Indian Women	3
GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 450	Brazilian Women Writers	3
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 460	Carmen Miranda	3

GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 464	Asian American Women Writers	3
GEN&WS 524	Race, Gender, Health, and Medicine	3
GEN&WS 529	The Science and Politics of Reproductive Health	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER/ POLI SCI/SOC 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 624	African American Women's Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 677	Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women's Writings	3

Global

Explore aspects of gender in a comparative national frame. These classes may focus on the process of globalization or they may focus on gendered concerns in at least two national contexts.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 104	Gender, Sexuality, and Global Health	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Global)	3
GEN&WS/ CHICLA 334	Feminist Social Movements Across the Americas	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	3
GEN&WS 420	Women in Cross-Societal Perspective	3
GEN&WS 423	The Female Body in the World: Gender and Contemporary Body Politics in Cross Cultural Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ FOLKLORE 428	Gender and Expressive Culture	3
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective	3-4
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East	3
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS/ SCAND ST 438	Sexual Politics in Scandinavia	3
GEN&WS/ ANTHRO 443	Anthropology by Women	3
GEN&WS 525	Gender and Global Health in Critical Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3

Sexuality

Explore "sexuality" under the assumption that sexuality is not a natural or self-evident attribute or category, these courses

demonstrate how sexuality has come to assume a variety of culturally specific but often contested meanings.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS/SOC 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Studies	3-4
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Sexuality)	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Queer)	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (LGBTQ+)	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM 321	Asian American Feminist & Queer Cultural Productions	3
GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 342	Transgender Studies	3-4
GEN&WS 343	Queer Bodies	3
GEN&WS 344	Bi/Pan/Asexuality: Community & Representation	3
GEN&WS 345	Narrating Queer Lives	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 346	Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective	3-4
C&E SOC/GEN&WS/ SOC 347	Gender and Sexuality in Rural Places	3
GEN&WS/ AMER IND 348	Queer Indigenous Studies	3
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 351	Women and Gender in the Classical World	3-4
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS/ HIST SCI/ILS 355	Sex, Gender, & the History of Medicine	3
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 361	Sex and Power in Greece and Rome	3
GEN&WS 374	Disability, Gender and Sexuality	3
GEN&WS/ ART HIST 414	Contemporary Queer Art and Visual Culture	3
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS/ SCAND ST 438	Sexual Politics in Scandinavia	3
GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 519	Sexuality, Modernity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS 528	Sexuality and Science	3
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 532	The History of the (American) Body	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology (Sexuality)	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology (Queer)	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology (LGBTQ+)	3

GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	3
GEN&WS 536	Queering Sexuality Education	3
GEN&WS 538	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health	3

Disability & Embodiment

Examine the creation and evolution of different categories of embodiment and the experience of living through and as bodies. These courses focus on gender and disability, exploring disability as a social category, a medical realm, a political identity, an analytical approach, and a lived experience.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 105	Intersectional Approaches to Disability Studies	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Disability)	3
GEN&WS 343	Queer Bodies	3
GEN&WS 370	Topics in Gender and Disability	3
GEN&WS 374	Disability, Gender and Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 445	The Body in Theory	3
GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	3

CAPSTONE ⁴

Code	Title	Credits
Capstone course or Thesis Sequence:		3-6
GEN&WS 640	Capstone Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies	
GEN&WS 681 & GEN&WS 682	Senior Honors Thesis I and Senior Honors Thesis II	
GEN&WS 691 & GEN&WS 692	Senior Thesis I and Senior Thesis II	
Total Credits		3-6

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all GEN&WS and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in Residence ⁵
- 15 credits in GEN&WS, taken on the UW-Madison campus

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ A maximum of three courses designated as elementary level may apply in the major, overall. Directed study courses typically do not count toward the minimum credits required in the major.
- ² GEN&WS 101 and GEN&WS 102 cannot both count toward the coursework required in the Gender and Women's Studies major. Students must choose one of these courses.
- ³ A single course may apply to both an Approach and an Issue Area. However, a single course may not apply to more than one Approach or to more than one Issue Area.
- ⁴ Students interested in the doing research in Gender & Women's Studies will develop a thesis topic in consultation with a member of the faculty. The senior thesis course sequence (GEN&WS 691-GEN&WS 692 or GEN&WS 681-GEN&WS 682) serves

as the capstone requirement for the major. In this case, the student may still count GEN&WS 640 as an elective in the major.

⁵ Courses in GEN&WS with Intermediate or Advanced level designation are considered upper level in the major.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

To declare Honors in the Major in Gender and Women's Studies, students must submit a letter of application to the undergraduate advisor prior to enrollment in GEN&WS 681. The letter should include:

- A list of all planned and declared degrees, major and certificate programs
- Area(s) of research interest within gender and women's studies and ideas for an Senior Honors Thesis
- A letter from a faculty member agreeing to supervise the thesis project

HONORS IN THE GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Gender and Women's Studies, students must satisfy the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all GEN&WS courses
- Complete at least 2 GEN&WS courses totaling 6 or more credits for Honors and earn grades of B or higher
- Complete GEN&WS 681 and GEN&WS 682 for a total of 6 credits.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Knowledge of core concepts of gender and women's studies, including: gender, intersectionality, feminist theory, epistemology, class, race/ethnicity, global processes, sexuality, disability & embodiment, health and science, and contemporary and historical issues.
2. Intellectual and practical skills relating to gender and women's studies, including: problem solving, research and inquiry, interdisciplinarity, critical thinking, writing, oral communication, collaboration, creativity, and career skills.
3. Personal and social responsibility anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges. This category may include things like developing critical self and social awareness, applying ethical frameworks, learning through engaged practices.
4. Integrative learning demonstrated through the application of knowledge, skills and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems. This category may be acquired through advanced accomplishment and/or the application beyond the Gender & Women's Studies classroom to, for example, one's life, to activist project, and/or to non-Gender & Women's Studies academic coursework.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual's scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communication-A, complete during the first year	3 Ethnic Studies, complete in your first 60 credits	3
Quantitative Reasoning-A, complete during the first year	3 Language, if required	4
Language, if required	4 GEN&WS 103	3
GEN&WS 102	3 L&S Breadth	3
First Year Seminar (optional)	1 I/A Comp Sci, Math, or Statistics, if required for the BS	3
	14	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Quantitative Reasoning-B, consult with an advisor about options and when to complete this course	3 Communication-B, consult with an advisor about options and when to complete this course	3
GEN&WS Humanities Approach/Disability & Embodiment Issue Area	3 GEN&WS Social Science Approach	3
L&S Breadth	3 L&S Breadth	3
Electives	6 Electives	5
	INTER-LS 210	1
	15	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GEN&WS Feminist Theory Approach	3 GEN&WS Elective/Race & Ethnicity Issue Area	3
I/A Comp Sci, Math, or Statistics, if required for the BS	3 GEN&WS Bio/Health Approach	3
L&S Breadth	3 L&S Breadth	3
Electives	6 Electives	6
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GEN&WS Elective/Global Issue	3 GEN&WS 660 (optional)	3

Capstone Seminar	3 Electives	12
Electives	9	
	15	15

Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS

DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

Please follow the process described on the Gender and Women's Studies website. (<https://gws.wisc.edu/declaring-in-gws-lgbtq-studies/>)

ADVISING

Working with your advisor helps you create a meaningful course plan as you complete your degree, major and/or certificate requirements. The undergraduate advisor (<https://gws.wisc.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-advising/>) is available to consult on a variety of topics, including declaring the major and/or certificate, course selection and building a four-year plan, study abroad, volunteer and internship opportunities on campus and in the community, applying to graduate programs, and preparing for the job market after graduation.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Applied learning through professional experiences in Gender and Women's Studies provides an opportunity for students to connect academic knowledge with community-based practice. Recognizing the power and importance of experiential and community-based learning, the Department of Gender and Women's Studies proudly offers local and global internship opportunities. In the internship program, students work with organizations to apply their coursework in gender and women's studies to specific issues in the community. The accompanying seminar, Internship in Gender and Women's Studies (GEN&WS 660, 3 cr) offers a venue for students to engage deeply in feminist-based work and reflection while thinking critically about how to participate as feminists in activism and professional settings.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Department of Gender and Women's Studies is committed to helping our students articulate how skills and concepts learned in the classroom can be cultivated in professional settings. As reflected in our Learning Outcomes, (p.) students in Gender and Women's Studies develop important transferable skills in written and oral communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration, as well as critical self and social awareness. The department continues to expand career development opportunities for our students as we work with our alumni to offer workshops, panels, and networking opportunities. Contact the undergraduate advisor (<https://gws.wisc.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-advising/>) to learn more about career development opportunities in Gender & Women's Studies.

STUDY ABROAD

Learning in Letters & Science emphasizes discovery, growth, understanding different perspectives, and challenging yourself, which makes studying abroad an excellent fit for many L&S students: studyabroad.wisc.edu (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/>)

As a university with global influence, we have more than 300 study abroad programs (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs/>) in over 80 countries. These vary in length, academic focus, teaching format, language requirements, cost, and level of independence. There are many programs to complement every major (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics/major-advising-pages-maps/#L&S>) and any year of college (including the final semester)—and all meet UW–Madison’s high academic standards. Students admitted into Letters & Science can even choose a short program in the summer before they start college or their whole first year: studyabroad.wisc.edu/launch (<http://studyabroad.wisc.edu/launch/>). Talk with your academic advisor about how studying abroad might fit with your academic plan.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students