
WOMEN'S STUDIES

WOMEN'S STUDIES MS

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Women's Studies
109 Morris Hall • 507-389-2077

Chairperson: Maria Bevacqua, Ph.D.
Graduate Coordinator: Maria Bevacqua, Ph.D.

The Master of Science in Women's Studies is an internationally known program which attracts students from throughout the U.S. and abroad. Historically it has been based predominantly in the social sciences, with input from humanities and sciences. The graduate program combines interdisciplinary coursework, internships, and individual and cooperative research projects. This feminist program integrates theory and activism. Departmental faculty areas of interest include feminist theory, violence against women, gender and law, women's and girl's history, history of sexuality, LGBT/queer studies, social justice activism, sex work, public health, HIV policy, and feminist pedagogy.

A graduate degree in Women's Studies is beneficial to any work experience in which women are affected – in other words, all. Women's Studies graduates are currently employed as battered women's shelter personnel, directors of human service programs including displaced homemaker services and community action and advocacy services, family therapists, Women's Studies instructors, newspaper editors, freelance and radio journalists, community organizers, cultural workers, K-12 teachers and college administrators. Other students have used their Women's Studies degrees as a rich preparatory base for doctoral work and law school.

Admission. In addition to meeting the general admission requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, a background in Women's Studies coursework and/or experience in community-based women's programs or organizations is required.

Financial Assistance. All applicants are encouraged to seek university sources of financial assistance through application to Student Financial Services. See Sources of Financial Assistance at the front of the Bulletin. Graduate assistantships are also available in the Department of Women's Studies, the Women's Center, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Center, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Student Health Services, and other campus offices. Second-year students in the program, who meet requirements may qualify for teaching opportunities in Women's Studies.

WOMEN'S STUDIES MS
(Thesis Plan - 30 credits)
(Alternate Plan Paper - 34 credits)

Required Core

WOST 600 Collective Action/Analysis (3)
WOST 605 Foundations of Women's Studies (3)
WOST 610 Graduate Seminar (3)
WOST 620 Feminist Research (3)
WOST 630 Global Feminisms: Theory & Practice (3)
WOST 640 Feminist Theories (3)

Choose one of the following:

WOST 697 Internship: College Teaching (1-6; minimum: 3 credits)
WOST 698 Internship (1-6; minimum: 3 credits)

Women's Studies Electives

WOST 540 Feminist Pedagogy (3)
WOST 545 Women and Aging (3)
WOST 555 Women, Sex and Identity (3)
WOST 560 Selected Topics (1-4)
WOST 590 Workshop (1-4)
WOST 677 Individual Study (1-6) or
Any electives from the interdisciplinary program course inventory listed below

Required Thesis or Alternate Plan Paper

WOST 694 APP (1-2)
WOST 699 Thesis (3-6; minimum: 3 credits)

Additional Requirements: Students are required to take a 500 or 600 level seminar outside the department. Please consult with your advisor.

Comprehensive written examinations are required of all students. Students take examinations after relevant coursework has been completed and before writing their thesis or alternate plan paper. For further details, see Departmental Graduate Handbook.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM COURSES

ANTH 533 Anthropology of Gender (3)
ART 519 Gender in Art (3)
CSP 670 Issues in Counseling Women (3)
EDLD 653 Women in Leadership
ENG 612 Seminar: Women in Literature (3)
ETHN 570 Women of Color (3)
ETHN 580 Social Justice in Ethnicity and Gender (3)
HLTH 500 Women's Health (3)
HIST 531 Selected Topics: Women in European History (4)
HIST 587 U.S. Women's History (4)
POL 584 Women and Politics (3)
PSYC 560 Psychology of Women (3)
SOWK 520 Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOC 509 Family Violence (3)
SOC 585 Women, Crime, and Social Control (3)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The Women's Studies graduate certificate is available to those currently pursuing a graduate degree or who already have a graduate degree. The program is also intended for post-baccalaureate working professionals. Students seeking a graduate certificate must possess a bachelor's degree.

The Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies offers students learning opportunities in the following areas:

1. Theory that connects race, class, gender sexuality, and other identity categories.
2. Knowledge of the strategies and tactics the feminist movement has employed to create social change.
3. Communication skills, both oral and written.
4. Historical and philosophical dimensions of women's studies as a movement and a discipline.

The certificate program requires that students maintain a B average and complete the following 12 credits:

WOST 600 Collective Action and Analysis (3)
WOST 610 Graduate Seminar (3)
WOST 640 Feminist Theories (3)
One elective course - 3 credits

Requirements for Admission:

A bachelor's degree. Previous coursework in Women's Studies is preferred but not required.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WOST 540 (3) Feminist Pedagogy
We explore the key philosophical and methodological issues in feminist pedagogy with an emphasis on application of the material learned. In addition to readings, discussions, and lectures, students develop a teaching philosophy, design a course, write a syllabus, prepare a lesson plan, teach a session, design evaluations, and develop a curriculum vitae.

WOST 545 (3) Women and Aging
Exploration of the forces of ageism in women's lives with the goal of naming and deconstructing interacting systems of oppression. Focus on work, health, sexuality, relationships, creativity, and policy issues affecting women across the life cycle. Cross cultural emphasis.

WOST 555 (3) Women, Sex, and Identity
An exploration and overview of lesbian/bisexual/transgender identities. Possible topics include historical and cross-cultural perspectives; lesbian/bisexual/transgender identities in relation to class, race, age, ethnicity, and disability; lesbian feminism, images and stereotypes; legal status and lesbian/bisexual/transgender cultures.

WOST 560 (1-4) Selected Topics

Offered according to student demand and instructor availability/expertise, topics courses provide curriculum enrichment on an ongoing basis.

WOST 600 (3) Collective Action and Analysis

Emphasis is on analytical skills and group dynamics as well as subject content including collective action strategies.

WOST 605 (3) Foundations of Women's Studies

Overview and analysis of the theoretical, methodological, and activist foundations of Women's Studies as a discipline.

WOST 610 (3) Graduate Seminar

This seminar serves as a critique/work group for class members' thesis and publication goals. We examine the formation of critical consciousness.

Prerequisite: WOST 600

WOST 620 (3) Feminist Research

We explore theoretical and epistemological issues in feminist research, as well as developing the practical "nuts and bolts" skills needed to conduct our own research. Research skill workshops include Internet and web resources in research and constructing a research design. Class members organize and participate in a research conference.

WOST 630 (3) Global Feminisms: Theory & Practice

This course will address critical issues facing women in "developing" countries in the context of an increasingly globalized order. The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with global issues/global feminist theory.

WOST 640 (3) Feminist Theories

This course examines the development of theories and strategies used by various groups of women to create social change. Special focus on the major theories and issues of first, second, and third wave feminism.

WOST 677 (1-6) Individual Study

Concentrated study and research in areas of student's special interests/ expertise under supervision of a faculty member. Prerequisite: must be enrolled in the MS program in WOST and have permission of the instructor.

WOST 694 (1-2) Alternate Plan Paper

Preparation of an alternate plan paper under supervision of the student's graduate advisor.

Prerequisite: must be enrolled in the MS program in WOST.

WOST 697 (1-6) Internship (College Teaching)

Students assist a faculty member in teaching Women's Studies 110 or 220.

Prerequisite: must be enrolled in the MS program in WOST.

WOST 698 (1-6) Internship (Community)

Placement in a community or university-based internship provides the student with experience and practical skills in a particular field of work or service and/or provides an opportunity to pursue a specific research interest.

Prerequisite: must be enrolled in the MS program in WOST.

WOST 699 (3-6) Thesis

Preparation of a thesis under supervision of the student's graduate advisory committee.

Prerequisite: must be enrolled in the MS program in WOST.
