

WOMEN'S STUDIES MS

CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

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

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 girls' 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 the Office of Financial Aid. See Sources of Financial Assistance at the front of the Bulletin. Graduate assistantships are 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: Community (1-6; minimum: 3 credits)

Women's Studies Electives

WOST 540	Feminist Pedagogy (3)
WOST 555	Politics of Sexuality (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.

Electronic portfolios are required of all students. Students submit portfolios at the end of their second semester of coursework 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)
CORR 544	Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)
CSP 670	Issues in Counseling Women (3)
EDLD 653	Women in Leadership
ENG 612	Gender 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 508	History of Women in Pre-industrial Europe (4)
HIST 587	U.S. Women's History (4)
NPL 673	Nonprofit Management and Leadership (3)
PHIL 545	Feminist Philosophy (3)
POL 524	Women and Politics (3)
PSYC 560	Psychology of Women (3)
SOWK 520	Women's Issues in Social Work (3)
SOWK 527	Social Work & Domestic Violence (3)
SOC 509	Family Violence (3)
SPEE 503	Gender and Communication I (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. Previous course work in Women's Studies is preferred but not required.

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 9 credits of 600-level courses in Women's Studies plus one 3-credit elective course at the 500 or 600 level.

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 555 (3) Politics of Sexuality

This course explores the interconnections between sex, gender, and sexuality with special attention to how institutions and communities shape experience and identity.

WOST 560 (1-4) Selected Topics

Topics vary as announced in the class schedule.

WOST 590 (1-4) Workshop

Topics vary as announced in the class schedule.

WOST 600 (3) Collective Action and Analysis

This course examines historical, cultural, theoretical, and strategic aspects of struggle for social justice, with special attention to women's activism.

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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

Advanced topics in women's and gender studies.

WOST 620 (3) Feminist Research

We explore theoretical and epistemological issues in feminist research, as well as developing the practical skills needed to conduct our own research.

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 explores major theories of 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 WORST.

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