

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES M.S.

Degree: Master of Science

<https://www.towson.edu/cia/departments/womengender/grad/womengender/>

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The M.S. program in Women's and Gender Studies is a fully online program that can be completed in four semesters of study. Courses are offered through Zoom on weekday evenings. The program provides students with a solid academic foundation to pursue their unique goals. The program emphasizes applied research methods and skills, preparing students for careers in a variety of public and private organizations both national and international, for-profit and nonprofit. It also prepares students to enter doctoral programs or professional study in a variety of fields.

The master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies is set in the liberal arts tradition and explores intersectional feminist paradigms and scholarship. Intended as either a capstone interdisciplinary experience or one which bridges undergraduate learning and a doctoral program, the M.S. in Women's and Gender Studies captures a multi-faceted intellectual experience, including both theoretical and experiential content. Requiring 36 earned graduate units, the program requires a core component of eight required seminars (24 units) and two elective courses (6 units). The program also includes a Culminating Experience (6 units) with two options: a) a thesis, or b) an internship. The thesis option is recommended for students who intend to pursue a doctoral degree.

Accelerated Bachelor's-Master's Program

Students may also earn the M.S. in Women's and Gender Studies through the accelerated bachelor's to master's program in Women's and Gender Studies, which is designed to allow students to complete accelerated undergraduate and graduate degrees. This accelerated degree program allows qualified undergraduate Women's and Gender Studies majors to pursue an accelerated bachelor's and master's in Women's and Gender Studies.

Students enrolled in the accelerated bachelor's and master's program in Women's and Gender Studies may elect to follow one of two Culminating Experiences already in place: Thesis or Internship. The degree requirements are the same as those for the M.S. program in Women's and Gender Studies. Students in this program will take three 500- or 600- level courses during their final year of undergraduate study. These courses will count toward both the undergraduate and the M.S. degree. All M.S. students in this program, regardless of their plan, are expected to demonstrate a proficiency in research and meet the requirements of all learning outcomes listed for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Accelerated students must apply separately for admission to both the accelerated program and the M.S. program.

Advising

During the student's first term, the graduate program director acts as the student's adviser. During that time, the student's academic program is

discussed, developed and drafted. At the end of the first term, the student is transferred to a permanent adviser.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Application deadlines and a full listing of materials required for admission can be found on the website.

Degree Requirements

The M.S. in Women's and Gender Studies requires successful completion of 36 units with an average GPA of 3.00 or higher.

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
WMST 601	WOMEN AND GENDER IN THE WORKPLACE	3
WMST 603	THE DIVERSITY OF WOMEN	3
WMST 605	WOMEN IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT	3
WMST 607	ADVANCED FEMINIST THEORY	3
WMST 609	APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS AND SKILLS I	3
WMST 611	WOMEN, PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL CHANGE	3
WMST 613	WOMEN AND HEALTH	3
WMST 615	DISCOVERING LEADERSHIP	3
Additional Courses, One Offered Each Semester, Possible Courses Include:		6
WMST 585	MASCULINITIES IN PERSPECTIVE	
WMST 586	WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL PRACTICES	
WMST 588	GENDER AND RELIGION IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA	
WMST 670	SPECIAL TOPICS IN WOMENS STUDIES	
Culminating Experience Coursework¹		6
Students will choose one of the two options listed for a total of 6 units:		
1. Thesis Option		
WMST 897 or WMST 898	WOMEN'S STUDIES THESIS WOMEN'S STUDIES THESIS	
2. Internship Option		
WMST 796	INTERNSHIP	
Total Units		36

¹ Additional information regarding the WMST Culminating Experience is detailed in the Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Handbook.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students can understand and can evaluate/critique feminist arguments and theories as demonstrated in a term paper that is clearly and knowledgeably written.
2. Students can demonstrate ability to execute a research proposal that is clearly and knowledgeably written, incorporating a thesis statement, a literature review, operationalization of key concepts/variables, defense of selected method, and heuristic and potential research implication of the proposed research. Part of (these skills)

includes the effective use of online research portals to search through academic journals databases for relevant articles.

3. Students can demonstrate ability to identify and evaluate prevailing normative assumptions that underlie social practices and policies that hinder women's agency.