

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES M.S.

Degree: Master of Science

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

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The interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies provides students with a solid academic foundation to pursue their unique goals. As the only applied master's program in Women's and Gender Studies in Maryland and the only Women's and Gender Studies master's program in Baltimore, 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 in a variety of fields.

The master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies is set in the liberal arts tradition and explores 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 and offers three concentration options: 1) Women, Health and Sexuality, 2) Women in an International Context, and 3) Women, Leadership and Public Policy. The program includes a Culminating Experience with three options: a) a thesis, b) an internship or c) a two-course option with portfolio. The thesis option is recommended for students who intend to pursue a doctoral degree.

Please note that only one degree in Women's and Gender Studies can be awarded; students who complete more than one concentration in Women's and Gender Studies will not receive two different degrees.

Combined Bachelor and Master of Science in Women's and Gender Studies

Students may also earn the M.S. in Women's and Gender Studies through the combined bachelor's and master's program in Women's Studies (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/womens-gender-studies/combined-bachelor-master-womens-studies>), which is designed to allow students to complete combined undergraduate and graduate degrees. This program is designed for the three existing tracts in Women's Studies: Women, Leadership and Social Change; Women in International Context; and Women, Health and Sexuality. This combined degree program allows qualified undergraduate Women's Studies majors to pursue a combined bachelor's and master's in Women's Studies.

Students enrolled in the combined bachelor's and master's program in Women's Studies may elect to follow one of three Culminating Experiences already in place: Thesis, Internship or Two-Course Option. The degree requirements are the same as those for the M.S. program in Women's Studies with the following exception: the combined bachelor's and master's requires 3 fewer units of planned electives. 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.

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.

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university** (as certified by an official transcript) with a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.00, and 2.75 for conditional admission. GPA calculations for admission are based upon the last 60 units of undergraduate and post-baccalaureate study.
- Nine units earned at the baccalaureate level in Women's and Gender Studies and/or the Social Sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Economics or a social science-based interdisciplinary course). Three (3) of these nine (9) units must include one course in Women's and Gender Studies. Students with no prior course work in Women's and Gender Studies must enroll in either WMST 231, which is an introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, or WMST 337, a course on feminist theory. Given these two courses (WMST 231 and WMST 337) are undergraduate-level courses, students will not receive graduate credit for completion of this requirement. An applicant who has not taken an undergraduate course in Women's and Gender Studies but who has relevant applied experience including, but not limited to, work in a women's center, work for a women's organization, or work on a project focusing specifically on women's and gender issues, may be exempted from the requirement.
- A detailed essay of four to five, double-spaced pages emphasizing the applicant's specific plans for focused graduate study within the selected concentration, including discussions of 1) projected career goals, 2) prior academic and/or work experiences (volunteer or paid), and 3) how these relate to anticipated success in the intended program of study and projected career goals.
- Two letters of recommendation, including at least one from a college/university instructor from whom the applicant has learned from in a course setting, accompanied by a completed Graduate Program Recommendation Form.

Apply online (<http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply>) through Graduate Admissions.

Non-immigrant international students: See additional admission information in Graduate Admissions (<http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/international.html>)

See **Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (<http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/policies.html>)

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. Core Courses: 9 units; Concentration Course: 3 units; Concentration Elective: 3 units; Electives (WMST or Affiliated): 15 units; Culminating Experience: 6 units.

Required Courses

| Code | Title | Units |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| WMST 603 | THE DIVERSITY OF WOMEN | 3 |
| WMST 607 | ADVANCED FEMINIST THEORY | 3 |
| WMST 609 | APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS AND SKILLS I | 3 |

Women in an International Context Concentration

| Code | Title | Units |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| WMST 605 | WOMEN IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT | 3 |

Required Course

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| WMST 605 | WOMEN IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT | 3 |
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Concentration Elective

Select one of the following: 3

| | | |
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| ANTH 521 | ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER | |
| ANTH 568 | GLOBALIZATION IN CROSS-CULTURE PERSPECTIVE | |
| WMST 545 | WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH | |
| WMST 570 | TOPICS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES | |
| WMST 581 | THE EROTIC IMAGINATION IN CHRISTIANITY AND HINDUISM | |
| WMST 673 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN WOMENS STUDIES | |

General Electives for Women in an International Context Concentration

All graduate WMST courses count toward this concentration. In addition to WMST graduate courses, any of the affiliated courses below can be chosen to meet the required 15 units of electives for the Women in an International Context concentration: 15

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| ANTH 521 | ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER | |
| ANTH 553 | LATINAS IN THE AMERICAS | |
| ANTH 567 | PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST | |
| ANTH 568 | GLOBALIZATION IN CROSS-CULTURE PERSPECTIVE | |
| ANTH 569 | TRADITION AND REVOLUTION IN LATIN AMERICA | |
| HIST 506 | WOMEN IN 20TH-CENTURY U.S. HISTORY | |
| HIST 511 | HISTORY OF MODERN SOUTHEAST ASIA | |
| HIST 516 | WOMEN IN ANTIQUITY | |
| HIST 599 | MAKING OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST | |
| HIST 607 | LATIN AMERICA & THE UNITED STATES | |
| POSC 503 | THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS | |
| POSC 507 | CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS | |
| PRWR 619 | COMMUNICATION IN THE PROFIT/NONPROFIT SECTORS | |

Total Units 21

Women, Leadership and Public Policy Concentration

| Code | Title | Units |
|----------|--|-------|
| WMST 611 | WOMEN, PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL CHANGE | 3 |

Required Course

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| WMST 611 | WOMEN, PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL CHANGE | 3 |
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Concentration Elective

Select one of the following: 3

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| WMST 570 | TOPICS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES | |
| WMST 601 | WOMEN AND GENDER IN THE WORKPLACE | |
| WMST 604 | Women and NFP Leadership; Governance and Advocacy | |
| WMST 670 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN WOMENS STUDIES | |

WMST 673 SPECIAL TOPICS IN WOMENS STUDIES

General Electives for Women, Leadership and Public Policy Concentration

All graduate WMST courses count toward this concentration. In addition to WMST graduate courses, any of the affiliated courses below can be chosen to meet the required 15 units of electives for the Women, Leadership and Public Policy concentration: 15

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| HIST 506 | WOMEN IN 20TH-CENTURY U.S. HISTORY | |
| HIST 558 | WORKERS AND WORK IN THE UNITED STATES | |
| HLTH 645 | HEALTH CARE POLICY | |
| HRD 606 | ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR | |
| HRD 640 | LEADERSHIP THEORY AND PRACTICE | |
| HRD 644 | GROUP DYNAMICS AND TEAM BUILDING | |
| POSC 505 | URBAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS | |
| POSC 550 | INTEREST GROUPS AND PUBLIC POLICY | |
| POSC 581 | SEMINAR: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY | |
| PRWR 619 | COMMUNICATION IN THE PROFIT/NONPROFIT SECTORS | |
| PRWR 619 | COMMUNICATION IN THE PROFIT/NONPROFIT SECTORS | |
| SOCI 531 | DEVIANCE AND ORGANIZATIONS | |
| SOCI 551 | DEVIANT BEHAVIOR | |
| SOCI 557 | SOCIAL WELFARE | |

Total Units 21

Women, Health and Sexuality Concentration

| Code | Title | Units |
|----------|------------------|-------|
| WMST 613 | WOMEN AND HEALTH | 3 |

Required Course

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| WMST 613 | WOMEN AND HEALTH | 3 |
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Concentration Elective

Select one of the following: 3

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| WMST 538 | WOMEN AND SEXUALITY | |
| WMST 536 | WOMEN AND MEDICINE | |
| WMST 545 | WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH | |
| WMST 581 | THE EROTIC IMAGINATION IN CHRISTIANITY AND HINDUISM | |
| WMST 670 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN WOMENS STUDIES | |
| HLTH 633 | HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS | |
| HLTH 645 | HEALTH CARE POLICY | |

General Electives for the Women, Health and Sexuality Concentration

All graduate WMST courses count toward this concentration. In addition to WMST graduate courses, any of the affiliated courses below can be chosen to meet the required 15 units of electives for the Women, Health and Sexuality concentration: 15

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| HCMN 541 | LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN HEALTH ADMINISTRATION | |
| HIST 526 | GAYS AND LESBIANS IN U.S. HISTORY | |
| HLTH 615 | QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE PRINCIPLES | |
| HLTH 633 | HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS | |
| HLTH 645 | HEALTH CARE POLICY | |
| IDHP 705 | CULTURE AND HEALTH | |
| PHIL 561 | BIOMEDICAL ETHICS | |

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|-------------|---|----|
| PRWR 619 | COMMUNICATION IN THE PROFIT/NONPROFIT SECTORS | |
| PSYC 547 | SEX DIFFERENCES: PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES | |
| PSYC 557 | GENDER IDENTITY IN TRANSITION | |
| PSYC 610 | ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING | |
| SOCI 535 | MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY | |
| SOCI 551 | DEVIANT BEHAVIOR | |
| Total Units | | 21 |

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

Elective Course Information

Elective courses, whether carrying a WMST or other department designation, must form a coherent program, meet the student's learning needs and be selected in consultation with the student's adviser. An elective course selected but not included on the Elective Course lists for any concentration (either WMST or affiliated designation) shall be approved by the program director.

- Students should meet with their advisers to select a coherent set of concentration electives.
- Limit of three (3) 500-level courses may be applied to the master's degree.
Under special circumstances and in accordance with the Directed Readings/Independent Study Policies of the WMST Department, the student may select with appropriate approvals WMST 591 or WMST 695 as an elective.
- Field Experience WMST 620 may be selected as a general elective for any concentration.

Culminating Experience Courses (6)

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

Thesis Option

| Code | Title | Units |
|----------|--|-------|
| WMST 897 | WOMEN'S STUDIES THESIS (one-term) | 6 |
| WMST 898 | WOMEN'S STUDIES THESIS (two consecutive terms (3) each enrollment) | 3 |
| WMST 899 | THESIS CONTINUUM | 1 |

Internship Option (6)

| Code | Title | Units |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| WMST 796 | INTERNSHIP ((3) each enrollment) | 3 |

Two-Course Portfolio Option (6)

Two courses, both carrying a WMST designation, one of which must be at the 600-level, shall be selected in advance of course enrollment with the adviser's approval. Requirements include a portfolio and reflective essay.

- Students can understand and can evaluate/critique feminist arguments and theories as demonstrated in a term paper that is clearly and knowledgeably written.
- 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.