

Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
University of Massachusetts
208 Bartlett Hall
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003
(413) 545-1922
www.umass.edu/wost
womens-studies@wost.umass.edu

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS,
INFORMATION AND
APPLICATION
PROCEDURES**

Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies is an individually designed interdisciplinary major. The program uses an intersectional analysis which embeds gender within a complex web of interlocking social formations including gender, race/nationality/ethnicity, class and sexuality. Students have the option of focusing their course work around a particular theme. We encourage students to explore internships, independent studies, honors, and other educational opportunities in order to craft their own program to best suit their interests. Advising is central to the major; in addition to staff advisors each student has their own faculty sponsor.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. If you are interested in a Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies major, talk with one of the advisors in the office and/or a faculty member (208 Bartlett, 545-1922). In addition to the staff advisors, each major has a faculty sponsor to guide their academic program. Program staff or faculty assist students in choosing an appropriate sponsor.
2. Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies maintains an open admissions policy, but requires: a completed application form (attached) that outlines your intended course of study and is signed by your sponsor, and attendance at an orientation session.
3. Talk with an advisor in the office to choose a sponsor. Meet with the faculty member to discuss your program and have them sign your application. Leave a copy of the form with your sponsor for their future reference.
4. Get your paperwork in as early as possible. We suggest by **October 31st** in the fall and **April 1st** in the spring.
5. After your paperwork has been submitted to the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies office, you must process a University change of major form to make the change official on your record (SPIRE). After Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies has signed your forms, you must sign out of your old major and deliver the fully signed change of major form to the Registrar's Office in Whitmore. If you are given your academic folder from your old major, bring it to 208 Bartlett Hall. If you are double majoring, see the Chief Undergraduate Advisors of both programs.

WOMEN, GENDER, SEXUALITY STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

University Requirements: Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies majors must fulfill the University graduation requirements of 120 credits, complete the General Education requirements, including 45 credits in residence, and maintain a minimum overall grade point average of 2.0 as well as a 2.0 in the major.

College Requirements: Students must also fulfill College of Humanities and Fine Arts requirements, including a foreign language requirement. See one of the advisors for the most up to date version of the requirements or pick them up in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Dean's Office in E20 Machmer.

Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Requirements: Majors must take 36 Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies credits.

- Complete application (including signature of sponsor) and orientation process.
- Take 36 credits including these 5 required courses:*

WOMENSST 201

WOMENSST 301 or WOMENSST 394H (usually offered fall semester)

2 courses on Women of Color

1 course on Women of Color in the U.S. and

1 course on Women of Color outside the U.S. – this includes courses that take a diasporan or global approach

WOMENSST 391W

(The junior year writing requirement--WOMENSST 391W, (offered each fall)-

****WOMENSST 394H can fulfill the theory requirement or a Women of Color requirement, but not both.**

- Maintain a cumulative average of 2.0 in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies.
- Complete end-of-program report and submit it the office.

*In addition to the 5 required courses (usually totaling 15-17 credits), students need **20** additional credits to complete the major. If your major has a theme your theme should be clearly described in your application. If you change your focus later in the program, submit a new application spelling out the new focus. Courses must be above a 100-level to count towards the major, with the exception of WOMENSST 187. Component courses and skills courses must be documented.

The elective credits can be earned in any one of the following ways:

- Courses offered through Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University.
- Courses offered in other departments or at the other colleges listed as Departmental Courses in the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Course Offerings guide. (See exceptions below.)
- Courses listed as Component Courses in the guide count as Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies courses if at least 1/3-1/2 of the work for the course is on women, gender, or sexuality studies. If the paper topics offered are not adaptable

to one of these topics, the student is encouraged to meet with the faculty member to devise a paper topic that fits with their academic program. In the case of a component course, the student is responsible for documenting that the work done for the course is sufficient to grant Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies credit.

- **Independent Work:** Independent study, field work, and practicum credits may count towards the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies degree if related to the student's program. Practicum, field work, or independent studies can be taken under WOMENSST course numbers, or course numbers in another department. As in the case of component courses, the student is responsible for documenting how the work relates to her major. A limit of 15 credits of these types of courses can count toward the major. Honors thesis/project credits are NOT included in the 15 credit limit.

Skills Courses are courses the student must take to learn a specific skill or master a body of knowledge that is part of their course of study. Skills courses may be counted towards the major. For example, a student whose focus is women and labor relations can use a course on Labor Law from the Labor Center to fulfill credits towards her major regardless of whether the class focuses on women. There is a limit of 12 credits that can be earned in this fashion. Skills credit must be requested in writing on the application.

At the end of your program you must fill out an end-of-program (EOP) report form, have it signed by your sponsor, and submit to the office. The report includes a list of all courses counting towards the 36 credits, and feedback on your academic program overall. Contact the office for a copy. **You will not be cleared for graduation until the EOP form is in!**

To find out how to count other types of courses, or about course waivers, request a copy of "Waiver and Substitution Procedures for Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies."

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

1. Students are responsible for ongoing sponsor contact, meeting with the sponsor at least once a semester, preferably to plan the coming semester.
2. There is a maximum of 15 credits of independent work that can be applied to the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies major. All independent studies, internships, and other special projects are considered "independent work." Thus all credits earned under course numbers 296, 396, 496, 298, 398, and 498 are subject to this limitation. Credits earned over the 15 limit maximum can count towards graduation, but not towards the 36 credits needed for the major. In addition, **the University has a limit of 18 practicum credits from all departments (198, 298, 398, 498) that can be counted towards graduation.**

RECOMMENDATIONS AND HELPFUL HINTS

1. We encourage students to include field work and independent study as part of their course of study. A member of the staff is available for consultation about possible field work placements. Women's Studies graduates continually tell us field work was a very important experience both as a way to make connections between experience and the classroom and as a way to test possible career interests.

2. Honors options are available. See the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies honors coordinator for more information.
3. We suggest that students distribute their work evenly over four semesters with only three Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies courses per semester. Our experience has been that more than three of our courses in one semester may be difficult for students.

Student Involvement in the Program

The Program is always open to student suggestions. The Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Executive Committee, the decision making body for the program, includes 2 undergraduate student representatives as well as graduate student representatives, faculty, adjunct faculty and staff.

Revised 10/8/2009

NOTE: When turning in the application, retain these pages for your reference.

Change of Major

WOMEN, GENDER, SEXUALITY STUDIES
208 Bartlett Hall
University of Massachusetts
413-545-1922 www.umass.edu/wost

MAJOR APPLICATION

NAME _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

LOCAL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ DATE OF GRADUATION _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS _____

PERMANENT PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

STUDENT NUMBER (SPIRE#) _____

SPONSOR _____ SPONSOR'S DEPARTMENT _____

Are you double majoring? Y N If so, other major: _____

Please indicate your Primary major: _____

Minor: _____

Are you in honors? Y N

Check if applicable: Commonwealth Scholar Departmental Honors

We will welcome you in our newsletter. Please check this box if you do not want your name mentioned in the newsletter.

There are two ways to approach a major in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies: (1) a general approach, e.g. women in society; or (2) a specific focus, e.g. gender and health care, women and the law, feminist therapy, women's history, etc. In either case courses of study should be interdisciplinary. To apply for the major complete the application form or, if you prefer, write a proposal responding to the questions on the form.

- 1. Do you intend to focus your major in a particular area?
yes no (see below)

If yes, please describe your focus and course of study. Please be detailed in your description.

4. Please briefly describe campus or community projects you currently, or have been involved in or would like to do?

5. What, if any field work/internship do you plan as part of your work in the major?

6. Any other comments about your interests, work experience, future education or work plans, etc.?

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SPONSOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____