Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Requirements for the Major

The Bachelor of Arts in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality (WGS) Studies is an interdisciplinary program with faculty from a variety of academic units on campus. Students who major in WGS are employed in law, education, business, social services, health services, and government at all levels. WGS is also an excellent second major or minor for students majoring in a wide variety of disciplines, such as anthropology, English, history, nursing, political science, psychology, social work, and sociology. Students can also major in International Affairs with a concentration in Global Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Issues.

WGS majors will gain a more complete understanding of how the social construction of gender has influenced the roles, contributions, and experiences of all individuals. This understanding is coupled with a complex understanding of how gender and sexuality interact with race, social class, dis/ability, nationality, ethnicity, and other sites of social inequality.

The requirements listed on this page are specific to this particular major. Students are also responsible for meeting any graduation requirements set by their college. Students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) should make sure to review those requirements as stated on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences page of the catalog.

The major consists of 33 credits, with 15 credits in the core curriculum, 1-3 credits of internship, and 15-17 credits of electives chosen from a broad list of possible course options (of which at least 6 credits need to be at the 300- or 400-level).

The Major in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (33 credits)

**Required Courses (16-18 credits)**

- WGS 101 Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (offered every semester and in summer)
- WGS 103 Introduction to LGBTQ Studies (offered every semester)
- WGS 340 Transnational Feminisms
- WGS 395 Internship in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (1-3 credits)
- WGS 410 Feminist, Gender and Queer Theory (offered in fall)
- WGS 480* Senior Seminar in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Capstone; offered in spring)

*WGS majors who complete an Honors College thesis must take WGS 480 but do not have to complete the WGS capstone project.

**Electives (at least 5 courses, 15 credits)**

All are 3 credits; at least 6 credits must be taken at the 300- or 400-level.

- WGS 201 Topics in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- WGS 203 Men and Masculinities
- WGS 205 Introduction to Feminist and Critical Data Analysis
- WGS 230 Women, Health, and the Environment
WGS 250  Women and Music
WGS 270  Gender in Native American Cultures
WGS 301  Intermediate Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
WGS 303  SL: Social Movements, Media, & Change (Fall)
WGS 360  Gender and Cinema
WGS 371  American Border-crossing: Gendered Perspectives on Modern Migration
WGS 401  Advanced Topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
WGS 451  Women's Sexuality
WGS 498  Directed Studies in WGS
WGS 510  Advanced Studies in Feminist and Queer Theory
WGS 580  Feminist Pedagogy and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Practicum
ANT 245  Sex and Gender in Cross Cultural Perspective
CHF 351  Human Sexuality
CHF 451  Family Relationships
CHF 452  Violence in the Family
CLA 201  Women in the Ancient World
CLA 401  Amazons: Myth and Reality
ENG 246  American Women’s Literature
ENG 256  British Women’s Literature
ENG 471  Literature, Gender, and Gender Theory
HTY 332  Womanhood in America
HTY 494  Women, History and American Society: Selected Topics
MES 350  Maine Women
PAX 401  Women Activists: Warriors for Peace and Justice
POS 385  Women and Politics
PSY 465  Hormones, Brain and Behavior
PSY 491  Prejudice & Discrimination
SOC 329  Sociology of Gender
SWK 330  Contemporary Issues in Diversity and Pluralism

Additional Courses as Electives
A topics course or Directed Reading in another discipline may be approved as an elective if it contains sustained, systematic study and discussion of issues related to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Please note: This list is current but not exclusive, as course offerings change each semester. Please contact the WGS program at 581-3439 with questions.

Contact Information:
Laura Cowan, Director
207.581.1228
laura.cowan@maine.edu
404 Chadbourne Hall

Kelly Brown, Administrative Specialist
207.581.3439
umaine.wgs@maine.edu
422 Chadbourne Hall