

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES



## Why a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies?

The Women's Studies Graduate Certificate supplements professional training in a wide variety of fields. As a stand-alone credential, the certificate is designed for individuals working in fields related to advocacy for women (legal and social services professions), women's health care and well-being (battered women's shelters and women's clinics), and elementary, high school, and community college teachers. This option is designed for returning, non-traditional students.

## Why a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies at BGSU?

The Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies brings together scholars and graduate students across the University actively engaged in interdisciplinary feminist scholarship. The certificate offers an official acknowledgement of training and expertise in the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Students examine how sex and gender have been reflected in culture across time; how they shape institutions as well as personal experience; how they interact with issues such as race, ethnicity, sexuality, and socioeconomic class; and how new ways of thinking about gender challenge the processes by which knowledge about human beings and our behavior is acquired, interpreted, and transmitted.

## Learning outcomes

- Gain working knowledge of, articulate, and apply contemporary feminist theories.
- Gain working knowledge of and articulate the historical contexts of feminist theories.
- Integrate feminist theory into research and analysis in their area of study.
- Critically analyze intersections among gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, and social class.
- Understand how to employ feminist research methods appropriate in their area of study.
- Demonstrate competence in feminist and interdisciplinary writing.
- Demonstrate competence in oral presentation of feminist ideas and research.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Sarah Rainey-Smithback, Program Director and Graduate Coordinator  
Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, School of Cultural and Critical Studies  
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## Program strength and uniqueness

- The Women's Studies Certificate Program at BGSU is an interdisciplinary field offering a unified approach to the study of fundamental issues in sex and gender. Faculty from Education, Sociology, Popular Culture, English, Service Learning, Ethnic Studies and other fields offer courses approved for the certificate program.
- Students gain valuable knowledge about themselves and about the ways in which they can effect positive change through work in public service organizations, education, government, health care services, communication, media, and private industry.
- The certificate may be pursued as a major or minor area of concentration within established graduate degree programs at BGSU.
- Applications are accepted for Fall, Spring, and Summer terms.
- Hours earned for the certificate can count concurrently with other BGSU graduate programs.

## Professional opportunities

Students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies have the opportunity to present research at the annual WGSS Research and Art Symposium.



*"The balance of theory and praxis offered through the Women's Studies Certificate Program has been invaluable to me as a scholar, educator, and director. The program connects graduate students with truly exceptional faculty who are the leading scholars in their field, providing resources and opportunities for academic, political, and personal development. The mentoring I received has been instrumental in attaining my professional goals."*

— Manda Hicks, PhD '11  
Associate Professor and Director of Forensics,  
Department of Communication and Media,  
Boise State University

## Admission requirements

Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program at BGSU or hold a four-year undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution with a 3.0 GPA and have completed a graduate degree in any area.

Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted.

All applicants must submit:

- Two letters of recommendation from recent instructors, employers, or other individuals qualified to evaluate probable success in the program. (Students currently enrolled in another BGSU graduate program may use their letters of recommendation already on file - when listing your recommenders, use this same email address [wgss@bgsu.edu](mailto:wgss@bgsu.edu) with each of your previous recommender names. The letters on file will then be uploaded for you.)
- A personal statement of intent delineating the purpose for enrolling in the program and outlining career goals (no more than 3 pages).

## Cost of tuition

Please refer to [www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar) for current information on tuition and fees.

## How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at [www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions).

Applications will be accepted until four weeks prior to the start of the term. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis as soon as all supporting materials have been received.

## Curriculum

A total of 16 hours of approved course work is required.

Required Theory Course:

WS 6200: Contemporary Feminist Theory (3 hours)

Students who do not have substantial undergraduate or graduate course work in Women's Studies or Feminist Studies should take WS 6100: Foundations of Feminist Theory before taking WS 6200.

Elective Seminars (12 hours required)

Students take four 3-credit elective WS seminars or other related courses focusing on women's studies, gender, and/or sexuality, approved by the WS Graduate Coordinator.

Examples of seminar topics:

- TV Comedy and Gender
- Gender, Sexuality, & Sport
- Female Body & Film Theory
- Gender and Communication
- Relational Communication
- Humanistic Research Methods
- Romance Novels
- Race and Gender in Cuba and the Caribbean
- Gender and the Trauma of Modernity
- Topics in English Studies: Queer Before Stonewall
- Performance Theory and Practice: Using Theatrical Tools for Social Change
- Equity and Justice in U.S. Higher Education

Capstone Project

WS 7860: Independent Study in Women's Studies – Capstone (1 hour)

This project is completed toward the end of the certificate. It involves working one-on-one with a faculty advisor.