

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, BA

Women's and Gender Studies is a discipline that critically examines gender and women's issues from an interdisciplinary perspective and challenges many traditional assumptions and theories. It examines the practice and expression of gender in different societies and at different historical moments.

Regardless of your gender, Women's and Gender Studies is crucial and relevant for anyone interested in working in criminal justice, social work, the non-profit sector, the arts, politics, business, and more. Students learn to look at the world and history through different perspectives and think about how gender and our perceptions of it impact culture, society, and daily interactions. It is a traditional liberal arts discipline where the knowledge and skills developed in the program can be applied to all types of career paths. Work experiences during college through internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer positions often shape career paths after graduation.

Students in Women's and Gender Studies master critical thinking, problem analysis, and communication through both classroom studies and service learning opportunities.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
	General Education Requirements	30
	L&S Requirements (general degree and major requirements)	75
	Electives	15
	Total Credits	120

Credit numbers reflect total possible credits towards degree. Due to the ability to count courses towards more than one requirement, credit amounts will vary. Please work with your academic advisor on your plan of study.

Preparatory Coursework

Based on individual placement results, some students may be required to complete preparatory coursework before enrolling in the courses listed here. This may include English language or composition preparation, developmental math, introductory chemistry, and/or student support courses for students participating in the First Year Bridge program.

General Education Requirements (GER)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's or associate degree. They include at minimum 30 credits (10 courses) in six categories that are designed to assure basic student competencies and provide a broad body of knowledge as a context for specialization.

Some degree requirements may fulfill GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Categories and Credits		
	Civics and Perspectives (CP)	6
	Communication and Literacy (CL)	6
	Humanities and Arts (HA)	6

Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (MQR)	3
Natural Science and Wellness (NSW/NSWL)	6
Social and Behavioral Science (SBS)	3
Total Credits	30

Letters and Science Course of Study – Bachelor of Arts Degree

Complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 or above) courses.

The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. The College also requires that students complete at least 30 credits overall in residence at UWM. For additional residency and transfer credit limitations, see L&S Undergraduate Policies and Regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/#policiesandregulationstext>).

Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) and the specific L&S requirements listed below.

To complete a major, students must satisfy all the requirements of the major as stated in this catalog. Students who declare their majors within five years of entering the UW System as a degree candidate may satisfy the requirements outlined in any catalog issued since the time they entered. Credits used to satisfy the major also may be used to satisfy other degree requirements.

College of Letters & Science Requirements

The degree requirements in the College of Letters and Science build on the University General Education Requirements to provide a broad base of knowledge as well as an array of skills cited by employers as critical to professional success: critical thinking, problem solving, oral and written communication, ability to work well with others, and adaptability to change.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), students must complete the UWM General Education Requirements as well as these L&S requirements: the International requirement, the Breadth requirement, a Natural Science Lab requirement, the Research requirement, and a Language other than English requirement. The International requirement develops student potential for cross-cultural understanding in a globalizing world. The Breadth requirement ensures that students take classes in a wide variety of subjects, across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Research requirement calls for students to build critical thinking and oral and written communication skills through conducting an independent research project in their major. The Language other than English requirement further develops student proficiency in a language other than English. And, the requirement that students take an L&S Natural Science lab ensures exposure to and practice with the scientific method in action.

I. Total Credits and Upper-Division Courses Requirement

Students must complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of those 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 and above) courses.

II. Language other than English Requirement

Students doing the B.A. must fulfill a language other than English requirement by either successfully completing the fourth semester of university work or equivalent in one language other than English, or by successfully completing the second semester of university work or equivalent in two languages other than English (including all languages other than English and American Sign Language).

Language courses (including American Sign Language) other than English taken in high school may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. One year of high school language equates to one semester of college work. Proficiency tests approved by the Languages faculty may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement.

III. International Requirement

To meet the International Requirement, students must successfully complete some two-course (minimum 6 credits) combination of:

1. Courses with L&S approved international content (see Courses Approved for the L&S International Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options).
2. Any study abroad course(s).

Students who graduate secondary school in a country other than the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.

IV. Breadth Requirement

In addition to completing the University General Education Requirements, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement to obtain deeper experience across our three substantive divisions.

The L&S Breadth requirement calls for 9 credits each in L&S courses designated L&S Humanities, L&S Natural Sciences, and L&S Social Sciences breadth. One of the L&S Natural Science breadth courses must include a laboratory or fieldwork experience.

Please refer to the list of Courses Approved for the L&S Breadth Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>).

V. The Major

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. Individual departments or programs may require higher GPAs for graduation. Some departmental majors require courses from other departments. Students should contact their major department for information on whether those credits will count as part of the major GPA. The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major.

Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research requirement in each major can be found here (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VI. The Minor

Students are encouraged to consider completing a minor, but it is not required. To complete a minor, the College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all

minor credits attempted, including any transfer work. The minor must contain at least 9 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) courses taken at UWM.

Women's and Gender Studies Major Requirements

The Women's and Gender Studies major requires 30 credits drawn from Women's and Gender Studies and cross-listed classes. The WGS major requires that 18 credits be taken in WGS courses. Completion of WGS 411 or WGS 500 satisfies the L&S research requirement.

At least 15 credits in the major must be taken upper-division courses in residence at UWM. Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 in UWM major courses attempted. In addition, the College requires that students attain a 2.0 GPA in all major courses attempted, including any transfer work.

Majors should consult regularly with their advisor in Women's and Gender Studies about their course of study.

The major requires completion of the following:

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
<i>Foundation - choose one of the following:</i>		3
WGS 200	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: Civics and Perspectives (GER CP)	
WGS 201	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: Humanities and Arts (GER HA)	
<i>Theory - choose one of the following:</i>		3
WGS 301	Queer Theory	
WGS 410	Feminist Theory	
<i>Global - choose one of the following:</i>		3
WGS 311	Global Anti-Gender Movements	
WGS 401	Global Feminisms	
<i>Research - choose one of the following:</i>		3
WGS 411	Feminist Research and Practice	
WGS 500	Advanced Research Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies:	
<i>WGS electives</i>		6
Select 6 additional credits in WGS courses.		
<i>WGS and other approved electives</i>		12
Take 12 additional credits in WGS or other approved courses; see below for approved electives.		
Total Credits		30

¹ Students may not receive credit for both WGS 200 and WGS 201. Only one of these courses can be taken for credit.

Electives

Students must take 18 credits of approved elective courses to reach a total of 30 credits. Of these, 6 credits must be in WGS subject area courses; 12 credits may be taken in WGS courses or from approved electives offered by other programs and departments. See the list of approved courses below and contact the WGS advisor with questions.

Numerous courses in a wide variety of disciplines have been approved as electives for the WGS major. For information about whether a special topics course in another program might be approved as an elective for WGS, please contact Women's and Gender Studies.

Code	Title	Credits
WGS 199	Independent Study	1-3
WGS 211	Foundations of Women's and Gender Studies Scholarship	3
WGS 297	Study Abroad:	1-12
WGS 301	Queer Theory	3
WGS 302	Gendered Bodies:	3
WGS 303	Feminist Activism and Movements:	3
WGS 380	Honors Seminar in the Social Sciences:	3
WGS 381	Honors Seminar in the Humanities:	3
WGS 410	Feminist Theory	3
WGS 411	Feminist Research and Practice	3
WGS 489	Internship in Women's and Gender Studies	1-3
WGS 497	Study Abroad:	1-12
WGS 500	Advanced Research Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies:	3
WGS 699	Independent Reading	1-3
AFRIC 344	Global Black Social Movements	3
AFRIC 414	The Black Woman in America, Africa, and the Caribbean	3
AFRIC 418	Race, Class, and Gender in Latin America and the Caribbean	3
BIO SCI 206	Biology of Women (GER NSW)	3
BUS ADM 441	Diversity in Organizations	3
COMMUN 401	Communication in Marital and Family Relationships	3
COMMUN 402	Gender and Communication	3
CRM JST 385	Women and Criminal Justice	3
CRM JST 416	Intimate Partner Violence	3
ECON 248	Economics of Discrimination (GER CP)	3
ENGLISH 243	Introduction to Literature by Women: (GER HA)	3
ENGLISH/FILMSTD 295	Women and Film	3
ENGLISH/FILMSTD 395	Feminist Media Criticism and Theory:	3
ENGLISH 465	Women Writers:	3
ENGLISH 628	Seminar in Literature by Women:	3
ENGLISH 690	Seminar in Contemporary Cinema and Media: (Topic: "Women Directors")	3
ETHNIC 255	Migration and Gender: Starbucks, Sex Trafficking, and Nannies (GER CP)	3
ETHNIC/LGBT 275	Queer Migrations (GER CP)	3
ETHNIC 325	Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in Milwaukee:	3
FILMSTD 669	Screening Sexuality:	3
GEOG 410	Gendered Geographies	3
HIST 141	Global History of the Family, Gender, and Sexuality	3
HIST 241	Women and Gender in Europe: 1350 to 1750 (GER HA)	3

HIST 242	Women and Gender in Europe: 1750 to the Present (GER HA)	3
HIST 271	The 1960s in the United States: A Cultural History (GER HA)	3
HIST 373	Topics in Gender and History:	3
HIST 468	The American Feminist Movement	3
JAMS 111	Gender and the Media (GER CP)	3
JEWISH 332	Women in the Bible	3
LGBT 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (GER HA)	3
LGBT 290	Topics in LGBT Studies:	3
LGBT 599	Selected Topics in LGBT Studies:	3
LINGUIS 212	Language and Gender	3
NURS 204	Global Maternal and Child Health: From Evidence to Action	3
NURS 620	Global Food Security and Systems	3
PHILOS 235	Philosophical Aspects of Feminism	3
POL SCI 110	Sex and Power (GER NSW)	3
POL SCI 425	Women in Politics	3
POL SCI 464	Sex, Gender, and the Law	3
PSYCH 319	LGBTIQ Psychology	3
PSYCH 320	Psychology of Gender	3
SOCIOL 250	Sex and Gender (GER CP)	3
SOCIOL 255	Sociology of Sexuality (GER CP)	3
SOCIOL 260	Blood, Sex, Money, Power: Families and Intimate Relationships (GER CP)	3
SOCIOL 344	The Work-Family Intersection	3
SOCIOL 444	Sociology of the Body	3
SOC WRK 630	Families and Poverty	3

Women's and Gender Studies BA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Women's & Gender Studies, BA program will be able to:

- Summarize and synthesize knowledge about feminist, women's, and gender issues in local, national, historical, contemporary, and global contexts.
- Explain and critically assess diverse perspectives in queer and feminist theories.
- Apply an intersectional lens to analyze systems of oppression while learning about marginalized perspectives and the insights that can be drawn from them.
- Investigate and identify problems related to gender and women's studies using various modes of research, using primary and secondary sources.
- Accurately explain the issues relating to gender and sexuality globally; distinguish between various global feminisms in non-Western contexts in both historical and contemporary contexts.
- Develop the skill and capacity for community engagement and advocacy in the advancement of social justice at home and abroad by linking theory to practice.

Letters & Science Advising

During your time at UWM, you may have multiple members of your success team, including advisors, peer mentors and success coaches. Letters & Science students typically work with at least two different types of advisors as they pursue their degrees: professional college advisors and faculty advisors. L&S college advisors advise across your entire degree program while departmental faculty advisors focus on the major.

College advisors are located in Holton Hall (or virtually for online students) and serve as your primary advisor. They are your point person for your questions about navigating college and completing your degree. College advisors will:

- Assist you in defining your academic and life goals.
- Help you create an educational plan that is consistent with those goals.
- Assist you in understanding curriculum, major and degree requirements for graduation, as well as university policies and procedures.
- Provide you with information about campus and community resources and refer you to those resources as appropriate.
- Monitor your progress toward graduation and completion of requirements.

Faculty advisors mentor students in the major and assist them in maximizing their development in the program. You will begin working with a faculty advisor when you declare your major. Faculty advisors are an important partner and will:

- Help you understand major requirements and course offerings in the department.
- Explain opportunities for internships and undergraduate research and guide you in obtaining those experiences.
- Serve as an excellent resource as you consider potential graduate programs and career paths in your field.

Students are encouraged to meet with both their college advisor and faculty advisor at least once each semester. Appointments are available in-person, by phone or by video.

Currently enrolled students should use the Navigate360 website (<https://uwm.navigate.eab.com/>) to make an appointment with your assigned advisor or call (414) 229-4654 if you do not currently have an assigned Letters & Science advisor. Prospective students who haven't enrolled in classes yet should call (414) 229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu.

Honors in the Major

Women's and Gender Studies majors who have maintained at least a 3.000 GPA overall, 3.500 GPA in all courses attempted for the major, and a 3.500 GPA in advanced-level (numbered 300 and above) courses that count toward the major are eligible to graduate with honors in the major.

College of Letters and Science Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.