Women's and Gender Studies

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (M.A.L.S.) is an interdisciplinary degree that provides the opportunity for graduate students to undertake studies in the liberal arts within a structured program, but without an exclusive concentration in one discipline. Studies in this program generally focus on issues in the liberal arts disciplines of fine arts, social sciences, or humanities.

Financial Aid is Available

Women’s & Gender Studies-directed M.A.L.S. students are eligible to apply for graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs) in Women’s & Gender Studies. The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies has five GTA positions available each year. GTAs work with the lead instructor and teach two sections of the course or assist with other courses. Students can apply for GTA positions each winter, usually in early February. Salaries include tuition waivers for the academic year and subsequent summer. GTAs must be enrolled as full-time students (at least nine hours).

For further information about GTA positions, please contact the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies. Students may be eligible for GTA positions in the Academic Advising Center and should contact that center directly for more information.

The M.A.L.S. program has a small number of meritorious student tuition waiver hours available each semester. Check with the WVU Financial Aid Office for information on grants, loans, and other scholarships: http://financialaid.wvu.edu/.

Faculty

Director
- Ann M. Oberhauser - Ph.D. (Clark University)
  Professor of Geography

Associate Professor
- Jennifer Kasi Jackson - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)

Senior Lecturer
- Brian Jara - Ph.D. ABD (Pennsylvania State University)

Specific Requirements for the Women’s & Gender Studies-directed M.A.L.S. degree

- Students must take twenty-seven hours of courses from the list of courses approved by the Women’s & Gender Studies Curriculum Committee in addition to nine hours from outside this list of approved courses. These nine hours of outside work may include the required research course. The distribution of these thirty-six hours will be determined by the student in consultation with the student’s advisor and graduate committee members, with approval from the M.A.L.S. committee.

- The Women’s and Gender Studies program is committed to developing information literacy skills in all our students. Therefore, students must demonstrate knowledge of relevant print and electronic information resources, the ability to analyze and evaluate print and electronic information sources, and the ability to apply this knowledge to projects and presentations in this program.

- In addition to their focus-area work, students must take the Women’s & Gender Studies capstone course, offered each spring semester. The topic and instructor for this course will vary, but the course will help students refine their information literacy skills and learn to apply their research skills to an action project. Students will also be encouraged to look at women’s studies issues from an international perspective.

- Students may take no more than six hours of independent study or field experience as part of their thirty-six hours of work (or a combination of independent study and field experience not to exceed nine hours), as approved by the chair of the student’s graduate committee. These six hours may be part of the nine hours that the students takes outside the twenty-seven hours of Women’s Studies-approved courses. Any of the Women’s & Gender Studies faculty associates may conduct an independent study or research course with a student using the Women’s Studies generic numbers or the generic numbers in their own departments. Students may also use the generic thesis and research numbers in Women’s & Gender Studies or in the home department of their thesis advisor.

- Students will complete a final project whose format and scope will depend on the student’s focus area and desired goals for the degree. For example, Women’s & Gender Studies-directed M.A.L.S. students have developed a feminist website and conducted an AIDS-education program with at-risk girls. Students will earn three credit hours for this final project. These three hours will count as part of the twenty-seven hours within the Women’s & Gender Studies-approved list of courses.
**Graduate Certificate in Women’s & Gender Studies**

Any student admitted to a graduate degree program at West Virginia University may earn a Graduate Certificate in Women’s & Gender Studies. The graduate certificate will consist of fifteen hours of graduate-level work in women’s & gender studies, using courses approved by the Women’s & Gender Studies Curriculum Committee as primary or component courses for the program. This certificate offers students interdisciplinary perspectives on gender and its intersection with race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. Our curriculum provides dynamic courses in theory and methods that help students understand the complex social, cultural, economic, political, and historical dimensions of men’s and women’s lives.

A Women’s & Gender Studies-Directed Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (M.A.L.S.) is also available. Students are advised to design an individual program that may focus on an area of concentration such as Feminist Thought or Women’s Health and Sexuality.

**Course Requirements (fifteen hours):**

Choose one of the following:

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<tr>
<td>WGST 484</td>
<td>Seminar: Capstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 530</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
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Choose one of the following:

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<tr>
<td>WGST 491</td>
<td>Professional Field Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 595</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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<td>WGST 795</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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No more than two 400-level courses

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<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
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*In lieu of an exam at the end of the graduate certificate program, students may also make a presentation in the seminar course at the end of the semester in which they take that course.

**Total Hours**: 15

* No more than 2 classes at the 400 level can count toward this certificate.

To enroll in the Graduate Certificate in Women’s & Gender Studies, contact either the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies at their location, 325 Willey Street, or by phone at (304) 293-2339 or contact Dr. Ann Oberhauser, the Director of the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies, by phone at (304) 293-2063 or via e-mail at ann.oberhauser@mail.wvu.edu for an appointment to discuss your program.

Check in at least once a semester with the center to update your progress toward completion of the certificate.