

Women's and Gender Studies, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

The Center for Women's and Gender Studies offers a bachelor of arts degree in women's and gender studies, as well as minors in women's and gender studies and LGBTQ+ studies. Many students in women's and gender studies double major in other fields such as biology, psychology, communication studies, sociology, English, history, and other fields in the social sciences, humanities, and physical sciences.

Nature of the Program

The Center for Women's and Gender Studies at WVU advances interdisciplinary research and innovative teaching to inspire new generations of gender and sexuality scholars and leaders. The mission of WGST is to examine the complex interplay of power and difference across multiple intersecting categories--including gender, race, sexuality, class, age, ability, and nationality. Students in this program develop tools for addressing social inequities in everyday life. As an interdisciplinary field, WGST embraces humanities, arts, social science, and STEM fields. WGST students are challenged to investigate the meanings of categorization and difference on local and global levels.

Career Opportunities

Business, public administration, non-profit, health care, communications, law, teaching, social work, counseling, creative arts, government, and journalism are all fields in which a major or minor in women's and gender studies may be a valuable professional credential. A background in this field is helpful to both women and men entering professions that have traditionally been restricted to one sex. These areas of study are especially useful for employment in fields such as family law, international development, child and family counseling, domestic violence, social services, and education.

Academic Opportunities in Women's and Gender Studies

Women's and Gender Studies courses are offered in a variety of academic disciplines throughout the University. Many of these courses fulfill General Education Curriculum requirements. In addition to the Women's & Gender Studies courses listed in this catalog, many other courses are offered through other departments. Updated lists of these courses are available from the Center for Women's & Gender Studies each semester.

FACULTY

DIRECTOR

- Sharon Bird - Ph.D. (Washington State University)
Sociological studies of equity in higher education and work organizations

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

- Kelly Watson - Ph.D. (Bowling Green State University)
History of gender, sex, and sexuality; colonialism; indigenous studies

PROFESSORS

- Lupe Davidson - Ph.D. (Duquesne University)
Woodburn Professor of Women's and Gender Studies
- Kasi Jackson - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Cynthia Gorman - Ph.D. (Rutgers University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Gloria Negrete-Lopez - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)

Admissions for 2025-2026

- First-Time Freshmen are admitted directly into the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major must have a 2.0 GPA.
- Students transferring from another institution must have a 2.0 GPA.

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. 4)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, College B.A. requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours. For complete details on these requirements, visit the B.A. Degrees tab on the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#bachelorofartstext>) pages.

Departmental Requirements

- **Capstone Requirement:** The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course: WGST 484.
- **Writing and Communication Skills Requirement:** The Women's and Gender Studies Bachelor of Arts is a **SpeakWrite Certified Program™**. SpeakWrite Certified programs incorporate and develop students' written, verbal, visual, and mediated communication skills across the curriculum.
- **Calculation of Major GPA:** A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in all courses applied to major requirements with a minimum grade C- in WGST 170, WGST 200, WGST 330, WGST 360, and WGST 484. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Secondary Concentration:** Students must complete a minor outside of Women's & Gender Studies or a second major.
- **Credit Limitations:** Students may not count more than three hours of WGST 490 and six hours of any combination of WGST 490, WGST 491 or WGST 495 toward their major requirements.
- **Benchmark Expectations:** For details, go to the Women and Gender Studies admissions tab (p. 1).

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	66
	ECAS B.A. Requirements	6
	Women's and Gender Studies Major Requirements	48
	Total Hours	120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5		21
WGST 191	First-Year Seminar	1
General Electives		44
Total Hours		66

ECAS Bachelor of Arts Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Fine Arts Requirement		3
Global Studies and Diversity Requirement		3
Total Hours		6

Women's and Gender Studies Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
CORE COURSES:		12
WGST 170	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	
WGST 200	Feminist Histories and Practices	
WGST 330	Feminist Theory	
WGST 360	Queer Theories	
ELECTIVES:*		18
Select a minimum of 6 WGST credits; at least 9 credits must be at the 300 or 400 level.		
WGST 150	Women in Movies	
WGST 215	African Women Writers	
WGST 220	Medieval Women Mystics	
WGST 225	Women in Appalachia	
WGST 242	Women's Health and Fitness	
WGST 250	Women in Science	
WGST 260	Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies	
WGST 340	Gender and Violence	
WGST 345	Women in International Development	
WGST 448	Sexuality in American Culture	
WGST 449	Women's Movements Since 1960	
WGST 450	Sex and Science at the Movies	
WGST 460	Men and Masculinities	
ACE 471	Gender and Sport	
ANTH 358	Anthropology of Health and Illness	
ARHS 348	Women in Art	
BIOL 122	Human Sexuality	
COMM 212	Gender Communication	
DISB 380	Disability and the Family	
DISB 385	Disability and Society	
ENGL 156	Literature of Native America	
ENGL 180	Literature of Love, Sex, and Gender	
ENGL 252	Appalachian Fiction	
ENGL 254	African American Literature	
ENGL 255	Multiethnic Literature	
ENGL 285	Images of Women in Literature	
ENGL 288	Gender and Sexuality in Literature and Film	
ENGL 385	American Women Writers	

ENGL 386	British Women Writers	
ENGL 387	Topics in Women's Literature	
ENGL 388	Topics in Gay/Lesbian Studies	
FLIT 316	Arab Women Writers	
GEOG 412	Geography of Gender	
GERO 212	Introduction to Gerontology	
GERO 412	Public Policy of Aging	
GERO 418	Aging, Women and Culture	
HIST 207	Revolutionary Europe	
HIST 346	Women, Gender, and Kinship in Premodern Europe	
HIST 445	History of American Women	
PHIL 130	Current Moral Problems	
PHIL 314	Philosophy of Sex and Gender	
PHIL 331	Health Care Ethics	
POLS 317	Interest Groups and Democracy	
POLS 324	Sexuality, Law, and Politics	
POLS 337	Gender/Politics and Policy	
PSYC 232	Sex Roles and Behavior	
SOC 221	Families and Society	
SOC 235	Race and Ethnic Relations	
SOC 360	Sociology of Gender	
SOC 405	Class, Status, and Power	
ULIB 301	Gender and the Research Process	
Minor Requirement		15
Students must complete a minor (or a second major)		
Capstone Experience		3
WGST 484	Seminar:Capstone	
Total Hours		48

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Students may petition to have other courses count as electives. For more information, email the faculty advising point of contact (as indicated in the catalog under the Faculty tab).

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
WGST 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
WGST 170 (ECAS Global Studies & Diversity Requirement; GEF 7)		3 WGST 200	3
GEF 2		3 GEF 2	3
GEF 3		3 GEF 4	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		2	
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (GEF 6)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
WGST Elective 1		3 WGST Elective 2	3
GEF 5		3 Minor Requirement 1 *	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
WGST 330		3 WGST 360	3
WGST Elective 3		3 WGST Elective 4 (Upper Division)	3
Minor Requirement 2		3 Minor Requirement 3	3
General Elective		3 Minor Requirement 4	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
WGST 484		3 WGST Elective 6 (Upper Division)	3
WGST Elective 5 (Upper Division)		3 Minor Requirement 5	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

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Completion of the minor also fulfills F 8.

Degree Progress

- By the end of the second semester in the major, students should have completed WGST 170 with a minimum grade of C-.
- Students should review their progress in the major each semester with their WGST adviser.
- Students should maintain a GPA of 2.0 in courses that will count toward the major by their Junior year, with minimum grade of C- in WGST 330 and WGST 360.

Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

Major Learning Outcomes

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Upon successful completion of the B.A. degree, **Women's and Gender Studies** majors will demonstrate competency in the field as expressed in the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate understanding of key concepts of the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies, including how gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, ability, and legal status shape experiences of individuals and interlocking systems of power from local to global scales.
2. Use critical thinking skills and interdisciplinary feminist, gender, or queer approaches to research, revising and presenting knowledge.
3. Employ interdisciplinary feminist, gender or queer methodologies to problem solving evidenced through multiple modalities of communication.
4. Apply feminist, gender, or queer theory, methods, and praxis to scholarship, activism, or public engagement in the classroom, social institutions, the community, or the workplace.