

M.A. in  
**WOMEN'S and  
GENDER STUDIES**



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**

# WOMEN'S, GENDER, and SEXUALITY STUDIES

Founded in 1972, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) at USF ranks among the oldest women's studies programs in the United States. A rare freestanding department with its own full-time graduate faculty, we were the first Women's Studies degree-granting program in Florida.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Today, our interdisciplinary graduate faculty are nationally recognized award-winning teachers and scholars, and 100% of our courses, scholarship, and department programming emphasize gender, sexuality, race, class, and/or ability. Faculty expertise includes social movements, gender and health, media studies, science studies, sex trafficking, victimization, motherhood studies, disability studies, intersex and transgender studies, queer and trans of color critique, and transnational feminisms. We also boast over 80 affiliate faculty members representing more than 25 departments and colleges across USF.

We are also small enough for students to work closely with our professors, who are committed to mentoring students toward their goals. Graduate classes typically have fewer than 15 students, and only 5-7 new graduate students are admitted each year.

Most MA students in WGSS are teaching assistants for our popular introductory courses. WGSS teaching assistantships include an 80% tuition waiver, a competitive stipend, health insurance, and in-state tuition rates. All TAs develop their teaching skills through intensive faculty mentoring and coursework.



# YOUR FUTURE



- The University of South Florida (USF) is a high-impact research university dedicated to student success and committed to community engagement. It generates an annual economic impact of more than \$6 billion.
- USF has campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee. USF serves approximately 50,000 students who represent nearly 150 different countries.
- For four consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report has ranked USF as one of the nation's top 50 public universities, including USF's highest ranking ever in 2023 (No. 42).
- In 2023, USF became the first public university in Florida in nearly 40 years to be invited to join the Association of American Universities, a prestigious group of the leading universities in the United States and Canada.

## WGS GRADUATE DEGREE IN PRACTICE

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies offers graduate students and working professionals the opportunity to study issues related to gender, race, sexuality, disability, intersectionality, transnationalism, postcolonialism, and social justice.

Students will also learn how to employ feminist and queer research methods to explore their research interests. The certificate experience enhances any education and professional background, including educational, social, or health services.

# WHY PURSUE AN M.A. IN WGS?



Students learn fundamental skills in critical thinking, writing, communication, teamwork, and leadership as they individually and collaboratively work to understand how history, culture, and power shape diverse people's lives.

The M.A. is designed to serve the needs of a variety of students. This program prepares students both for continued academic study and for positions outside the academy, especially in social justice and public-service organizations. Graduates are prepared for Ph.D. and counseling programs, law schools, and public and private sector careers.

# OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- M.A. degree in Women's and Gender Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies



“The WGSS master’s program at USF was a terrific experience for me as it provided me with the tools to produce my own feminist research and the skills to teach at the university level. The faculty and staff of WGSS have supported and trusted me on my journey to becoming a better academic and scholar and for that, I am forever grateful.”

*Beth Gaines,  
Graduated Fall 2022*

“Pursuing the M.A. in Women’s and Gender Studies has helped me develop important skills such as critically examining social justice issues and articulating strong, chaotic emotions into organized concepts and ideas. Through the program I learned to better take care of my mind, body, and spirit as well as others and to re-imagine the world with like-minded people. Also, it has enabled me to move one step forward toward my career goals, with the opportunity to apply the concepts and perspectives into practice.”

*Juyeon Shin, Graduated Spring 2023*





# REQUIREMENTS & RESEARCH AREAS

## M.A. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 36 CREDIT HOURS

The M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies has three tracks. Each requires successfully completing the following:

- **30 HOURS + THESIS**

The thesis option is recommended for students who intend to pursue a doctoral degree.

- **30 HOURS + INTERNSHIP**

The internship option is recommended for those interested in applied fieldwork.

- **36 HOURS + PORTFOLIO**

Students for whom the WGS MA may be a terminal degree may wish to complete the program based on 36 hours of coursework plus a writing portfolio.

## REQUIRED and ELECTIVE COURSES:

- WST 5934 Selected Topics
- WST 5940 Internship in Women's Studies
- WST 6001 Feminist Research and Methodology
- WST 6003 Feminist Scholarship and Pedagogy
- WST 6005 Women and Policy
- WST 6107 Transnational Feminisms
- WST 6333 Politics of Motherhood
- WST 6338 Advanced Feminist Theories of Media and Popular Culture
- WST 6560 Advanced Feminist Theory
- WST 6562 Body Politics
- WST 6900 Directed Readings
- WST 6910 Directed Research
- WST 6936 Selected Topics in Women's Studies
- WST 6971 Thesis

# PROGRAM CURRICULUM

## WGS MA COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### THREE REQUIRED CORE WST COURSES – 9 credit hours:

- WST 6001 Feminist Issues and Research Methods
- WST 6003 Scholarship and Pedagogy in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- WST 6560 Advanced Feminist Theory

FOR DETAILS, VISIT:  
[USF.EDU/ WGSS-GRADUATE](https://www.usf.edu/wgss-graduate)

The MA in Women's and Gender Studies requires the successful completion of 36 credit hours with at least 15 hours at the 6000 level. The 36 hours are divided as follows:

### SEVEN ELECTIVE COURSES – 21 credit hours *(approved by the graduate director or the student's major professor) to be selected from among:*

- Graduate-level courses offered by the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Approved graduate-level courses covering women and/or gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, dis/ability that are offered by affiliates in other departments
- Up to one graduate-level course (3 credit hours) in the student's focused area of interest offered by another department
- Up to 6 credit hours of WST 6900 Directed Readings or WST 6910 Directed Research if the student can secure sponsoring WGSS graduate faculty members

### MA "OPTION" HOURS – 6 credit hours *(under the guidance of the student's major professor):*

- Electives/Portfolio Option: 6 credit hours of additional approved elective graduate coursework offered in WGSS or another approved unit plus successful completion of a portfolio
- Internship Option: a minimum of 6 credit hours of WST 5940 Internship, an approved internship experience, typically completed over two semesters
- Thesis Option: a minimum of 6 credit hours of WST 6971 Thesis research and writing, typically completed over two semesters



# START HERE

## Application REQUIREMENTS

An applicant must have **one** of the following (a, b, or c) and:

- A personal narrative statement of purpose
- Official transcripts
- A writing sample (*appropriate examples include a term paper or research paper*)
- GRE recommended
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume or Curriculum Vita (CV)

**a**

Appropriate bachelor's degree (e.g. WGSS or a related discipline) satisfying at least one of the following criteria

- "B" average (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) or better in all work attempted while registered as an undergraduate student working toward a baccalaureate degree, or
- "B" average (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) or better in all work attempted while registered as a graduate student working for a graduate degree.

**b**

Appropriate bachelor's degree (e.g. WGSS or a related discipline) with a "B" average or better and a previous graduate degree with a "B" average or better. In cases where an applicant has a bachelor's and a graduate degree at the time of admission, the credentials and GPA of the graduate degree will be the determining factor for admission.

**c**

The equivalent bachelors and/or graduate degrees from a foreign institution. Bachelor's degrees from institutions in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) are considered equivalent based on the Bologna Accord. For applicants with a 3-year Bachelor's Degree with less than 120 hours, from Non-Bologna Accord Institutions, a transcript evaluation from a NACES member is required to confirm equivalency.

*\*Students who lack an appropriate background in the selected concentration may be required to take additional courses to meet concentration minimums.*

## DEADLINES

Masters

**February 15**

Admission for Fall Semester

**October 15**

Admission for Spring Semester

## For International STUDENTS

Applicants from countries where English is not the official language, and who have not earned at least a bachelor's degree in the U.S., must also demonstrate proficiency in the English language.

IELTS - 6.5, PTE-A - 53, TOEFL (iBT - 79; PBT - 550), GRE Verbal - 153, or Duolingo - 105.



# BULL CITY



## CAREERS IN WGSS AND BEYOND

Our graduate students have gone on to complete PhDs in a variety of fields, including Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Communications; Psychology; Counseling; English; History; Media Studies; Cultural Studies; Ethnic Studies; and Sociology; and have become successful scholars and teachers in their own right. WGSS graduate students have also found careers in law; health sciences; counseling; student services; diversity, equity, and inclusion; advertising; non-profit activism; the arts; business; and many other fields.

## ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH WGSS

WGSS is proud to be aligned with Iota, Iota, Iota, the National Women's Studies Honor Society; the Trans Student Union; Interfaith Students for Reproductive Justice; and Planned Parenthood Generation Action.

## MORE INFORMATION

About admissions, please contact:

**Jennifer Ellerman-Queen**  
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