Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Gender Studies

The gender studies PhD program is part of the nation's first School of Social Transformation. The diverse community of scholars takes an innovative approach to the study of social justice by uniting multiple academic disciplines to strategically create social change that is democratic, inclusive and just.

The inclusive gender studies doctoral program empowers tomorrow's community leaders and shapers by immersing them in:

- ASU's on-campus Digital Humanities research lab
- creative and critical knowledge production
- deep fluency in feminist theory and practical applications
- publicly engaged academic research
- socially embedded community partnerships

The connections between social locations, community and lived experience are the foundation of the research, teaching and community engagement. Faculty and students explore these intersections from a holistic perspective that goes beyond the classroom.

At a Glance

- College/School: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required Core (12 credit hours)
WST 601 Critical Concepts of Gender (3)
WST 602 Mapping the Intersections of Gender (3)
WST 603 Engendering Methodology (3)
WST 701 Research Design and Proposal Development in Gender Studies (3)

Elective Coursework in Methodology (6 credit hours)

Elective Coursework in Specialization (12 credit hours)

General Electives (30 credit hours)

Research and Dissertation (24 credit hours)

Additional Curriculum Information
When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this degree. If students do not have a previously awarded master's degree, the 30 hours of coursework will be made up of electives to reach the required 84 credit hours.

Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives.

The gender studies doctoral program is designed to provide students with the transdisciplinary training in theory and methods needed to conduct original research and scholarship about gender.

Students also take two research methods courses relevant to their dissertation, plus additional courses chosen from three areas of specialization: gender, justice and social change; health, science and technology; and visual and narrative culture.

Students must maintain a 3.50 average GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in their courses.

Gender, Justice and Social Change --- Courses in this area explore the gender dimension of social structures, institutions and organizations; the processes of social change and community development; and the ways policies and laws can change gender relations. Faculty have expertise in:

- child welfare
- domestic violence
- gender and the biophysical environment
• globalization
• immigration
• labor and employment
• social policy
• sustainability
• transnational feminisms
• women's rights and gender equality in the developing world

Health, Science and Technology --- Courses in this area explore the impact of gender on:

• health care
• health occupations
• science and technology

Faculty have expertise in:

• bioethics
• gender and technology
• health and sexuality
• HIV and AIDS prevention
• the participation of women in math and science in the developing world
• women's roles as healers and caregivers

Visual and Narrative Culture --- Courses in this area explore historical and contemporary representations of gender in all genres, including:

• art
• literature
• popular culture
• scientific, medical, historical and legal discourse
• theater

The faculty focus especially on the intersections of gender representations with representations of race, sexuality and class, and the ways in which representations produce rather than simply mimic gender inequality and polarized identities.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
The gender studies program welcomes applications from qualified students without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex or national origin. Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official copies of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts
3. resume or curriculum vitae
4. statement of purpose
5. three letters of reference, preferably from faculty or other researchers
6. writing sample (10-15 pages)
7. proof of English language proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Students should see the ASU Graduate Admission Services website for mailing addresses and further admission information.

For additional financial information, students should consult the Financial Aid website at https://students.asu.edu/financial-aid.

Global Opportunities
PLuS Alliance
Global Experience
Global Degree

Career Opportunities

Contact Information
School of Social Transformation | WILSN 125
SSTgraduate@asu.edu | 480-965-7682