Women and Gender Studies, MA

Receive transdisciplinary training with a focus on social justice that goes beyond academic research. This program gives you access to a large faculty and a broad network of scholars working to address current issues.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Women and Gender Studies

The MA program in women and gender studies is designed for students who wish to gain research skills and knowledge about gender analysis and to apply those tools to real-world problems and solutions. Graduates may seek careers in a broad range of settings, from schools and hospitals to city governments, nonprofits and large corporations. The program is not a good fit for those who seek to become professors.

This flexible, 30-credit hour master's degree program provides advanced training in feminist research, theory and methodologies. All students can take an internship and all must complete an applied project in which students conduct research that addresses practical, site-specific problems linked to gender. Final projects may take a variety of forms, including program assessments, grant proposals, tests of new interventions or curricula, and so on. These projects may help lead students to careers in human services, program evaluation, policy development and other fields.

Full-time students can complete the degree program within two years while part-time students take longer but can combine work with study.

At a Glance
• College/School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
• Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or
30 credit hours including the required applied project course (WST 593)

Required Core (6 credit hours)
WST 501 Foundations of Feminist Thought (3)
WST 502 Interdisciplinary Gender Research Methodologies (3)

Electives (18 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
WST 593 Applied Project (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students must successfully provide an oral defense of the applied project.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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. Students may be admitted with a BA or BS in any field as long as they have completed two courses in women and gender studies or have equivalent experience. Appropriate majors may include women, gender and sexuality studies; history; English; sociology; religious studies; social work; psychology; communication or ethnic studies. Students who have previously majored in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics field and have interests in gender and education or gender and science may also apply for this program.

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 transcripts from all college and universities where the applicant earned a bachelor's or master's degree
3. personal statement
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. writing sample
6. two or three letters of recommendation
7. relevant coursework
8. proof of English proficiency

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

The personal statement should be approximately 1,000 words and describe any prior research experience and training, professional goals and research interests, and the fit between interests and the program's emphases. The statement should be uploaded.

The writing sample should be seven to 10 pages. This can include a research brief or report, a white paper, a policy paper or a paper for a recent academic course. The writing sample should reflect the applicant's writing ability and critical-thinking skills.

The letters of recommendation should be from a recommender who can speak to the applicant's strengths and weaknesses for graduate study; critical-thinking, writing, speaking and presentation skills; intellectual ability; leadership potential; interpersonal skills and ability to work with others; or other relevant accomplishments that best highlight the applicant's ability to complete a graduate degree in women and gender studies.

The list of relevant coursework should include at least two courses, undergraduate or graduate, the applicant has taken that focus on gender or women. In addition, the applicant should list any research methods or social justice courses.

GRE scores are not required for admission.

Further details about application requirements and application deadlines are available on the School of Social Transformation's webpage.

Global Opportunities
PLuS Alliance
Global Experience
Global Degree

Career Opportunities
Contact Information

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