Women and Gender Studies

The Department of Women and Gender Studies offers a Master of Arts degree. Students study how bodies, families, communities, institutions, and nations are constructed in specific cultural and historical locations and investigate connections to their own lives, roles, and contributions.

The expertise of the department lies in intersectional, and transnational studies of inequality, preparing students to engage critically with analytical categories such as gender race, sexuality, nation, class, labor, and embodiment. Courses consider global structures of power and histories of racism in relation to local, regional, national and transnational feminist practices. The department provides analysis and debate of activist scholarship by feminists who confront and transform various institutions and arenas, including education, politics, law, science, media and arts, sexuality, nonprofit groups, global nongovernmental organizations, communities, labor struggles and cultural productions.

The program is interdisciplinary, enabling students to combine core and elective courses in Women and Gender Studies with electives in other departments and programs across the campus. The department also supports graduate student teaching and research positions, as well as community internships. Students complete their Master's degree with a culminating experience (an exam or thesis, creative or community project) working closely with an advisor.

Admission to Program

In order to be admitted to the program, students must meet all general University requirements. They must also complete an academic program (major, minor, or 9-12 undergraduate WGS or equivalent units) in Women and Gender Studies at an accredited institution prior to matriculation. International students must have TOEFLS / IELTS and should consult with the WGS graduate coordinator regarding equivalent or transferable units. WGS does not require the GRE.

The most competitive candidates for admission to the Women and Gender Studies MA program will have a WGS major or minor, or a minimum of 9-12 undergraduate WGS or equivalent units with previous work in the feminist study of some or all of the following areas: race, gender, sexuality, colonialism, labor, and disability. Students are expected to possess a GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 60 semester units attempted for the bachelor’s degree.

Further information about application requirements and deadlines can be found at https://wgsdept.sfsu.edu/graduate-admissions

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CAREER OPTIONS

Students with an M.A. in Women and Gender Studies pursue a range of professions, educational paths, and community activism. Students gain advanced critical thinking, writing, and analytic skills which each individual applies to their areas of focus and topics of interest.

Ph.D. Preparation The M.A. in Women and Gender Studies provides a base of knowledge for students wishing to pursue doctoral work on women, gender and feminism in the humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary fields such as Cultural Studies, American Studies, Global Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Professional Expertise The program also provides an important area of expertise for future graduate work in professional degree programs such as Education, Social Work, Law, Public Administration and Public Health. With an M.A. in WGS plus a professional degree, our graduates enter these professions as advocates as well as experts.

On the Job and in the Community The M.A. prepares students to become leaders in their communities and in a range of organizations and businesses in the public and private sector, particularly those addressing issues concerning gender, race, citizenship, equity and justice.

- ADVOCACY
- ACTIVISM
- COUNSELING
- COMMUNITY WORK
- CONSULTANCY
- EDITING
- HEALTH CARE
- NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ADMINISTRATION
- PUBLIC POLICY
- PUBLISHING
- POLITICAL ORGANIZING
- RESEARCH
- SOCIAL WORK
- TEACHING
- WRITING

All students can apply via CalState Apply
https://www2.calstate.edu/apply
Determine university and program deadlines at
http://grad.sfsu.edu/program-deadline-domestic
Graduate Studies
(415) 338-2234; E-mail: gradstdy@sfsu.edu