

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR • Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.
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L&S Breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW–Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2,000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Majors in Gender and Women's Studies are required to take foundational work in GEN&WS courses reflecting each of four approaches to knowledge (humanities, social science, theory, and biological or health sciences), one course from three of four issue areas (sexuality, disability and embodiment, race/ethnicity, and global), and a capstone seminar or thesis.

All majors complete a minimum of 30 credits in GEN&WS including:¹

INTRODUCTORY GEN&WS

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 101	Gender, Women, and Cultural Representation ²	3
or GEN&WS 102	Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective	
GEN&WS 103	Gender, Women, Bodies, and Health	3
Total Credits		6

APPROACHES³

1 course from each area:

Biology and Health

Explore health as both a physiological and a socio#cultural experience, and recognize ways in which gender and other axes of social inequality influence health. Develop critical tools to place the medical field, scientific research, and public health and policy organizations into social contexts, and recognize how these institutions both can reflect and perpetuate dominant ideologies.

Learn about feminist approaches to, and histories of, science, medicine, and health activism.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 104	Gender, Sexuality, and Global Health	3
GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	3
GEN&WS 524	Race, Gender, Health, and Medicine	3
GEN&WS 525	Gender and Global Health in Critical Perspective	3
GEN&WS 527	The Environment of the Womb: Epigenetics and Parent/Child Health	3
GEN&WS 528	Sexuality and Science	3
GEN&WS 529	The Science and Politics of Reproductive Health	3
GEN&WS 530	Biology and Gender	3
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 531	Women and Health in American History	3
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 532	The History of the (American) Body	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology	3
GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	3
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3
GEN&WS 536	Queering Sexuality Education	3
GEN&WS/ HIST SCI 537	Childbirth in the United States	3
GEN&WS 538	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health	3
GEN&WS 539	Special Topics in Gender and Health	3

Humanities

Engage with humanities-based theories, content areas, and methodologies as they relate to gender and women's studies. These include, but are not limited to, critical text analysis, discourse analysis, historical approaches and archival work, media studies, ethnography, and digital humanities. (GEN&WS courses with H, L or Z designations)

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 105	Intersectional Approaches to Disability Studies	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 134	Women and Gender in World History	3-4
GEN&WS/SOC 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Studies	3-4
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS 205	Women in Russian Literature in Translation	3-4
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	3
GEN&WS 240	Feminist Approach to Research and Writing	3

GEN&WS/ ENGL 248	Women in Ethnic American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS 270	German Women Writers in Translation	3
FRENCH/ GEN&WS 285	Rebellious Women from the Global South	3-4
GEN&WS/ RELIG ST 305	Women, Gender and Religion	3
GEN&WS 310		1-3
GEN&WS 319	Study Abroad Special Topic: Gender, Women and the Humanities	3-4
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM 321	Asian American Feminist & Queer Cultural Productions	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 324	Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	3
GEN&WS 330	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/ Ethnicity (Humanities)	3
GEN&WS/ CHICLA 332	Latinas: Self Identity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 342	Transgender Studies	3-4
GEN&WS 343	Queer Bodies	3
GEN&WS 344	Bi/Pan/Asexuality: Community & Representation	3
GEN&WS 345	Narrating Queer Lives	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 346	Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective	3-4
GEN&WS/ ENGL 350	Special Topics in Gender & Literature	3
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 351	Women and Gender in the Classical World	3-4
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 353	Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ ENGL 359	Visionary and Speculative Fiction: Social Justice Approaches	3
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 361	Sex and Power in Greece and Rome	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	3
GEN&WS 370	Topics in Gender and Disability	3
GEN&WS 374	Disability, Gender and Sexuality	3
GEN&WS/ENGL 401	Race, Sex, and Texts (How to do things with writing)	3
GEN&WS 410	Special Topics in Gender and Visual Culture	3
GEN&WS 412	Contemporary Queer Art and Visual Culture	3
GEN&WS/ THEATRE 415	Introduction to Contemporary Feminist Theatre and Criticism	3
GEN&WS/ COM ARTS 418	Gender, Sexuality, and the Media	3
GEN&WS/ FOLKLORE 428	Gender and Expressive Culture	3

GEN&WS/ AMER IND/ ANTHRO/ FOLKLORE 437	American Indian Women	3	GEN&WS 329	Study Abroad Special Topic: Gender, Women in Society	3-4
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS/ SCAND ST 438	Sexual Politics in Scandinavia	3	GEN&WS 331	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/ Ethnicity (Social Sciences)	3
GEN&WS 441	Contemporary Feminist Theories	3	GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 333	Black Feminisms	3
GEN&WS 444	From Past Feminisms to Postfeminism: Feminisms for the 21st Century	3	GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 445	The Body in Theory	3	GEN&WS 344	Bi/Pan/Asexuality: Community & Representation	3
GEN&WS 449	Special Topics in Feminist Theory	3	C&E SOC/GEN&WS/ SOC 347	Gender and Sexuality in Rural Places	3
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 450	Brazilian Women Writers	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 353	Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 460	Carmen Miranda	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 354	Women and Gender in the U.S. Since 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 392	Women and Gender in Modern Europe	3-4
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 464	Asian American Women Writers	3	GEN&WS/ COM ARTS 418	Gender, Sexuality, and the Media	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 519	Sexuality, Modernity and Social Change	3	GEN&WS 420	Women in Cross-Societal Perspective	3
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 532	The History of the (American) Body	3	GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST 422	Women and the Law	3
GEN&WS 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3	GEN&WS 423	The Female Body in the World: Gender and Contemporary Body Politics in Cross Cultural Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ PHILOS 556	Topics in Feminism and Philosophy	3	GEN&WS/ LEGAL ST/SOC 425	Crime, Gender and Justice	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 624	African American Women's Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)	3	GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective	3-4
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	3	GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 677	Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women's Writings	3	GEN&WS 441	Contemporary Feminist Theories	3

Social Science

Engage with social-science-based theories, content areas, and methodologies as they relate to gender and women's studies.

These include, but are not limited to, scientific and clinical research, statistical analysis, mixed-methods approaches, and theories of social change. (GEN&WS courses with S or Z designations)

Code	Title	Credits	Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 104	Gender, Sexuality, and Global Health	3	GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 134	Women and Gender in World History	3-4	GEN&WS 449	Special Topics in Feminist Theory	3
GEN&WS/SOC 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Studies	3-4	GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 469	Women and Politics	3-4
GEN&WS 240	Feminist Approach to Research and Writing	3	GEN&WS 472	Food for Thought: An Intersectional Approach	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society	1-3	GEN&WS/ GEOG 504	Feminist Geography: Theoretical Approaches	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3	GEN&WS/ PSYCH 522	Psychology of Women and Gender	3
			GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	3
			GEN&WS 524	Race, Gender, Health, and Medicine	3
			GEN&WS 525	Gender and Global Health in Critical Perspective	3
			GEN&WS 527	The Environment of the Womb: Epigenetics and Parent/Child Health	3
			GEN&WS 528	Sexuality and Science	3

GEN&WS 529	The Science and Politics of Reproductive Health	3	GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	3
GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	3	GEN&WS 330	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/Ethnicity (Humanities)	3
GEN&WS 536	Queering Sexuality Education	3	GEN&WS 331	Topics in Gender/Class/Race/Ethnicity (Social Sciences)	3
GEN&WS/ HIST SCI 537	Childbirth in the United States	3	GEN&WS/ CHICLA 332	Latinas: Self Identity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS 538	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health	3	GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 333	Black Feminisms	3
GEN&WS 539	Special Topics in Gender and Health	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 353	Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870	3-4
GEN&WS 546	Feminist Theories and Masculinities	3	GEN&WS/ HISTORY 354	Women and Gender in the U.S. Since 1870	3-4
GEN&WS/ PHILOS 556	Topics in Feminism and Philosophy	3	GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	3
GEN&WS/ ED POL 560	Gender and Education	3	GEN&WS/ AMER IND/ ANTHRO/ FOLKLORE 437	American Indian Women	3

Feminist Theory

Explore feminist theoretical approaches, both national and international.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 333	Black Feminisms	3
GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality (Theory)	3
GEN&WS 441	Contemporary Feminist Theories	3
GEN&WS 444	From Past Feminisms to Postfeminism: Feminisms for the 21st Century	3
GEN&WS 445	The Body in Theory	3
GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS 449	Special Topics in Feminist Theory	3
GEN&WS 546	Feminist Theories and Masculinities	3
GEN&WS 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3

ISSUE AREAS ³

Race/Ethnicity

Explore the role of race/ethnicity as a tool of creating, identifying, materializing, and solidifying human difference. These courses may explore the construction and deployment of race/ethnicity anywhere in the world.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	3
GEN&WS/ ENGL 248	Women in Ethnic American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 267	Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM 321	Asian American Feminist & Queer Cultural Productions	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 324	Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present	3

GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 450	Brazilian Women Writers	3
GEN&WS/ PORTUG 460	Carmen Miranda	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 464	Asian American Women Writers	3
GEN&WS 524	Race, Gender, Health, and Medicine	3
GEN&WS 529	The Science and Politics of Reproductive Health	3
GEN&WS 547	Theorizing Intersectionality	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 624	African American Women's Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 677	Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women's Writings	3

Global

Explore aspects of gender in a comparative national frame. These classes may focus on the process of globalization or they may focus on gendered concerns in at least two national contexts.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 104	Gender, Sexuality, and Global Health	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Global)	3
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	3
GEN&WS 420	Women in Cross-Societal Perspective	3

GEN&WS 423	The Female Body in the World: Gender and Contemporary Body Politics in Cross Cultural Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ FOLKLORE 428	Gender and Expressive Culture	3
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective	3-4
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East	3
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS/ SCAND ST 438	Sexual Politics in Scandinavia	3
GEN&WS/ ANTHRO 443	Anthropology by Women	3
GEN&WS 525	Gender and Global Health in Critical Perspective	3
GEN&WS/ INTL ST 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3

Sexuality

Explore "sexuality" under the assumption that sexuality is not a natural or self-evident attribute or category, these courses demonstrate how sexuality has come to assume a variety of culturally specific but often contested meanings.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS/SOC 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Studies	3-4
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Sexuality)	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Queer)	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (LGBTQ+)	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM 321	Asian American Feminist & Queer Cultural Productions	3
GEN&WS 340	Topics in LGBTQ Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 342	Transgender Studies	3-4
GEN&WS 343	Queer Bodies	3
GEN&WS 344	Bi/Pan/Asexuality: Community & Representation	3
GEN&WS 345	Narrating Queer Lives	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 346	Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective	3-4
C&E SOC/GEN&WS/ SOC 347	Gender and Sexuality in Rural Places	3
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 351	Women and Gender in the Classical World	3-4
GEN&WS/ CLASSICS 361	Sex and Power in Greece and Rome	3
GEN&WS 374	Disability, Gender and Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 412	Contemporary Queer Art and Visual Culture	3
GEN&WS/ LITTRANS/ SCAND ST 438	Sexual Politics in Scandinavia	3

GEN&WS 446	Queer of Color Critique	3
GEN&WS/ ASIAN AM/ ENGL 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	3
GEN&WS/ HISTORY 519	Sexuality, Modernity and Social Change	3
GEN&WS 528	Sexuality and Science	3
GEN&WS/HIST SCI/ MED HIST 532	The History of the (American) Body	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology (Sexuality)	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology (Queer)	3
GEN&WS 533	Special Topics in Gender and Biology (LGBTQ+)	3
GEN&WS 534	Gender, Sexuality, and Reproduction: Public Health Perspectives	3
GEN&WS 536	Queering Sexuality Education	3
GEN&WS 538	Special Topics in LGBTQ+ Health	3

Disability & Embodiment

Examine the creation and evolution of different categories of embodiment and the experience of living through and as bodies. These courses focus on gender and disability, exploring disability as a social category, a medical realm, a political identity, an analytical approach, and a lived experience.

Code	Title	Credits
GEN&WS 105	Intersectional Approaches to Disability Studies	3
GEN&WS 320	Special Topics in Gender, Women and Society (Disability)	3
GEN&WS 343	Queer Bodies	3
GEN&WS 370	Topics in Gender and Disability	3
GEN&WS 374	Disability, Gender and Sexuality	3
GEN&WS 445	The Body in Theory	3
GEN&WS 523	Framing Fatness: Gender, Size, Constructing Health	3

CAPSTONE ⁴

Code	Title	Credits
Capstone course or Thesis Sequence:		3-6
GEN&WS 640	Capstone Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies	
GEN&WS 681 & GEN&WS 682	Senior Honors Thesis I and Senior Honors Thesis II	
GEN&WS 691 & GEN&WS 692	Senior Thesis I and Senior Thesis II	

Total Credits **3-6**

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all GEN&WS and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in Residence⁵
- 15 credits in GEN&WS, taken on the UW–Madison campus

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ A maximum of three courses designated as elementary level may apply in the major, overall. Directed study courses typically do not count toward the minimum credits required in the major.
- ² GEN&WS 101 and GEN&WS 102 cannot both count toward the coursework required in the Gender and Women's Studies major. Students must choose one of these courses.
- ³ A single course may apply to both an Approach and an Issue Area. However, a single course may not apply to more than one Approach or to more than one Issue Area.
- ⁴ Students interested in the doing research in Gender & Women's Studies will develop a thesis topic in consultation with a member of the faculty. The senior thesis course sequence (GEN&WS 691–GEN&WS 692 or GEN&WS 681–GEN&WS 682) serves as the capstone requirement for the major. In this case, the student may still count GEN&WS 640 as an elective in the major.
- ⁵ Courses in GEN&WS with Intermediate or Advanced level designation are considered upper level in the major.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

To declare Honors in the Major in Gender and Women's Studies, students must submit a letter of application to the undergraduate advisor prior to enrollment in GEN&WS 681. The letter should include:

- A list of all planned and declared degrees, major and certificate programs
- Area(s) of research interest within gender and women's studies and ideas for an Senior Honors Thesis
- A letter from a faculty member agreeing to supervise the thesis project

HONORS IN THE GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Gender and Women's Studies, students must satisfy the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.300 GPA for all GEN&WS courses
- Complete at least 2 GEN&WS courses totaling 6 or more credits for Honors and earn grades of B or higher
- Complete GEN&WS 681 and GEN&WS 682 for a total of 6 credits.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.