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Introduction

The Women and Gender Studies Program is part of the School of Social Transformation in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. This manual, compiled by the Gender Studies Graduate Program Committee (GPC), is intended to serve as a guide to both faculty and students in all matters relating to the Gender Studies graduate program, including the Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies, the M.A. in Women’s Studies, and the Ph.D. in Gender Studies. It is a supplement to the Graduate Catalog, and cannot fully be understood without reference to, and thorough familiarity with, that bulletin. Students should also be cognizant of the various deadlines established by the ASU Graduate College. The Graduate College web page http://graduate.asu.edu is a useful additional source of information. This guide is kept as up to date as possible, but is always subject to change. This guide is given to incoming graduate students at their orientation, and the most current version is also available on the SST Website (https://sst.asu.edu/content/faculty-resources under “Graduate Handbooks”).

Women and Gender Studies Graduate Program Committee (GPC)
This committee, with the approval of the Women and Gender Studies Faculty Lead, has responsibility for policymaking, oversight, and administration of such matters as admissions, Graduate Advisors, Supervisory Committees, examinations, selection and assignment of graduate assistants, standards, recruitment, and so on. It is the committee's purpose to assist and guide the students in their graduate work. Any questions, problems, or suggestions which faculty or students have may be discussed with any of the committee members. A current list of committee members is available from the Graduate Program Director or the Faculty Lead.

School of Social Transformation Graduate Administration
The School of Social Transformation has a Graduate Coordinator who administers all of the graduate programs and certificates. This staff person can assist graduate students in all aspects of their program and degree completion. The position is held by [NAME], and can be contacted by email at [EMAIL] or by phone at (480) 965-7682.

The Associate Director for Graduate Studies for the School serves as the School’s contact with the Graduate College, and plans and coordinates student orientation, professional development, and mentoring activities. The ADG also addresses issues related to graduate student questions, grievances, and problems, and works closely with the Graduate Coordinator. The current ADG is Dr. Lisa Anderson (lmanderson@asu.edu; 480-965-2356).

A list of School staff and their responsibilities can be found at https://sst.asu.edu/sites/default/files/sst_staff_contacts_2019.pdf

Women and Gender Studies Graduate Faculty
Women and Gender Studies Graduate Faculty consists of faculty who have been approved to chair or serve on M.A. and Ph.D. committees in Gender Studies. A current list of Women and Gender Studies Graduate Faculty is available online at https://graduate.asu.edu/graduate-faculty/degree/LAGSTPHD.

Criteria for Endorsement to Women and Gender Studies Graduate Faculty
1. Tenured, tenure track, or emeritus ASU faculty member or holds appropriate ASU appointment (e.g., research professors or senior lecturers) or affiliation (e.g., Mayo, TGen, BNI, Banner).
2. Holds Ph.D. or equivalent credential.
3. Demonstrated record of continuing high quality research in gender studies.
4. Willingness to undertake Ph.D. committee responsibilities.

Criteria for Endorsement to Chair Graduate Committees
1. Tenured, tenure track, or emeritus ASU faculty members only (not other affiliations/appointments).
2. Member of the Gender Studies Ph.D. Program Faculty.
3. Holds Ph.D. (not equivalent credential).
4. Demonstrated record of continuing high quality research in gender studies.
5. Strong record of successful guidance of student research.
6. Willingness to undertake Ph.D. committee chairing responsibilities.
7. If emeritus, retired within the last three years.
Graduate Certificate Program

This Program provides additional training and certification for graduate students in other fields who are interested in preparing for teaching, research, or applied careers related to Gender Studies.

We are unable to offer Certificate Students financial aid; we recommend that Certificate students pursue funding opportunities through their home units.

Prerequisites
- Applicants must have completed their baccalaureate degree.
- Applicants must be graduate students in good standing at a graduate program at ASU. Non-degree students may take courses, but cannot be admitted to or earn a certificate from Women and Gender Studies unless they have been admitted to a graduate program.
- The Women and Gender Studies graduate certificate program welcomes applications from qualified students without regard to sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, religion, sexuality, age, or national origin.

Application Procedures
- **Application form:** Please complete application form, available at the Graduate College web site.
- **Admission:** Admission decisions are made by the Graduate Director on a rolling basis, with advice from the GPC if needed.

Certificate Requirements
The Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies is a 15 credit program. To receive the certificate, students must:
- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and have no more than one grade below a B- in courses taken within the certificate program.
- Complete two required courses: WST 601 (Critical Concepts of Gender) and WST 602 (Mapping the Intersections of Gender).
- Complete three additional courses taken from the list of pre-approved electives or selected in consultation with the Graduate Director.
- Up to two courses (6 credits) taken at ASU or elsewhere prior to admission to the Certificate program can be applied toward the electives requirements, with permission from the WGS Graduate Director.
- Students who wish to apply courses towards the electives requirements other than those on the pre-approved list must request permission in writing or via email. The request should include the course syllabus, student’s final paper, and the student’s final grade for the non-preapproved course.

Certificate Completion Procedures
Once you have been admitted to the program, you may begin to fill out the certificate iPOS. After you have completed all the requirements for the certificate:

1. Ensure that your certificate iPOS is accurate and up to date.
2. Notify the graduate director that you have completed all of the requirements for the certificate.
General Policies for M.A. and Ph.D. Programs

Admissions
The Women and Gender Studies GPC welcome applications from qualified students without regard to sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, religion, sexuality, age, or national origin.

Admissions Deadline
Applications for both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs are due December 15th for admission the following fall semester. Ph.D. applicants may contact the Graduate Director if they want to be considered for the M.A. program as well; this will not impact their consideration for the Ph.D. program. Admitted students must notify the Graduate Director of their decision no later than April 15th. We do not accept new students in spring semester.

Submitting your Application
All materials must be submitted directly to the Graduate College, not to the department. Many of the requested materials are required by the ASU Graduate College, not Women and Gender Studies, and we cannot waive or change their requirements. Information about ASU graduate admissions policies and procedures can be found at: https://students.asu.edu/graduate/apply.

After applying, students may check the status of their application through MyASU.

Application requirements for both the M.A. and Ph.D. program:
1. ASU Graduate Admissions Services application.
2. Non-refundable application fee as specified by ASU Graduate Admission Services.
3. Official copies of transcripts from all colleges and universities where you have earned a bachelor’s and/or M.A. degree. ASU requires applicants to have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0.
4. Students whose native language is not English must meet ASU’s English proficiency requirements.
5. Resume or curriculum vitae.
6. A statement of purpose of approximately 1,000 words describing any prior research experience and training, your professional goals and research interests, and the fit between your interests and our program's emphases, requirements, current faculty, and coursework.
7. Relevant Coursework: List at least two (M.A.) or four (Ph.D.) courses you have taken that focus on gender and/or women (undergraduate or graduate). In addition, list any courses you have taken on research methods and/or social justice. If you do not meet this requirement, please note that your application may not receive full consideration—we strongly encourage you to take additional courses in gender and/or women prior to applying to either program.

Additional materials for the M.A. program:
1. The GRE is not required for the M.A. application.
2. Writing Sample: 7-10 pages. This can include a research brief or report, a white paper, a policy paper, or a paper for a recent academic course. Your writing sample should reflect your writing ability and critical thinking skills.
3. Letters of Recommendation: Two to three letters from individuals who can attest to your 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;
and/or other relevant accomplishments that best highlight your ability to complete a graduate
degree in Women and Gender Studies.

Additional materials for the Ph.D. program:
1. GRE scores are not required for admission to the Ph.D. program.
2. Writing Sample: 10-15 page academic paper (or similar format) that showcases your writing
ability, critical thinking skills, and ability to complete a doctoral dissertation.
3. Letters of Recommendation: Three letters from recommenders (preferably faculty or other
researchers) who can attest to your 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; and/or other relevant accomplishments that best highlight
your ability to complete a Ph.D. in Gender Studies.

Except for official transcripts, all of the application components above can be uploaded directly through
the ASU Graduate Admission Services online application process. Transcripts need to be physically
mailed to ASU Graduate Admission Services, PO Box 871003 Tempe, AZ 85287-1003. Please note that
the Graduate Advisor may not waive the official transcript requirement or personally process transcripts.

Reviews and Recommendations
When the student’s file is complete, the GPC conducts a preliminary review. The committee will make
its recommendations -- accepting or rejecting applicants --based on how competitive each is relative to
the applicant pool. The final recommendation is forwarded to the Graduate College, which makes the
final decision and notifies both the student and the Program.

There are three possible decisions: admit with regular status, admit with provisional status (which
stipulates specific requirements or contingencies for the applicant), or denied admission.

Changing from Provisional to Regular Admission
If the student has been granted provisional admission, a status change must be recommended to the
Graduate College after the provisions for regular admission have been fulfilled. A memorandum written
and/or countersigned by the Graduate Director is sent to the Graduate College after the provisions have
been met.

Deferring Admission
Students who have been accepted into the Program and wish to defer their admission must send a formal,
written request to the Graduate Director no later than June 30th. Students may defer admission for one
year with permission from the Graduate Director. The deferral of admission is a serious decision,
however, and students should not do so without compelling reasons. Individuals who defer admission are
not guaranteed funding for the next year, even if they have received an offer for the current year.

Starting the M.A. or Ph.D. Program
Upon arrival on campus for the fall semester new graduate students should contact the Graduate Director.
In addition, the Women and Gender Studies Program will provide a packet containing a copy of this
manual and other relevant material. Normally, the Graduate Director will have an orientation meeting for
new graduate students during the week before classes begin. New TAs may also be required by ASU to
attend a separate orientation. Please contact the Graduate Director with any questions.

Enrollment and Tuition
Graduate students register through MyASU per their enrollment appointment. Details
regarding registration and course drop/add procedures are provided in the Registration and Tuition Payment Guide. [https://students.asu.edu/registration-and-tuition-payment-guides](https://students.asu.edu/registration-and-tuition-payment-guides)

**Graduate Advisors**
The Graduate Advisor is the primary person to whom the student should turn for help or guidance in connection with her/his graduate work. Students are encouraged to be proactive in seeking help from their advisor while recognizing that advisors have multiple demands on their time.

**Temporary Graduate Advisor**
During the first semester of studies the student will be assigned by the Graduate Director to a temporary Graduate Advisor based on their research interests and faculty service load. Temporary Graduate Advisors can assist the students in selecting courses for their first year of study. Students are encouraged to email their temporary advisor after they have been admitted to the program and to meet with their temporary advisor in person within the first two weeks of their first semester at ASU. Students may, with permission from the Graduate Director, switch from their temporary advisor to another Graduate Advisor if desired (see below).

**Role of the Graduate Advisor**
Graduate Advisors can serve many roles, but often:
- Advise on course selection and/or the overall Plan of Study.
- Assist in the selection of the other members of the Supervisory Committee.
- Supervise the M.A. Applied Project, or the Doctoral Dissertation.
- Administer the written and oral parts of the doctoral comprehensive exam, as well as the doctoral dissertation prospectus defense and final dissertation oral examination.
- Provide advice on seeking external funding, attending conferences, service obligations, publication opportunities, and job searches.
- Provide feedback on drafts of manuscripts for presentation or publication.

**Choosing a Graduate Advisor**
By the end of the second (M.A. students) or fourth (Ph.D. students) semester of studies the student should consult with the Graduate Director regarding the selection of their Graduate Advisor.

Any member of the Graduate Faculty in Gender Studies may serve as Advisor. Emeriti Gender Studies faculty may continue to serve as chair of the supervisory committee upon approval from the Graduate College.

Each graduate student is responsible for choosing his or her Graduate Advisor. Students are advised to begin by looking at the descriptions of core faculty and affiliated faculty on the Women and Gender Studies web site. Students should be proactive in choosing their Advisors by taking appropriate courses, reading professors’ scholarship, and seeking out professors for scholarly conversations. In making this important choice, students consider several qualities of a potential Graduate Advisor: expertise in a particular topic, geographical area, methodology, or methods; availability; scholarly reputation; and the possibilities for developing a good working relationship.
It is possible for two faculty members to co-chair a Supervisory Committee. In this case, both must be listed on the student’s Program of Study and both must be members of the Gender Studies Graduate Faculty (or receive special permission to co-chair from the Graduate College).

Students who complete the M.A. program and are accepted into the Ph.D. program will not be assigned a new Temporary Advisor. However, students may elect to change advisors if that best serves their research and professional needs.

**Plan of Study**
The Plan of Study (iPOS) is a record of a student’s completed and anticipated coursework, and serves as a contract between the student and the Graduate College. Students should work with their Advisor in deciding on their courses from the beginning of their graduate career. Having a iPOS helps to eliminate problems should the student change advisors at any point.

The Plan of Study must be filled out online. Because you will fill out your iPOS before you have taken all of your courses, and because you cannot know what courses will be offered in future years, you should make reasonable approximations of the courses you plan to take.

Your iPOS should include courses to satisfy all of the program requirements (see “Typical Plan of Study”). It is to your benefit to make use of both the “Typical Plan of Study” and the program checksheets to ensure that you have completed, or plan to complete, all of the requirements for the degree. You are encouraged to share your checksheet with your advisor. If your plan of study does not fulfill the degree requirements, it will not be approved at the program level.

A draft of the iPOS is first approved by the student’s Graduate Advisor. The draft is then reviewed by the Women and Gender Studies graduate coordinator and the Graduate Director. Finally, the iPOS is submitted electronically to The Graduate College for final approval. The Women and Gender Studies graduate coordinator will help ensure proper on-line entry and submission of the iPOS.

For **M.A. students**, the iPOS must be completed before a student begins the second year of enrollment or before completing 50% of the required 30 hours (i.e. before completing 15 credit hours).

For **Ph.D. students** (whether post-B.A. or post-M.A.), the iPOS must be completed before a student completes 27 credit hours.

Changes to the iPOS may be requested after it has been filed. Petitions for changes are subject to the approval of the student’s advisor, the Graduate Director, and the Graduate College. You should update your iPOS regularly, so that your listing of courses is accurate and complete.

**Foreign Language Requirement**
We do not require competency in a foreign language, although we strongly recommend it. However, Graduate Advisors can, at their discretion, require a student to have competency in one or more languages in addition to English.

**Graded and Ungraded Graduate Courses**
Applied projects and courses which involve classroom instruction may be taken for a letter grade (A, B, C, D, E). Grades of D, E, W, X, and permanent I’s are not allowed on the Plan of Study. Courses such as internships, reading and conference hours, and research hours, are generally recorded as a grade of “Y”
for “pass.” Theses and dissertation hours are also recorded as a grade of “Y” for “pass” once they have been completed.

**Academic (Grade) Grievance**
Student grade appeals must be processed in the regular semester immediately following the issuance of the grade in dispute (by commencement for fall or spring), regardless of whether the student is enrolled at the university. Full procedure can be found here: https://clas.asu.edu/resources/academic-grievance

**Incompletes**
Incompletes for courses are discouraged. However, if a student should receive an incomplete, the work for that course must be completed within one calendar year. The failure to finish an incomplete within one calendar year may result in a failing grade, which can adversely impact a graduate student’s status in the program. Check ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures for additional information.

**Continuous Enrollment**
Once admitted to either the M.A. or Ph.D. program, students must be enrolled continuously, excluding summer sessions, until all requirements have been fulfilled. This means that students must be registered for a minimum of one hour of appropriate graduate level credit in the department/school in which they are pursuing their degree program. If a Plan of Study needs to be interrupted for one semester, the student must apply for leave status with The Graduate College before the beginning of the semester. Graduate students who do not obtain an approved leave of absence prior to the start of the semester they will not register, are required to submit a new degree application to reenter their program. The department will have the opportunity to make a recommendation on these applications. Graduate students planning to discontinue registration for a semester or more must submit a Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment form. This request must be submitted and approved before the anticipated semester of non-registration. Students may request to maintain continuous enrollment without course registration for a maximum of two semesters during their entire program. A student with a Graduate College approved Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment is not required to pay tuition and/or fees, but in turn is not permitted to place any demands on university faculty or use any university resources. These resources include university libraries, laboratories, recreation facilities or faculty time.

There are appropriate circumstances when students may need to withdraw from the university (i.e. medical withdrawal, compassionate leave). The policies for such withdrawals are the same for both undergraduate and graduate students. Types of withdrawals and procedures can be found at: students.asu.edu/drop-add. More information on CLAS policies and procedures for medical and compassionate withdrawals can be found here: https://clas.asu.edu/resources/medical-withdrawal. Students should reach out to their Graduate Coordinator for guidance on any type of withdrawal.

**Maximum Time Limit**
M.A. students: All work toward a master’s degree must be completed within six consecutive years.

Ph.D. Students: Doctoral students must complete all program requirements within ten consecutive years or five years from passing comprehensive exams (whichever comes first).
Academic Integrity
The highest standards of academic integrity and compliance with the university’s Student Code of Conduct are expected of all graduate students in academic coursework and research activities. The failure of any graduate student to uphold these standards may result in serious consequences including suspension or expulsion from the university and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of individual colleges as well as the university. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, fabrication of data, tampering, plagiarism, or aiding and/or facilitating such activities. At the graduate level, it is expected that students are familiar with these issues and that each student assumes personal responsibility in their work.
https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity
https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/codeofconduct

Annual Review
The Annual Review process is intended to help students graduate from the program in a timely manner and learn how to behave as professionals in their future careers. Information collected from students, professors, advisors, and other faculty members is used by the Graduate Director and GPC to identify students who may need additional assistance from the program in order to achieve their professional goals. The review process should be seen as a collaborative project intended to strengthen both individual students and the program as a whole.

At the end of each fall semester, each faculty member who has taught a fall semester core course (501, 502, 601, 602, 603, 701) will be asked to provide a brief assessment of each M.A. and Ph.D. student’s performance. These assessments should address both students’ academic work and their ability to meet professional standards for behavior. Faculty members are encouraged to provide concrete details, and to address students’ strengths as well as weaknesses. Assessments should be emailed to the Graduate Director no later than the first day of the following spring semester. Other staff or faculty members who have worked closely with the students or observed their teaching are also invited to submit their assessments.

By April 1st of each year, each student must complete their Annual Review form. After the form has been submitted, it will be shared with their Graduate Advisor for approval. This form is a Google Form.

By April 15th of each year, and following above guidelines:
- all faculty members who taught a spring semester core course should provide a brief assessment of each Ph.D. student’s performance;
- each Graduate Adviser should provide a brief assessment of the student’s progress and performance;
- all faculty and staff who have worked closely with students or observed their teaching are invited to submit their comments on students to the Graduate Director.

Students must meet with their Graduate Advisors at least once each semester, preferably after the student completes their form and before their advisor writes their assessment. This is important because students can benefit from their advisor’s help and it will help the advisor to write a useful and accurate evaluation for the student’s annual review.

By April 30th of each year, all students in the M.A. and Ph.D. program will be reviewed by the GPC based in part on these submitted materials.
For students to be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress in the M.A. or Ph.D. program, they must meet the following conditions:

1. Must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher every semester. A student whose GPA falls below 3.5 must raise their GPA to 3.5 or higher by the end of the full semester following the semester in which the student’s GPA has fallen below 3.5. There are three types of GPA’s for which this policy is applicable:
   - Cumulative GPA
   - GPA on all graduate courses at 500 level or above (Graduate GPA)
   - Plan of Study GPA (iPOS GPA)
   If any of these falls below 3.5, the student will be placed on academic probation.

2. Must earn a grade of B or better in all required courses. In exceptional circumstances, and with permission of the Graduate Advisor and Graduate Director, a student may repeat a course once.

3. Must make timely progress toward the degree with regard to course completion. See the individual M.A. and Ph.D. sections for more specific information as to timely progress.

The GPC will write letters for all students regarding their progress; these letters must receive final approval from the Graduate Director. Approved letters will be sent directly to students, the students’ Graduate Advisors, and a copy will be placed in their academic files. If necessary, recommendations regarding continuation or termination, conditions for continuation, and/or awarding of the doctoral degree will be made by the Graduate Director.

Students not making progress per the conditions listed above will be placed on academic probation by the Ph.D. program committee. Notice of probation will include a statement of the policy or policies the student is in violation of, the remedy or remedies for getting out of probation, and the deadline for successfully completing those remedies. In addition, the student will be informed in writing that he or she “may be recommended for withdrawal if the conditions are not met by the given time frame.”

If a student is placed on probation and does not meet the terms of the probation, the Graduate Committee may recommend to the Graduate College that the student be dismissed from the Ph.D. program. Students should also expect to be dismissed from the program for:

- deception or falsification in the admission application
- unauthorized periods of absence from the graduate program
- seriously compromising the relations of the Department with the public
- academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, falsification of research data). See the ASU Student Academic Integrity - https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity
- behaviors inappropriate for the student’s intended professional roles
- serious misuse of departmental or university facilities
- failure to pass ASU’s official spoken English requirement after three years

Students who are recommended for dismissal should receive a written statement from the Graduate Director informing them of this recommendation and of their right to appeal to the unit or college within a set time frame. The Graduate Council Appeals Board will only see cases where all other appeals have
been exhausted in the unit and college; lack of academic progress cases are not seen by the Board unless there are procedural problems with the case.

**Graduate Student Files**

Graduate students' files are kept in a locked file cabinet in the Graduate Programs Coordinator’s office. They are available to faculty members at any time. Faculty members are encouraged to place evaluation memos in the files of graduate students for use in writing letters of recommendation and similar appraisals.

Among other things, graduate student files contain:

- The student's application for admission, transcripts of previous work, the student's biographical statement and narrative, letters of recommendation, GRE scores (if applicable), and a copy of the recommendation sheet carrying the GPC’s recommendations to the Graduate College.
- A copy of the letter from the Graduate College to the student indicating whether she/he is a regular, provisional, or nondegree student (if provisional or non-degree, note restrictions in the Graduate Catalog).
- Annual Review letters for any graduate students who have been through the Annual Review process.

Students have the right to see their files, upon request. However, letters of recommendation for which the student waived her or his right of examination must be removed before the student is allowed to view the file.

**Travel Funding**

Travel grants may be available for graduate students in degree programs whose papers have been accepted for presentation at national or regional meetings. Usually the school provides some funding and matching funding may be available from the Graduate College or through the Graduate Student Professional Association. Go to the Graduate College web page for details on travel funds and other sources of funding for graduate students. ([https://graduate.asu.edu/](https://graduate.asu.edu/))

**Grants, Fellowships, and Financial Aid**

Students are highly encouraged to find external funding for their graduate studies and research projects—external sources can provide you with the flexibility and time to work on your own projects instead of serving as an RA, TA, teaching your own courses, or working off-campus. Furthermore, the prestige of obtaining external funding can serve as a distinct advantage when you are on the job market.

WGS, SST, and ASU can help you identify alternative funding sources and prepare successful grant and fellowship applications. Information about grants, fellowships, and other external funding sources can be found at:

1. Graduate College web page ([https://graduate.asu.edu/pay-for-college](https://graduate.asu.edu/pay-for-college))
2. Office of Knowledge Enterprise Development ([https://research.asu.edu/](https://research.asu.edu/))
3. SST Intranet site ([https://sst.clas.asu.edu/](https://sst.clas.asu.edu/))
4. Graduate Admissions ([https://students.asu.edu/graduate/funding](https://students.asu.edu/graduate/funding))

**Forms**

Most forms are available online—forms specific to the School of Social Transformation and Women and Gender Studies are available at the SST intranet site ([https://sst.clas.asu.edu/forms](https://sst.clas.asu.edu/forms)). Forms that are universal to ASU graduate programs can be obtained from the Graduate College web page, currently
found at: https://graduate.asu.edu/student-forms. Please contact your Graduate Program Coordinator if you are not able to find the form that you need.

**Dates and Deadlines**

The university calendar found in the current Graduate Catalog lists deadlines for applying for graduation, submission of an applied project, or dissertation to the Graduate College, and the last date to hold an oral defense. Check these and other dates carefully. These dates can also be found on the Graduate College web page.
Applied M.A. Program in Women and Gender Studies

The Applied Master's degree in Women and Gender Studies provides transdisciplinary training with a focus on social justice that goes beyond the classroom. The program is designed for students who wish to gain advanced research skills and knowledge about gender analysis and to apply those tools to careers in a broad range of settings, from schools and hospitals to city governments, nonprofits, and large corporations. This flexible 30-credit MA program provides advanced training in feminist research, theory and methodologies with a focus on real-world problems and solutions.

Supervisory Committees

The supervisory committee consists of one Chair and one faculty member. The Chair must be a member of the Women and Gender Studies Graduate Faculty; the other faculty member must be Graduate Faculty or must be approved by the Graduate Director.

Degree Requirements

The M.A. curriculum includes both core and elective courses. Core courses help build the theoretical foundations and research toolkit, which enable students to gain expertise in substantive areas of research and successfully develop and complete an applied project. M.A. students are required to complete a total of 30 credit hours as detailed below.

Required Core Courses (6 credits)
M.A. students are required to complete two core courses at ASU (even if they took similar courses elsewhere). Students must earn a grade of B or better in each core course:

- WST 501 Foundations of Feminist Thought (3 credit hours)
- WST 502 Interdisciplinary Gender Research Methods (3 credit hours)

Required Methods Course (3 credit hrs.)
M.A. students must complete one research methods course for the degree; WST 502 cannot be used to meet this requirement. These courses can be drawn from a wide array of units across the various campuses of Arizona State University, but students should take advantage of the SST graduate research methods courses. The Graduate Director or student’s Chair can advise students on the selection of methods courses.

Elective WST Courses (6 credit hrs.)
All students are required to take 6 credit hours of graduate level seminars in the program.

General Electives (6 credit hrs.)
Courses may be selected from within or outside of the Women and Gender Studies Program. *It is strongly advised that students take an internship (WST 594) for one elective.*

Applied Elective (3 credits)
These courses can be taken from any unit at ASU. The graduate advisor has a list of possible courses. The Graduate Director or student’s Chair can advise students on the selection of methods courses.
Applied Project (6 credit hrs.)
All students are required to take six credits of WST 593 Applied Project.

Application of 400 level courses to M.A. requirements
Please note that the advisory committee or thesis chair may approve a maximum of six credit hours of 400-level coursework to be included on the iPOS. Pass/Fail 400 level courses and any credit hours that were applied toward a previously awarded degree may not be included.

Applied Project
The applied project constitutes the culmination of a student’s degree, and should consist of original research on a topic of significance within the field of Women and Gender Studies.

The Applied Project is focused on investigating, addressing, proposing solutions to, or solving practical, site-specific problems that necessitate attention to gender. The motivations for these projects often stem from the student’s own experiences in a professional setting, and the primary audience for the project may be the student’s employer or prospective employer. Thus a student may decide to conduct a program assessment, produce or improve an employee handbook, analyze internal evaluation data, create a grant proposal, write a policy proposal, test a new intervention tool or curriculum, or create/investigate/analyze other materials for a nonprofit, business, etc. Students are highly encouraged to discuss the expectations of their faculty advisor and supervisory committee for the Applied Project (including project type, form, page length, and format) before making their final decision as to a supervisory committee and submitting the thesis/applied project form.

Process: Before any formal work on the applied project begins, the supervisory committee and the Graduate Director must approve the student’s research project proposal. The project proposal consists of seven elements: a statement of the problem, the project design, a list of the resources needed for the project, a description of the methods, a timeline for completion, a brief literature review that locates the research question in the gender studies literature, and a working bibliography. The project proposal should be submitted to the supervisory committee at least one month before the student wishes to register for WST 594: Applied Project. The WGS Thesis/Applied Project Proposal form is available online at the SST intranet site (https://sst.clas.asu.edu/forms).

All students should meet with their Chairs on a regular basis and expect to revise their applied project proposal and report multiple times. They should also provide other committee members with drafts as requested by the Chair and/or other committee members. When the supervisory committee is satisfied with the progress of the applied project, the student presents and defends it in an oral examination (see below). All committee members should be given a copy of the final draft no later than three weeks before the final oral defense.

Product:
In addition to the final document the student provides to the organization he/she/they is working with, the Applied Project must also include a written report (which may include verbatim sections from the document for the organization). The report must:

1. Provide a clear summary of the research problem/project being addressed and how it meets the needs of your client.
2. Explain the project’s significance to gender studies
3. Describe the agency and the project, with close attention to sociocultural context; intersections such as race, ethnicity, class, or sexuality; and, if appropriate, historical, economic, or political background.
4. Use the scholarly literature to put the project in the context of gender studies literature and concepts. You may also draw on reports prepared for the agency or other public bodies, newspaper reports, or the like.
5. Describe any methodologies that were used and explain their benefits and limitations.
6. Analyze your findings and your recommendations for the agency.

Oral Defense: The defense is not publicized and The Graduate College does not require format approval, nor does the student need to submit any form to the Graduate College. After the defense, the Chair, second faculty member, and the Graduate Director will sign the internal form (Women and Gender Studies Report of Final Master’s Applied Project). The chair will then give the form to the Women and Gender Studies Graduate Coordinator and approve the posting of the passing grade for the applied project.

Evaluation: Final grades are based on both the Applied Project and the oral defense. A grade of “A” is given for work that is excellent, a grade of “B” for work that is acceptable, and a grade of “C” for work that is minimally adequate. Applied projects that do not meet professional standards for writing and grammar will fail.
**Typical Program of Study**
The M.A. degree is completed typically in two years, or four semesters. All work toward the M.A. must be completed within six consecutive years; the clock begins with the semester and year of admission to the program. Below is a sample course schedule for an M.A. student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1:</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>WST 501</td>
<td>Foundations of Feminist Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WST 5XX/6XX</td>
<td>Women &amp; Gender Studies Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ELECTIVE</td>
<td>Applied elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>WST 502</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Gender Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WST 5XX/6XX</td>
<td>Women &amp; Gender Studies Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>METHODS</td>
<td>WGS/SST Methods Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2:</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>ELECTIVE</td>
<td>Elective/Substantive Seminar: <em>Internship (WST 593) strongly recommended.</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ELECTIVE</td>
<td>Elective/Substantive Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td>WST 594</td>
<td>Applied Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Masters in Passing

Requirements
Students cannot directly apply for admission to the Master’s in Passing (MIP) program. They can only apply and be admitted to the corresponding Ph.D. program.

Students who include 30 hours from a previously awarded master's degree on their doctoral Plan of Study (iPOS) are not eligible for an MIP.

Procedures:
• file the MIP iPOS for the Gender Studies Ph.D. program with the Graduate College and get approval. Students should only include the minimum required hours for their MIP program on the iPOS for the MIP.

• successfully pass the written and oral qualifying exam and file paperwork to report it to the Graduate College. They do not need to take the comprehensive exam.

• Meet the Gender Studies Ph.D. residency requirement.

• Earn a minimum of 30 credit hours toward this degree. These credits must have been earned after the semester and year of admission to the doctoral program (i.e., they must be earned “in passing” through the Ph.D. program). Additionally, only courses that have final grades (no “I”, "Z", or "NR" grades) can be used toward this degree.

• Meet any other applicable requirements per Graduate College policy and procedures such as the GPA requirements for graduation, etc.

• Apply for MIP graduation. There is a form which needs to be completed by the graduate director and submitted electronically to the Graduate college. Please fill out the student portion of the form, and then email it to the Graduate Director.
Doctoral Program in Gender Studies

The Gender Studies Ph.D. program is designed to provide students with the interdisciplinary training in theory and methods needed to conduct original research and scholarship about gender. At the core of the program are four required courses: Critical Concepts of Gender; Mapping the Intersections of Gender; Engendering Methodology; and Research Design and Development. Students also take two research methods courses relevant to their dissertation plus additional courses relevant to the subject of their dissertation.

Supervisory Committees:

Functions of Supervisory Committees
The function of the Supervisory Committee is to provide general guidance to the student in her/his doctoral program, to determine and supervise her/his program of study, to oversee the comprehensive examination, to advise and direct her/his dissertation, and to conduct her/his final oral examination.

That said, these tasks divide into two segments: one that ends with the comprehensive examination, and one which begins after the examination. Consequently, each Graduate Advisor and student should meet at some point after the comprehensive examination and before the dissertation proposal defense to decide whether to re-configure the Supervisory Committee.

Choosing an Advisor and Supervisory Committee
The strategies recommended for choosing an Advisor should also be used in choosing the other members of the Supervisory Committee. These other members should be chosen to complement the strengths of the Graduate Advisor.

Typically Supervisory Committees are comprised of a Graduate Advisor plus two faculty members. A fourth member may be added with permission of the Graduate Advisor. Supervisory committees must include a minimum of two members from the Ph.D. Graduate Faculty in Gender Studies. At least one of these must also be from within the Women and Gender Studies core faculty. In unusual circumstances, and with the approval of the PPC and the Graduate College, students may include individuals on their committees who are not on the Program Faculty.

Similarly, a student may include on his or her committee an individual who is not a professor at ASU. This is most warranted when the outside person is very knowledgeable in the area of the student's research and can complement the knowledge and skills of our faculty.

To add a committee member from outside ASU, the student should fill out the Committee Approval Request form found at http://graduate.asu.edu/forms and submit it to the Graduate Director. The Director would then indicate what level of approval is recommended, attach a vitae from the individual being recommended, and submit it to the Graduate College, which will then make a determination based on the individual’s qualifications.

Changing Advisors or Committees:
A student may request a change of Supervisory Committee chair or members at any time by writing a note to this effect to the Graduate Director. Official approval and action on this are taken by the Graduate College, after receipt of their official form for this purpose, and upon recommendation by the Graduate Director and/or Faculty Head.
Doctoral Degree Requirements

Students in the Ph.D. program are divided into two categories. Post-masters students are those admitted into the 54 credit post-masters Ph.D. program; these students already have an M.A. in Women and Gender Studies from another institution. For simplicity’s sake, all other students are referred to in this document as post-bachelors, regardless of any additional education or degrees they may have completed (including M.A. degrees in other fields).

Residency

To graduate in a timely fashion, students will need to take a minimum of 9 credits per semester. In general, Ph.D. degree students should expect to devote the equivalent of at least three academic years beyond the master’s degree or five years beyond the bachelor’s degree to their program of study.

At least 30 credit hours of the Ph.D. program exclusive of dissertation and research hours must be completed at ASU. These credit hours must be non-audit and must be either in graduate courses or in 400-level undergraduate courses that will appear on the student’s iPOS.

Students must be full-time at ASU during fall and spring semesters until they meet all Ph.D. coursework requirements. However, students who face exceptional circumstances may petition the GPC for exceptions to this rule. Full-time is defined as 9 credit hours per semester for those without TA/RA positions and 6 credit hours for those with such positions.

Required Credit Hours

Students may be admitted with either a bachelor’s or master’s degree from an accredited US institution or the equivalent of these from an international institution that is officially recognized by that country and by the Graduate College.

If admitted with a bachelor’s degree, students are required to complete a minimum of 84 semester hours including a minimum of 30 credit hours in required, methods, and Gender Studies courses; 42 credit hours of general electives; and 12 credit hours of dissertation research.

If admitted with a master’s degree in Women’s Studies or Gender Studies, students will be required to complete a minimum of 54 semester hours. 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master’s degree may count towards the Ph.D. requirements.

No more than 6 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree. For course credit to count toward the graduate degree, students must earn a grade of A or B in the course. Typically, failure to pass a required class with a grade of B will be considered evidence of insufficient progress toward the degree and can be grounds for dropping a student from the program at the Annual Review. In exceptional circumstances, and with permission of the Graduate Advisor and Graduate Director, a student may repeat a course once. In addition, students must maintain a 3.5 average GPA and must complete degree requirements in a timely manner to continue in the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Credit Hours</th>
<th>Post-Bachelors</th>
<th>Post-Masters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Core</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Coursework in Methods</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Women and Gender Studies Program Graduate Manual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective Coursework in GS seminars</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Electives (typically includes at least 12 credits research – WST 792)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Semester Hours Required</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Core Courses (12 credit hrs.)
Four core courses are required for the degree, even for students who have taken similar courses elsewhere. These courses explore 1) the theoretical and methodological dimensions of knowledge production, 2) the intersections of gender with other forms of social and cultural diversity, and 3) professional and ethical issues in the field of gender studies. The courses are:

- **WST 601: Critical Concepts of Gender**: An examination of the key concepts, theoretical frameworks, disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, and the critical debates that have shaped the field of gender studies.
- **WST 602: Mapping the Intersections of Gender**: An interdisciplinary examination of various theoretical and methodological approaches to the understanding of difference with a focus on the intersections and convergences between race, class, gender, nation, physical ability, and sexuality.
- **WST 603: Engendering Methodology**: An overview of research tools, methodological and epistemological debates, applications, techniques, and ethics pertinent to research in gender studies.
- **WST 701: Research Design and Proposal Development in Gender Studies**: Prepares students for professional careers as researchers in gender studies.

### WGS Electives (12 credit hrs.)
All students are required to take 12 credit hours of graduate WGS seminars.

### Methods Requirement (6 credit hrs.)
All students must choose two research methods courses to complete the degree. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of gender studies, these courses can be drawn from a wide array of units across the various campuses of Arizona State University. The Graduate Director or student’s Graduate Advisor can advise students on the selection of methods courses. Students accepted as post-masters may be exempt from these courses if they have previously taken equivalent courses.

### General Electives (42 credit hrs. post-B.A., 12 credit hours post-M.A.)
Students who enter the Ph.D. program without credit for a master’s degree are required to complete 42 credit hours of general electives; students who receive credit for a masters must take 12 hours of general electives. These 42 hours can be general coursework, internship, seminar, reading & conferences, or research (WST 592, 692, or 792). The general electives typically include at least 12 credits in WST 792 (research). Courses may be selected from within or outside of the Women and Gender Studies Program.

### Dissertation (12 credit hrs.)
All students will be required to take 12 credits in WST 799 (Dissertation).
Transfer (pre-admission) credit policy

For students entering with advanced standing (i.e., with some graduate work already completed), but without a completed graduate degree, the Graduate Director will determine which course credits may be transferred to the Gender Studies Ph.D. program. Students entering with an M.A. in Women’s or Gender Studies may request a review of their M.A. coursework to count for the required program courses. Core course requirements cannot be met with transferred credit.

If you have taken courses that you believe fit a Ph.D. in gender studies, please submit the syllabi and final paper (or papers if there wasn’t a final project) to the Graduate Director for evaluation. Courses will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Policy varies depending on whether the courses were earned on a non-degree basis or as part of a completed master’s degree:

1. For courses that did not and will not count toward another degree at ASU or elsewhere, students may receive a total of up to 12 credits toward the Ph.D. Three credits on a quarter system are equivalent to 2 credits on a semester system.

2. For courses taken as part of a previously awarded master’s degree in Women’s Studies or Gender Studies, students may receive a blanket 30 credits toward the Ph.D. Students whose degrees are in other fields cannot use courses from an awarded degree towards the Ph.D.

3. Under both points 1 and 2 above, students may transfer up to a total of 42 credits. Students may be allowed to receive transfer credit for up to two Gender Studies courses (other than the core) and up to two Methods courses.

4. If a student would like a course taken at another university to count towards the methods course requirement(s), the student must make a formal written request to the Graduate Director. This request should include the reasons why the course should count towards the methods requirement, the syllabus for the other course, the final paper or equivalent work for the other course, and the final grade in the other course. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the course is found to count towards the methods requirement, the Graduate Director will write a letter to be included in the student’s permanent file. If the course is found not to count towards these requirements, the student may request that the course be considered for elective credit.

For all transfer courses, the courses must have been taken in an accredited research university or equivalent, must be acceptable for inclusion in graduate degree programs at that institution, and cannot have been given for life experiences. Only courses with an "A" or "B" grade (or the equivalent in the British-based point system) may be transferred. Grades on transferred credit are not included in calculating the grade point averages. For further information regarding the types of credit that are not transferable, consult the Graduate Catalog.

Foreign universities:

1. If you received grades on your previous courses of A or B and your courses generally were worth 3 or 4 credits, then your courses will be reviewed for transfer credit in the same way that we review courses from U.S. schools.

2. If your previous courses were based on a point system, we will “translate” them to the U.S. letter grade/course credit system, based on the skills/knowledge you gained from them compared to
what you would have gotten from courses within our program. (For degrees from India, generally 70 points or 10 out of 12 points are required to receive credit for a course.) The Graduate Director will place a memo in the student’s file listing (or assigning, if needed) course names and number of transfer credits. The student can then list these courses/credits on their Program of Study when it is filed.

3. If your B.A. was a three year degree, your master’s counts as the fourth year of your B.A., and so cannot count toward the Ph.D. as well.

Program Milestones
“Normal progress” through the program is defined as completing the following milestones:
1. Must complete all required coursework. Post-bachelor students must successfully do so by the end of their third year in the program; post-master students must do so by the end of their fifth semester.

2. Must successfully pass their Ph.D. comprehensive examinations. Post-bachelor students must successfully do so by the end of their third year in the Ph.D. program; post-master students must do so by the end of their fifth semester. (See section on comprehensive exams for rules regarding retaking exams.)

3. Must successfully pass their dissertation proposal defense. Post-bachelor students must do so by the end of fall semester of their fourth year in the Ph.D. program; post-master students must do so by the end of their third year. Students are encouraged to time their dissertation proposal defense so that they are eligible for external dissertation funding—many funding agencies require students to be ABD before applying for dissertation fellowships and grants.

4. Must make satisfactory progress on their dissertation. Post-bachelor students must complete their dissertation by the end of their fifth year in the Ph.D. program. Post-master students must do by their fourth year.
Typical Program of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Post-Bachelor’s (84 hours)</th>
<th>Post-Master’s (54 hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>WST 601 Concepts of Gender (3)</td>
<td>WST 601 Concepts of Gender (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WST 602 Mapping Intersections (3)</td>
<td>WST 602 Mapping Intersections (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GS elective (3)</td>
<td>GS elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation¹ (1)</td>
<td>SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>WST 603 Engendering Methodology (3)</td>
<td>WST 603 Engendering Methodology (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methods (3)</td>
<td>Methods² (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GS elective (3)</td>
<td>GS elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation (1)</td>
<td>SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Two</strong></td>
<td>GS elective (3)</td>
<td>GS elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>Methods (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methods (3)</td>
<td>SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>WST 701 Research Design (3)</td>
<td>WST 701 Research Design (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GS elective (3)</td>
<td>WST 690 R&amp;C- Comprehensive Exam Prep (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation (3)³</td>
<td>SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qualifying Exam</td>
<td>Qualifying Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>WST 762: Research (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>Comprehensive Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>(Note: Proposal defense can be taken as early as one week after comprehensive exam.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Three</strong></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>WST 792: Research (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>Qualifying Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>(Note: Proposal defense can be taken as early as one week after comprehensive exam.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>Defend dissertation proposal⁴ (if not defended earlier)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comprehensive Exam</td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>WST 690 R&amp;C- prospectus prep (3)</td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defend dissertation proposal⁴ (if not defended earlier)</td>
<td>Dissertation defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Four</strong></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>Elective (3)</td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WST 690 R&amp;C-prospectus prep (3)</td>
<td>Dissertation defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defend dissertation proposal⁴ (if not defended earlier)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>WST 792: Research (6)</td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Five</strong></td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
<td>Diploma defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>WST 799 Dissertation (6)</td>
<td>Diploma defense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ All students who are serving as TAs are required to take SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation for 1 credit per semester.
² If you are transferring methods courses, then the methods courses here can be replaced by general electives.
³ Students who are planning on teaching their own courses are strongly encouraged to take SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation for 3 credits in Year Two/Spring. This course may be used as an elective to fulfill the degree requirement. Students who are not teaching their own courses may take an elective instead of SST 691.
⁴ Most dissertation grants and fellowships require students to be ABD. As most deadlines are between September and November, students are strongly encouraged to take into consideration these deadlines when scheduling the dissertation proposal defense date. See “Grants, Fellowships, and Financial Aid” for more information.
Course Planning List

This list is intended to be used in conjunction with the Typical Program of Study to assist students in planning their doctoral coursework. In addition, any students who are serving as TAs are required as a condition of employment to take SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation for 1 credit per semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WST 601</td>
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<tr>
<td>WST 602</td>
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<tr>
<td>WST 603</td>
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<tr>
<td>WST 701</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS Elective/Seminar</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS Elective/Seminar</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS Elective/Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Post MA students must earn 12 elective credits (30 credits transfer from prior MA). Post BA students must earn 42 elective credits.</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>SST 691:</td>
<td>Teaching for Social Transformation: Required for ...</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</td>
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<td>Electives for Post MA Students (12 elective credits at ASU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<th>Electives for Post BA Students (42 elective credits at ASU)</th>
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<td>Elective</td>
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These can be general coursework, internship, seminar, readings & conferences, or research credits. Courses may be selected from within or outside the WGS Program.

* WST 792: Research; ** SST 691: Teaching for Social Transformation
Ph.D. Qualifying Examination

Students are required to take the Qualifying examination (previously known as the “Theory/Methods exam”) prior to preparing for the comprehensive examination. The Qualifying exam should be completed at the beginning of the third year for post-B.A. students, and sometime during the second year for post-M.A. students. Students must have taken WST 601, 602, and 603 prior to taking the qualifying examination.

The goal of this exam is to evaluate students’ understanding of the field of Gender/Women’s Studies, as well as their ability to think critically and creatively, and put ideas in conversation with each other. It is required before post-B.A. students will be allowed to teach in-person classes on their own. This exam also functions as the exam for the Master’s in Passing. Students are required to pass this examination in order to continue in the program. This exam is required of all students, including post-M.A. students.

Exam Structure:
This exam is taken at home. It is written and graded by the WGS Qualifying Examination Committee, which will provide a standardized reading list, updated regularly, of approximately 75-125 items (books and articles) for each exam. Students are responsible for all items on the reading list, and are permitted to use materials not on the list in response to the exam questions. **Students must have an approved iPOS on file before they are permitted to take the Qualifying exam.**

An oral defense, conducted by the Qualifying Exam Committee, follows within about two weeks after the written exam. Students will be informed of their grades following the oral defense.

The Qualifying exam is given each fall and spring semester on the **weekend preceding the first day of classes**. In order to take the exam, students must be registered for the semester that is about to begin, whether fall or spring.

Exam Process and Format:
As noted above, reading lists will be prepared for each written exam. Although in writing their exams students can draw on relevant readings that are not on the lists, they are only responsible for listed readings. However, students will be expected to extrapolate from listed readings to other topics, sources, and situations.

Written exams will be taken at home. **Students who require accommodations for disability are responsible for arranging for such accommodations through ASU Disability Resource Center and informing the Graduate Director and the Chair of the Exam Committee.** Exam questions will be given to students at 9:00 AM on a Friday morning and will be due no later than the following Monday at 9:00 AM. There is an upper page limit of 30pp, typically 10pp for each question.
These exams are scheduled according to the following time-table:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall semester exams</th>
<th>Spring semester exams</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student must inform Graduate Director of intention to take exam by</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>August 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee gives students reading list by</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>September 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam given</td>
<td>Weekend preceding Fall semester (mid-August) (written exam, followed in about two weeks by oral)</td>
<td>Weekend preceding Spring semester (early January) (written exam, followed in about two weeks by oral)</td>
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</table>

Exam Protocol

**Written exams:**
The goal of these exams is to demonstrate students’ understanding of the literature and measure students’ ability to create original interpretations using the tools of gender analysis.

Reading lists will be prepared for each written exam. Although in writing their exams students can draw on relevant readings that are not on the lists, they are only responsible for listed readings. However, students will be expected to extrapolate from listed readings to other topics, sources, and situations.

Past questions will be kept on file and will be available to all students and faculty, but should not be regarded as definitive of the type and style of questions the committee will ask, as different members will create different questions. Students should remember that the Qualifying exam is testing their knowledge of the core of the field, not only on the core courses. **Students are also advised to meet with the committee members to get a sense of the type and style of questions the committee will likely ask.**

Although students are encouraged to study for their exams in groups, they may not consult with other students or anyone else during the writing of their exams. The one exception is that students may speak with the Graduate Director or the appropriate exam committee chair to clarify administrative details such as time, page length, etc.

The exam committee can require the student to answer all questions or can give the student multiple questions and allow the student some choice of which questions to answer.

Be sure to re-read your answers before turning in your exam, and to re-read it again before your oral exam.

Students must submit their Qualifying exam as a Word file or PDF to the Graduate Director, who will then run the file through ASU’s anti-plagiarism software (currently TurnItIn).

**Grading Policy**
Qualifying examinations are graded as follows: pass, fail, or pass with distinction. If a student fails this examination, the student is generally permitted one additional attempt to pass the exam. If the student fails the exam the second time, the student is not qualified to continue in the program and will be required to leave the program. The exam committee may require a student to rewrite part of the exam, or the entire exam. The results of the examination are recorded internally unless the student has failed a second attempt. If the student is a post-BA student and would like to complete the Master’s in Passing, the exam results are recorded in the MIP IPoS.

Oral defense:
Among other questions, all students will be asked if there is anything they would like, on reflection, to add to what they wrote or anything they wish they had written differently. The exam thus begins with the student’s reflection on their exam, followed by specific questions from the committee.

Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination (“Comps”):
Students are required to take a comprehensive exam focused on areas of specialization relevant to their dissertations. The reading list for the exam will be designed by the student and her/his/their committee. The exam has two parts (written and oral). Students will receive one grade for the written exam and one grade for the oral defense.

The comprehensive exam should be completed once most coursework is completed, typically during the second year in the program for post-M.A. students and the third year for post-BA students. Students will have successfully completed the Qualifying examination before preparing for, or taking, the Comprehensive Exam.

The goal of this exam is to demonstrate students’ understanding of the literature and measure students’ ability to create original interpretations using the tools of gender analysis. In addition, the comprehensive examination demonstrates the student’s knowledge of the area of specialization s/he wishes to pursue and the general area of the dissertation. Finally, this exam should help the student prepare for the writing and defense of the dissertation prospectus.

Exam Structure
Exams are given in the student’s area of specialization. Students will be evaluated on their understanding of the area they have chosen. Questions will measure the student’s ability to apply a gender analysis that is interdisciplinary, transnational, and intersectional to a concrete problem or problems in the specialization. A timely completion of the specialization exam is important, so the exam should come at the end of the student’s third year (post-B.A.) or second year (post-M.A.). This will allow the student to complete the prospectus defense at the beginning of the fourth (third) year, which is crucial to applying for external fellowships and grants.

This exam is taken at home, and is written and graded by the student’s (dissertation) Supervisory Committee. As a result, students must decide on a Supervisory Committee before they can submit a request to take a Comprehensive exam.

A reading list of 75-100 items (books and articles) will be developed for this examination by the student’s Supervisory Committee, in consultation with the student. The committee will choose readings with the aim of helping students get a firm grasp both of the key debates in the broad relevant areas of the field and of the literature more narrowly relevant to the students’ specific research interests.
An oral defense, conducted by the Supervisory Committee, follows within about two weeks after the written exam. Students will be informed of their grades following the oral defense. (See Grading Policy below.)

Note: To ensure equity, there should be no communication between any faculty members and the student regarding their exam between the written and oral examination.

Exam Process and Format
As noted above, reading lists will be prepared for each written exam. Although in writing their exams students can draw on relevant readings that are not on the lists, they are only responsible for listed readings. However, students will be expected to extrapolate from listed readings to other topics, sources, and situations.

Written exams will be taken at home over a weekend (or an equivalent 72-hour period). Exam questions will be given to students at 9:00 AM on a Friday (first day) morning and will be due no later than the following Monday (third day) at 9:00 AM. For the comprehensive exam, the upper page limit is 35pp, but the committee may set a lower number of pages as appropriate. The student is responsible for scheduling a room for the oral defense for the Comprehensive exam, and for coordinating with faculty on their schedules. Students who require accommodations for disability are responsible for arranging for such accommodations through ASU Disability Resource Center and informing the Graduate Director and the Chair of the Exam Committee.

Exam Scheduling
Since the Comprehensive Exams are given by individually-constituted committees, there are no stated deadlines for requesting or giving these exams. However, faculty members need at least a month to put together a reading list, and students need at least two months to study for the exam after receiving the reading list. Consequently, students should inform their Graduate Advisor and the Graduate Director that they want to take their comprehensive exam no less than four months before their desired exam date. Faculty members are responsible for compiling a reading list within 4-6 weeks after a student requests an exam date.

The following time-table offers two examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall semester exam</th>
<th>Spring semester exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student declares intention to take exam</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee gives student reading list</td>
<td>May 1-May 15</td>
<td>Oct. 1-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam given</td>
<td>August-September (written exam, followed in about two weeks by oral)</td>
<td>January-February (written exam, followed in about two weeks by oral)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exam Protocol

Written exams
The goal of these exams is to demonstrate students’ understanding of the literature and measure students’ ability to create original interpretations using the tools of gender analysis.

Reading lists will be prepared for each written exam. Although in writing their exams students can draw on relevant readings that are not on the lists, they are only responsible for listed readings. However, students will be expected to extrapolate from listed readings to other topics, sources, and situations.

Past questions will be kept on file and will be available to all students and faculty, but should not be regarded as definitive of the type and style of questions the committee will ask, as different members will create different questions. Students are also advised to meet with their committee members to get a sense of the type and style of questions the committee will likely ask.

Students may not consult with other students or anyone else during the writing of their exams. The one exception is that students may speak with the Graduate Director or the appropriate exam committee chair to clarify administrative details such as time, page length, etc.

The exam committee can require the student to answer all questions or can give the student multiple questions and allow the student some choice of which questions to answer.

Be sure to re-read your answers before turning in your exam, and to re-read it again before your oral exam.

Students must submit their exam as a Word file of PDF to the student’s committee, and the committee chair will then run the file through ASU’s anti-plagiarism software (currently Safe Assignment).

Oral defense
Among other questions, all students will be asked if there is anything they would like, on reflection, to add to what they wrote or anything they wish they had written differently. The exam thus begins with the student’s reflection on their exam, followed by specific questions from the committee.

Grading Policy
Comprehensive examinations are graded either pass, fail, or pass with distinction. If a student fails an examination, the examining committee may require the student to leave the program OR may allow the student to take the exam a second time. If a student is permitted by the committee to retake the exam, the student must petition the graduate college in order to retake the exam. The chair of the examination committee and the student’s advisor will need to document their belief that the student will be able to prepare for, and pass, the second exam.

Students who fail the Comprehensive Exam must work with their Comprehensive Exam committee to set a time for their second attempt at the Comprehensive exam.

Any student who fails an exam on his or her second attempt will be required to leave the program.
To retake an exam, students must receive permission both from the committee and from the Graduate College. To receive College permission, students must submit the petition found at https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines/student-forms-and-petitions under “Petition to the Graduate College.” However, students must first submit the Report of the Doctoral Comprehensive Exams (below).

Exam Results Reporting
The form may only be submitted after all of the following have been completed successfully:

- Program of study filed with the Graduate College;
- Both comprehensive examinations passed (written plus oral);
- Language requirements (if any) are met.

Dissertation Proposal
After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, the student, in consultation with the Graduate Advisor, should prepare a proposal for a research-based dissertation. The proposal should include:

- An introductory statement giving the general ideas of the dissertation, describing the major question it addresses, and placing it in the context of the existing literature.
- A description of the methods, data, and sources proposed for the project and of their strengths and weaknesses. The methods can include, but are not limited to, the specific questions and analytical approaches the researcher addresses.
- An approximate outline of the dissertation.
- A working bibliography, in a format chosen by the Graduate Advisor, which includes basic sources already read and key sources needed to realize the project fully.

Dissertation Proposal Defense
The dissertation proposal defense is an oral examination and will be scheduled and conducted after the successful completion of the comprehensive examinations. The date of the examination is determined by the student and her/his Supervisory Committee. Passing this examination constitutes a "go ahead" on the dissertation project. The examination is conducted by the Supervisory Committee.

Before taking the proposal defense, the student must file their Program of Study and finish the comprehensive examinations. There should be at least a week between the completion of the comprehensive examinations and the prospectus defense.

Upon successful completion of the dissertation proposal defense, the student must submit a form entitled Results of the Doctoral Dissertation Proposal/Prospectus. Failure of the prospectus defense is considered final, unless the advisory committee, head of the Program, and the Graduate College dean approve a petition requesting a second defense. The revised proposal must be submitted by the end of six months from the date of the first defense. However, it is typically the case that the head of the student’s
Supervisory Committee will not permit the student to schedule the defense until the student’s prospectus is sufficiently complete to pass.

Candidacy

After the successful completion of the foreign language exam (if applicable), the comprehensive exams, and the dissertation proposal oral defense, the student will submit the Report of the Doctoral Comprehensive Exams, signed by the Supervisory Committee, to the Graduate Director for signature/approval. Upon approval of this form, the Graduate College will admit the student to candidacy; students can confirm this has occurred by checking their myASU page. The oral defense of the dissertation must occur within five years of the student’s admission to candidacy. Students should consult the graduate college website for the timing of obtaining format approval, filing for graduation, and scheduling the dissertation defense. Each of these steps must be completed within a specified time period prior to the commencement exercise, and all of these steps are listed at http://graduate.asu.edu/graddeadlines.html.

Dissertation

A dissertation is required. There are two options for the dissertation:

1. Book option: These dissertations are written as the first draft of a book manuscript.

2. Article option: These dissertations contain three related but stand-alone pieces, each of which is either a publishable article or a published article that was written for and during the course of doctoral training. In addition, these dissertations include an introductory chapter and a concluding chapter that preface and draw from all three papers. No more than one article may be co-authored, and the student must be first author on any co-authored articles.

Students and advisors should discuss these options and reach agreement before proceeding.

Approval of the dissertation style formatting must be obtained from the Graduate College; a copy of the College’s Format Manual is available in the Graduate College or online at https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/completing-your-degree/formatting-your-thesis-or-dissertation A careful review of the manual well in advance of the preparation of the final copy of the dissertation is strongly recommended, as it outlines all relevant procedures. Students must obtain approval of the format for the final copy of their dissertation prior to submitting it to the Graduate College for the oral defense. The format review is now done online, and there is a formatting tool https://graduateapps.asu.edu/formatadvising that will help to ensure that your dissertation format is correct.

Dissertation Examination

A final oral examination in defense of the dissertation is required and will be scheduled by the student through myASU with the approval of the Supervisory Committee and the Dean of Graduate Education. The student must submit a draft of the completed dissertation to the Graduate Director at the same time that it is submitted to Graduate Education; a complete dissertation, approved by the committee chair, is required before the scheduled defense will be approved. In addition, the chair of the Supervisory Committee must contact the Graduate Director at least 10 days prior to the planned defense to approve the
scheduling of the defense. *No defense will be approved without a completed dissertation and approval of the chair of the Supervisory Committee.*

Please note students must submit the complete, final draft of the dissertation to the entire committee at least two weeks prior to the defense.

The examination is conducted by the Supervisory Committee and others appointed by the dean of Graduate Education. A simple majority of votes cast is required for a successful defense. The examination will be open to the ASU community and will be publicized through appropriate channels. The date of the exam is scheduled by the student and Supervisory Committee, with approval from Graduate Education.

Candidates must take the final oral examination in defense of the dissertation within five years after passing the comprehensive examinations. Exceptions must be approved by the Supervisory Committee, the head of the academic unit and the dean of Graduate Education, and ordinarily will involve passing new comprehensive examinations.

**Graduation**

Procedures for graduation can be found on the Graduate College website here: [https://graduate.asu.edu/completing-your-degree/commencement](https://graduate.asu.edu/completing-your-degree/commencement)

Students should plan to check on the graduation procedures page at the beginning of the semester in which they plan to graduate to ensure all procedures are followed in a timely manner. The Graduate Coordinator can help students walk through this process.

Note that while Master’s degree candidates planning to graduate in Summer may walk in Spring graduation, Doctoral students must have completed all requirements for the degree, including depositing their final dissertation, in order to be eligible to walk, and therefore are not eligible to walk in Spring graduation.