



## Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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 **Washington University in St. Louis**  
ARTS & SCIENCES

## Washington University in St. Louis

### JD/MA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1078  
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## Joint Juris Doctoris/Master of Arts in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The juris doctoris (JD)/MA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is a truly joint program in which students, under close mentoring by WGSS and law faculty, take a carefully selected set of courses tailored to their interests in the Law School and in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. This program is designed to prepare lawyers with a deep understanding of the cultural impacts of gender and sexuality in the workplace, in policy, and in law.

Students entering this four-year program spend their first year taking the required 1L courses in the Law School. As a result, a law student might decide to apply for the joint degree program after entering law school.

Students in the program fulfill the usual JD requirements, including one ethics course, one upper-class writing course (seminar), 6 units of experiential credits in designated courses, and 67 units of law classroom credits. Because the upper-class JD curriculum may vary from year to year, students should choose their electives in consultation with their Law School advisers. Students in the joint JD/MA-WGSS program may take courses from Arts & Sciences during their second through fourth years.



## Electives in the student's Area(s) of Interest

- History and Theory
  - WGSS 475 Reformers and Radicals: Feminist Thinking through History (3 units)
  - WGSS 4675 Beyond the Harem: Women, Gender, and Revolution in the Modern Middle East (3 units)
- Literature
  - WGSS 4231 Topics in American Literature I: White American Masculinities (3 units)
  - WGSS 455 Topics in Korean Literature and Culture (3 units)
  - WGSS 4611 The Shaping of Modern Literature: Queer Historical Fiction
  - WGSS 482 Reading Seminar: Gender and Chinese Literature: Writing Women of Imperial China
- Gender Violence
  - WGSS 427 Technology and Feminist Practice: Gender Violence Prevention Tools (3 units)

## Thesis Procedures

- Students who choose to write a thesis will determine a subfield of focus during the first year of study. During the second year, in collaboration with their advisers, students will develop a thesis project or a practicum with a substantial writing component

## Master of Arts Program Requirements

The required WGSS courses are designed to meet the credit requirements for the Master of Arts & Sciences. Courses in the advanced seminar categories should be chosen in consultation with the WGSS adviser. The proposed curriculum includes courses that are home-based in WGSS, courses that are cross-listed with WGSS and taught by feminist and gender scholars on the faculty, and courses that are offered by the Law School.

The MA-WGSS requires 32 credit units, including at least 21 units from specific areas, with the remainder satisfied through elective courses in the student's area of interest; a 2-credit master's thesis is optional. For the JD/MA-WGSS, particular courses in the upper-class JD curriculum offer opportunities for such electives, but these courses *must* be taken for a grade; courses offered pass/fail or credit only will not count toward the 32 credits for the MA-WGSS. (**Note:** Should students decide to start a PhD program, they will need 36 credits at the master's level.)

Students opting to write a master's thesis should complete 30 units of course work and the thesis. Students opting not to write a thesis should complete 32 units of course work.

During their final semester of courses, students take a comprehensive written examination which will test competence in the field of study. The examining committee will consist of the Director of Graduate Studies, the student's adviser, and one other faculty member who is either core or affiliated with WGSS.

*Advanced Theory and Research (9 units)*

- WGSS 501 Advanced Feminist Theory (3 units)
- WGSS 417W Feminist Research Methodologies (3 units)
- WGSS 502 Critical Sexualities (3 units)

*Advanced Seminars in Race/Ethnicity (3 units)*

- WGSS 421 From Mammy to the Welfare Queen (3 units)
- WGSS 436 Black Sexual Worlds (3 units)
- WGSS 4XX Gender, Ethnicity, and Queer of Color Critique

*Advanced Seminars in Gender/Sexuality (3 units)*

- WGSS 406 Queering Theory (3 units)
- WGSS 4014 Feminist and Queer Media Studies (3 units)
- WGSS 412 Advanced Queer Theory (3 units)
- WGSS 419 Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory (3 units)

*Advanced Seminars in Transnational Feminist and Gender Analysis (6 units)*

- WGSS 402 Transnational Reproductive Health Issues (3 units)
- WGSS 437 Transnational Feminisms
- WGSS 49MB Advanced Seminar: Women and Gender in Modern Caribbean History (3 units)
- WGSS 429 Feminist Political Theory (3 units)
- WGSS 457 Gender and Modernity in Latin America (3 units)

**Electives in the Student's Area(s) of Interest (9-12 credits)**

These electives can be chosen from any of the advanced seminars from the above categories or from the following Law School courses, which must be taken for a grade to count toward the 32 credits required for the MA; students should discuss this with their WGSS adviser:

- LAW 590D Children's Rights Clinic (up to 8 units)
- LAW 590D Employment Discrimination (3 units)
- LAW 548 Family Law (3 or 4 units)
- LAW 8295 Feminist Theories/Feminist Judgments (3 units; seminar)
- LAW 8275 Implicit Bias, Law & the Legal Profession (3 units; seminar)
- LAW 609S-01 The Law of the Fourteenth Amendment (2 units)
- LAW 784 Regulating Sex: Historical & Cultural Encounters (2 units)
- LAW 602D Sexuality & the Law: Theory & Practice (3 units)
- LAW 802B & LAW 802C Supervised Instruction: Law, Gender, & Justice (3 units pass/fail, by selection only; can only count toward the JD portion of the program)
- Semester-in-practice externship (up to 12 units; specific placements only)