



University of Pittsburgh

Women's Studies Program

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MASTER'S CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

University of Pittsburgh graduate students in any area who are interested in the study of women, gender, and/or sexuality may apply to pursue the Master's Certificate in Women's Studies. Students pursuing a doctoral degree may enroll in either the Women's Studies Master's program or the Women's Studies Doctoral program. Students who are not enrolled in a graduate department at Pitt, but who have already completed an undergraduate degree (at Pitt or elsewhere), may also apply to pursue the Master's certificate in Women's Studies.

To apply to the Women's Studies graduate certificate program, each student must meet with the Director of Women's Studies to complete the Arts and Sciences Application to Admission to the Certificate Program, the Admissions Credentials Evaluation form, and the Women's Studies Advising Form.

Women's Studies certificates are issued through the School of Arts and Sciences, regardless of the graduate school in which the student is enrolled.

The **MASTER'S CERTIFICATE** consists of four courses (12 credits) and completion of a research paper.

1. Four courses counting toward a graduate degree offered by or cross-listed with Women's Studies (see www.pitt.edu/~wstudies for updated lists of course offerings). At least one must be outside the candidate's major discipline. Candidates should take at least two courses in one "field" (as designated in the candidate's concept statement). Students can petition to have accepted unlisted graduate courses with a substantial WS component or a major project in WS.
2. No more than one course may be directed study (WOMNST 2902 or comparable course in a graduate department).
3. All courses must be passed with at least a "B" grade.
4. Students must complete a research paper to be read by two members of the Women's Studies graduate faculty

RESEARCH PAPER FOR THE MASTER'S CERTIFICATE:

This research paper is designated as a paper of length, ambition and scope appropriate to the master's level. It should be neither simply an uncritical review of research nor a survey of Women's Studies, but should be a sustained piece of graduate-level work, prepared under the supervision of a faculty sponsor approved by the Director of the Women's Studies Program in consultation with the Master's Certificate candidate.

The paper may be written explicitly for the certificate requirement or written to satisfy a directed or independent study, or it may be a revised course paper, or a section of a master's thesis or dissertation. It may take the form of empirical research, a critical review of empirical research with a substantial agenda of theoretical or empirical direction for the field, a sustained critical essay, a multi-media or hyper-media project, or other form approved by the Director of the Women's Studies Program. The paper should involve creativity in its analysis and should demonstrate the student's own contribution to knowledge in a disciplinary or interdisciplinary context.

Students should submit a one-page proposal for this paper to the Director of Women's Studies and to the student's Women's Studies faculty sponsor. The completed paper will be read by two faculty designated by the director of Women's Studies, usually the faculty sponsor and another member of the Women's Studies graduate faculty.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROCEDURES

1. All Women's Studies Certificates are issued through the School of Arts and Sciences (FAS) Graduate Studies office, *regardless of the graduate school you are enrolled in*. You must adhere to Arts and Sciences deadlines for applying to graduate in order to receive your Women's Studies certificate. *A late fee is assessed by A&S if you miss the deadline.*
2. Your certificate will be listed on your transcript. You will receive a separate Women's Studies certificate in the mail after graduation. It is important to make sure that the program has a current mailing address to which to send the certificate.
3. You do not need to be registered for credit in the term in which you receive your Women's Studies Certificate.

Research paper deadlines for the Women's Studies Certificate are:

June 15 for August award of certificate

November 15 for December award of certificate

March 15 for April award of certificate

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