Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (BA/BS)

The major in women's, gender, and sexuality studies explores gender and sexuality in all areas of life – political, cultural, economic and bodily dimensions. Through interdisciplinary courses, students examine how gender, race, class, sexualities, and abilities shape personal identities, beliefs, opportunities, and behaviors. They also explore multiple dimensions of power in courses on black feminist theories, transnational feminisms, and feminist histories, literature and the arts. The department is committed to critical views and ideas that encourage possibilities for transformation and change.

In the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, students challenge the status quo by asking questions of themselves and the communities and worlds around them. The department's majors revisit and revise histories, understand and evaluate economic disparities, and through creative problem solving, learn to effect social change.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Develop a broad understanding of feminist studies, histories, and theories through interdisciplinary, intersectional, and transnational conceptual lenses.
- Develop skills in critical thinking and analysis through feminist research and methods.
- Communicate complex information and ideas (e.g., feminist theory) in a written manner that is clear and accessible.
- Apply feminist knowledge and skills to real-world problems in order to participate in social justice activism and civic engagement.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
WGS 101	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	4
Select two of the following:		8
WGS 201	Introduction to Queer Studies	
WGS 221	Bodies and Power	
WGS 250	Gender, Literature, and Culture	
WGS 251	Transnational and Indigenous Feminisms	
WGS 261	Gender and Popular Culture	
Select eight of the following: [1]		32
WGS 303	Women and Gender in American History	
WGS 315	History and Development of Feminist Theory	
WGS 321	Feminist Perspectives: Identity, Race, Culture	
WGS 322	Queer Theory	
WGS 331	Science, Technology, and Gender	
WGS 341	Women, Work, and Class	
WGS 350	Literature as Feminist Theory	
WGS 351	Decolonial Feminisms	
WGS 361	Gender, Film, and the Media	
WGS 407	Seminar: [Topic]	
WGS 409	Terminal Project	
WGS 421	Bodies and Embodiment	
WGS 422	Sexuality Studies: [Topic]	
WGS 432	Gender, Environment, and Development	
WGS 450	Literature and Feminist World-Making	
WGS 451	Global Perspectives on Gender [Topic]	
WGS 411	Feminist Praxis [2]	4
Total Credits		**48**

[1] Students may choose one of two options to satisfy the eight-course requirement:
- Choose three 300-level courses and five 400-level courses
- Choose four 300-level courses and four 400-level courses

[2] Offered fall term only.

Graded courses in the major must be completed with grades of C– or higher. No more than 8 credits taken pass/no pass in these courses may be counted toward the major.

At least 36 credits must be in upper-division courses; of those 36 credits, as many as 12 may be approved in other subject codes with advisor approval. At least 16 credits applied to the major must be taken at the University of Oregon. Women's, gender, and sexuality studies (WGS) majors must attain a grade point average of 2.50 or higher in courses applied to the major. No more than 8 credits from another major or minor may count toward the major.

Senior Honors Thesis

Students interested in producing a substantial piece of original research and writing may elect to write a senior thesis in women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

To be eligible to write an honors thesis, students should have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 in WGS courses. Students who satisfy the major requirements, maintain throughout their undergraduate studies at Oregon a GPA of 3.50 or above in courses in the major, and submit a copy of the honors thesis approved by their committee to the department receive a baccalaureate degree with honors in women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

Thesis Criteria

A thesis must be based on a student's original research. Depending on the discipline, it can be a written paper that presents the results of the research. Theses average between 30 and 50 pages, including notes and bibliographies.

Only theses that meet the following criteria will be approved and awarded honors:

- Identifies a clear and original topic or research question
- Demonstrates knowledge of the literature concerning that topic or research question in the field of gender studies by reviewing that body of literature and providing a substantive bibliography
- Provides an analysis of the topic or research question, using clearly identified methodology
- It uses the citational style appropriate to its disciplinary focus

- The thesis is mindful of the relationships among gender, race, class, ability, and national identity as these pertain to the object of study

Students producing a senior thesis should expect to do the following work over the course of a full year prior to their graduation. In the spring and summer before the thesis writing begins, students need to identify a primary advisor (first reader) and a second reader, both of whom are either a faculty member in the department or an affiliated faculty member (see faculty list). If an affiliated faculty member is the first reader, then the instructor of Reading and Conference: [Topic] (WGS 405) will be the second reader.

In fall, students should register for Reading and Conference: [Topic] (WGS 405) (1–4 variable credits) with their thesis advisor and submit a timeline for completion of the thesis to the thesis advisor.

By the end of the fall term, students should complete a draft of a research proposal that is five to eight pages in length and includes a literature review, a short section on the methods that will be used, research questions or a thesis statement (depending on the discipline), and a bibliography.

Research proposals must be approved by the thesis advisor and a copy must be submitted to the department. If an affiliate faculty member is the thesis advisor, the proposal must be approved by the student's primary advisor in the department as well.

In winter, students should register for Thesis (WGS 403). Using the timeline submitted in the fall, students spend winter term conducting research and writing the thesis in consultation with their advisor. By the end of winter term, research should be complete and thesis writing should be significantly underway.

In spring, students write, revise, and produce a final draft of the thesis following the timeline submitted in the fall. By no later than the end of the fifth week of the term, students must submit their final thesis to their departmental advisor, their affiliate advisor, or both. Upon approval, students must submit a copy of their final thesis to the department head.

The student’s performance on the thesis and on courses taken during the senior year will be reviewed before the honors distinction is granted. Obtain complete instructions and required forms from the department office.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

The degree plan shows courses that are solely within the department (subject code WGS) and suggestions for arranging general-education courses, language courses, and mathematics courses. The plans below do not necessarily include sufficient courses to meet the 180-credit minimum to graduate.

It is suggested that students look for courses that meet the multicultural requirements when taking general-education requirements.

Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
WGS 101	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	4	
PEMA 116	Women's Self Defense	2	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
	Credits	**14**	
Winter			
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	
WGS 200-level course		4	
Core-education course in social science		4	
Lower-division elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
200-level course with WGS subject code		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
Core-education course in science		4	
Lower-division elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**46**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
300-level course with WGS subject code		4	
First term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
Elective physical education course		1	
	Credits	**14**	
Winter			
300-level course with WGS subject code		4	
Second term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
Core-education course in science		4	
Elective physical education course		1	
	Credits	**14**	
Spring			
300-level course with WGS subject code		4	Apply for departmental scholarship
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		5	
Core-education course in social science		4	
Core-education course in science		4	
	Credits	**17**	
	Total Credits	**45**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
Upper-division elective course with WGS subject code or approved cross-listed course		4	
First term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
400-level course with WGS subject code		4	
Second term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
Core-education course in social science		4	
	Credits	**12**	
Spring			
400-level course with WGS subject code		4	
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		4	
Core-education course in science		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**44**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
WGS 411	Feminist Praxis	4	
Elective courses		12	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
400-level course with WGS subject code or approved cross-listed course		4	
Elective courses		12	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
400-level course with WGS subject code or approved cross-listed course		4	
Elective courses		12	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	

Bachelor of Science in Women's and Gender Studies

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
WGS 101	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
Lower Elective Course such as PEMA 116		2	
	Credits	**14**	
Winter			
200 level WGS course		4	
WR 122Z	Composition II	4	
Core-education course in social science		4	
Lower Division Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
200 level WGS course		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
Core-education course in science		4	
Lower Division Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**46**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
300 level WGS course		4	
Mathematics or computer science course		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
Lower Division Elective Course such as PE		1	
	Credits	**13**	
Winter			
300 level WGS course		4	
Mathematics or computer science course		4	
Core-education course in science		4	
Lower Division Elective Course such as PE		1	
	Credits	**13**	
Spring			
300 level WGS course		4	
Mathematics or computer science course		4	
Core-education course in social science		4	
Core-education course in science		4	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**42**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
Upper Division WGS Course or Approved Cross-Listed		4	
Mathematics or computer science course		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
400 Level WGS Course		4	
Elective course		4	
Core-education course in social science		4	
	Credits	**12**	
Spring			
400 Level WGS Course		4	
Core-education course in science		4	

Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
	Credits	**16**
	Total Credits	**44**

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
WGS 411	Feminist Praxis	4	
Three Elective Courses		12	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
400 level WGS Course or Approved Cross-Listed Course		4	
Elective courses		12	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
400 level WGS Course or Approved Cross-Listed Course		4	
Three Elective Courses		12	
	Credits	**16**	
	Total Credits	**48**	