

# UMSL Gender Studies

## Why Earn a Gender Studies Certificate?

In Gender Studies (GS), faculty and students draw upon the rich body of interdisciplinary feminist scholarship to investigate emerging theories and research on women, men and gender. Similar to a minor, a Gender Studies Certificate supplements a student's traditional academic major by promoting critical analysis of gender roles and structures across different times and cultures. GS classes promote the exchange of knowledge among people of different genders, classes, ethnicities, sexualities and cultural conditions. Taught by committed and dynamic faculty, GS courses enjoy strong reputations for student centered, lively and supportive classroom experiences. Earning a certificate not only enables students to broaden their educational experiences and develop new insights into their own lives and aspirations, but also facilitates employment in a wide variety of occupations.

## General Information

The Gender Studies program is committed to:

- Providing students with a first-rate gender education by fostering the exchange of knowledge among people of different genders, classes, ethnicities, sexualities and cultural conditions.
- Providing students with the appropriate skills to succeed in the workplace, community and the world by offering an educated perspective on diversity and gender equality.
- Conducting and disseminating basic and applied research that advances our understanding of issues relevant to gender studies.
- Creating educational value by delivering innovative, cutting-edge curriculum, using both traditional and non-traditional delivery methods.
- Serving the University, the St. Louis business and not-for-profit communities, the citizens of Missouri and society at large.

The Gender Studies program offers undergraduate and graduate certificates in cooperation with most of the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as with departments in the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the College of Education. The opportunity to earn an 18-hour certificate is available to all students pursuing a degree at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and to individuals with a bachelor's or master's degree from any university. Gender Studies courses are open to all students, whether or not they are working toward a certificate.

## Undergraduate Certificate Requirements

Undergraduate certificate candidates must meet the University's general education requirements. Applicants must have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 2.5 and must maintain a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. in GS courses.

Candidates for undergraduate certificates are asked to register with GS after taking one or two courses. Students will then be enrolled in the program and will be placed on our mailing list for class information and announcements of upcoming events.

Students must take at least 18 hours in Gender Studies courses.

9 hours must include 3 core courses:

1. GS 2102 Introduction to Gender Studies
2. GS 3033 Sexuality and Gender Theory or other 3000-5000-level course in feminist or gender theory
3. Capstone Experience: Students must complete a final research project or practicum.

The Capstone requirement may be satisfied by GS 4352 Independent Study in Gender Studies, GS 4353 Internship in Gender Studies, or by a 4000-level GS course or other 4000-level seminar where a student completes a final research and writing project that focuses on women's and gender studies.

9 hours may be cross-listed courses with a student's major department or GS electives from various disciplines.

### **Graduate Certificate Requirements**

The graduate certificate in Gender Studies is designed for students who wish to receive post-baccalaureate training in gender studies.

### **Admission**

Baccalaureate degree 2.75 G.P.A. Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate/graduate work, two letters of recommendation.

If you are not currently enrolled at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, you must apply through the Graduate School. This certificate is available to students with Bachelor's or Master's degrees and students enrolled in graduate degree programs. A student need not be enrolled in a degree program to earn the GS graduate certificate.

Post-BA/BS students may enroll in the undergraduate or graduate certificate program.

### **Certificate Requirements**

At least 18 hours of Gender Studies courses at the 4000-, 5000-, and/or 6000-level

- 1) 3 hours must include a graduate feminist or gender theory course, which may be GS 5033 Advanced Sexuality and Gender Theory, GS 5040 Feminist Critical Theory, or other theory course.
- 2) 3 hours must include either a graduate internship or practicum, or final writing project, which may be an independent study GS 6452 Special Readings in Gender Studies, or a substantial research and writing project for a GS graduate seminar, which may be GS 6450 Seminar in Gender Studies, or other cross-listed, 5000 or 6000-level seminar
- 3) 12 hours must be at the 5000-level or above, while up to 6 hours of 4000-level courses may be taken for graduate credit, as long as the student completes graduate level work for the course.
- 4) No more than 6 hours may be taken as directed or independent study credit.

Most GS courses are cross-listed with other departments and count toward a department's degree requirements as well as toward the certificate.