



**WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND
SEXUALITY STUDIES
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE**
for social work students



**WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND
SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM**
Illinois State University



WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

A strong and viable Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGSS) is essential to Illinois State University's mission to provide a high-quality liberal arts education. The graduate certificate program enhances any graduate degree by integrating with the student's field(s) of study a working analysis of gender as it intersects with class, sexuality, race, ethnicity, ability, age, nationality, and transnationality.

The graduate certificate in WGSS is an option for students whose interest in women's and gender issues leads them toward particular courses and thesis topics in their department/school, and who wish to seek further work in interdisciplinary feminist theory and methods.

The graduate certificate is a perfect match for social work students interested in social issues that affect women, children, and families daily. The topics explored in the WGSS graduate certificate relate directly to their practice and help increase cultural competency.

The WGSS program teaches students to recognize the intricacies of power and oppression and the various social institutions that hold barriers to equality in place. This encourages social work students to understand more fully the obstacles that many of their clients face daily. The WGSS certificate curriculum is an excellent way to start the process of breaking these barriers, empowering their clients, and providing them with the skills they need to succeed.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Students will work with both the social work advisor and the WGSS advisor to ensure that completion of the program requirements are fulfilled for both the master's in social work (MSW) degree and the graduate certificate in WGSS.

The School of Social Work (SWK) and the WGSS program agree to collaborate to direct nine of the 12 credit hours of course work to fulfill both the MSW degree requirements and the graduate certificate in WGSS. This is intended to facilitate students who would like to concurrently complete the MSW degree and the graduate certificate in WGSS.

The shared nine credit hours will include:

- The School of Social Work will accept six credit hours from the WGSS certificate curriculum as electives in the MSW curriculum. The six credit hours will include WGS 490 Feminist Theories and Methodological Issues and one other course from the listing of social work-approved WGSS elective courses.
- The WGSS program may accept three credit hours from either Specialist Practicum I (SWK 498.03) or Specialist Practicum II (SWK 498.04) as an elective. The director or advisor in the WGSS program must approve that the practicum setting and work is relevant to the graduate certificate.

In addition to these agreements, students will need to complete one additional elective for the certificate.

REQUIRED COURSE FOR THE WGSS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

WGS 490: Feminist Theories and Methodological Issues—An interdisciplinary study of methods, theories, analyses, and critiques by feminist scholars to study feminist issues within and across a range of traditional disciplines.

SOCIAL WORK ELECTIVES THAT COUNT TOWARD THE WGSS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

CJS 307: Family Violence: Cross-Cultural Perspectives* Analysis of family violence in the U.S. and other countries. Emphasis on police and judiciary response, solutions, and treatments.

CJS 339: Women in Criminal Justice* Historical and theoretical perspectives and contemporary trends concerning women and crime, and processing of women by the criminal justice system.

CJS 342: Victimology* An examination of the victim's role in the criminal event, the process of victimization, patterns, trends, theories, and victim offender relationships.

PSY 305: Psychology of Women* Psychological research to place in scientific perspective the etiology and behavioral consequences of female- and male-oriented attitudes.

SOA 341: Sociology of Gender* Explores the concepts, theories, and methods sociologists utilize to explain differences in the social relations between and among women and men. Individual, interactional, institutional, and social change processes are examined.

SOA 342: Sociology of the Body* Explores the concepts, theories, and methods sociologists utilize to study the body in social life. Special emphasis on non-normative bodies.

SOA 366: Contemporary Social Movements* Theories, methods, and research on social movements in the U.S. and on transnational social movements, including women's movements.

WGS 392: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender/Queer Studies and Theory* Research in the interdisciplinary field of LGBT/queer studies, emphasizing how queer theory informs a variety of academic disciplines and discourses.

WGS 400: Independent Study Research paper or supervised readings on a topic relevant to women's and gender studies.

**See Illinois State University catalog for prerequisites*



SAMPLE CERTIFICATE SCHEDULE

WGSS certificate option with SWK practicum

Courses and suggested schedule

WGS 490	Spring year 1
Elective 1	Summer year 1
Elective 2	Spring year 1 or 2
SWK 498.03 or 498.04	Fall or spring year 2

WGSS certificate option without SWK practicum

Courses and suggested schedule

WGS 490	Spring year 1
Elective 1	Fall year 1
Elective 2	Fall year 1 or 2
Elective 3	Spring year 1 or 2



HOW TO APPLY

Your plan of study must be arranged with both the WGSS advisor and the social work graduate advisor. With approval of the WGSS director, courses other than those listed may be counted toward the certificate.

To make an advising appointment, contact the WGSS advisor at WGSAdvisor@IllinoisState.edu or contact the program office at (309) 438-2947. Application procedures and paperwork are online at WGS.IllinoisState.edu.

LEARN MORE

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