A strong and viable Women’s and Gender Studies Program is essential to Illinois State University’s mission to provide a high-quality liberal arts education. The graduate certificate program enhances any major 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 Women’s and Gender Studies Program is a multidisciplinary community of scholars engaged in innovative and collaborative scholarship, teaching, and service that promote new knowledge and socially responsible activism.

The graduate certificate in women’s and gender studies 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 to seek further work in interdisciplinary feminist theory and methods.

This graduate certificate requires a 12-hour course of study. Students must complete WGS 400, either WGS 490 or ENG 460, and six hours selected from among the electives listed. With the approval of the academic advisor, the director, and the Graduate School, additional courses may be approved for the certificate. To qualify, other courses should devote at least 50 percent of content to women’s and gender issues.
Admission requirements
Students who seek the WGS certificate in conjunction with their graduate degree program must meet admission requirements for that degree, and also be admitted for the certificate. Non-degree seeking graduate students must meet the University graduate admission requirements and be admitted for the certificate. They should contact their undergraduate advisor, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program academic advisor. Degree seeking graduate students should consult with their graduate program coordinator/advisor, as well as the Women’s and Gender Studies Program academic advisor. Admission for all certificate students is made upon the approval of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program director.

How to apply:
Your plan of study must be arranged with either the WGS program director or the advisor. With approval of the director, courses other than those listed for the graduate certificate may be counted toward the certificate. To make an advising appointment, contact the WGS advisor at WGSAdvisor@IllinoisState.edu, or call the program office at (309) 438-2947. Application procedures and paperwork are online at IllinoisState.edu/Academics/Graduate.

Course Guide – WGS Graduate Certificate
The graduate certificate in women’s and gender studies requires 12 hours of coursework. Required courses include WGS 400, WGS 490 or ENG 460. Six hours of additional coursework must be chosen from: ANT 376; CIS 307, 339, 342; ENG 360, 460; HIS 330, 350; POL 337, 338; PSY 305; SOC 311, 341, 342, 366, 469.03; and WGS 391, 392, 498.

With the approval of the academic advisor, the director and the Graduate School, additional courses may be approved for the certificate. To qualify, other courses should devote at least 50 percent of content to women’s and gender issues.

Required Courses

WGS 400: Independent Study
Research paper or supervised readings on a topic relevant to women’s and gender studies. Proposal signed by a faculty advisor and the director or assistant director of Women’s and Gender Studies required prior to registration. For more information, see “General Courses” in the graduate catalog. May be repeated for credit if topic is different.

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.

or

ENG 460: Feminist Literary Theories
Advanced overview of interdisciplinary feminist paradigms emphasizing English studies and literature, theory, and social discourse.

Electives

ANT 376: Archaeology of Gender
Exploration of various archaeological approaches to the interpretation of gender in past societies. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

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. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

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. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

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. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

ENG 360: Studies in Women and Literature
Studies in and theories of women’s writing. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

ENG 460: Feminist Literary Theories
Advanced overview of interdisciplinary feminist paradigms, emphasizing English studies and literature, theory, and social discourse. An option only if not chosen to complete requirement certificate.

HIS 330: The Family in History
History of the family in Europe and America, viewing the changes from idealist, economic determinist, family systems, and psychoanalytic perspectives. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

An exploration of sources, methodologies, and debates concerning women, gender and sexuality in ancient Greece and Rome. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

POL 337: Lesbian and Gay Politics
Explores LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) political movements in historical context and with reference to claims for citizenship. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

POL 338: Gender and Political Theory
Examination of how gender shapes and is shaped by public policy formulation and implementation in different political and state contexts. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

PSY 305: Psychology of Women
Psychological research to place in scientific perspective the etiology and behavioral consequences of female and male oriented attitudes. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

SOC 311: Issues in Gerontology*
Advanced treatment of selected subjects in gerontology. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

SOC 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. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

SOC 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. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

SOC 366: Contemporary Social Movements
Theories, methods, and research on social movements in the U.S. and on transnational social movements, including women’s movements. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

SOC 469.03: Seminar in Sociology: Minorities/Stratifications*
Advanced graduate study in sociological topics. Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

WGS 391: Women and Gender Studies Seminar
A critical examination of selected topics in women’s and gender studies. May be repeated if topic is different.

WGS 392: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender/Queer Studies and Theory
Research in the interdisciplinary field of LGBTQ Studies, emphasizing how queer theory informs a variety of academic disciplines and discourses. Prerequisites: WGS 120 or permission of instructor.

WGS 498: Professional Practice
Supervised work experience in local, state, national, or international businesses, agencies, institutions, or organizations—including teaching internships—focusing on women’s and gender issues. Prerequisites: WGS 490 and consent of director of Women’s and Gender Studies.

Prerequisites: See ISU catalog.

Resource Center and Library
The Women’s and Gender Studies Program is committed to helping our students succeed. Our resource center and library house an extensive collection of books, periodicals and media resources. The center has internet access and offers students a comfortable place to study and work on group projects.

* Course counts for credit toward certificate only when taught by WGS faculty.