

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Degree Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-titles/>).

To qualify for a dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the disciplinary graduate program in which they are enrolled, as well as the degree requirements for the interdisciplinary dual-title in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. WGSS requirements for each degree program are listed below.

Candidates for the dual-title M.A./M.S. degree must complete twelve credits of graduate coursework and write a thesis or scholarly paper that centrally engages the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Degree Requirements for the Dual-Title Master's Degree

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
WMNST 502	Global Feminisms	3
WMNST 507	Feminist Theory	3
WMNST 509	Feminist Pedagogies	3
	or WMNST 508 Feminist Methodologies	
3 additional credits of graduate coursework will be completed with prior consultation and approval of the Director of Graduate Studies in WGSS		3
Total Credits		12

Candidates for the dual-title M.A./M.S. degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies must have at least one member of the WGSS Graduate Faculty on their master's advising committee.

Degree Requirements for the Dual-Title Ph.D.

To qualify for a dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of the disciplinary graduate program in which they originally enrolled, as well as the degree requirements for the interdisciplinary dual-title in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

These requirements include: eighteen credits of graduate coursework and a dissertation that centrally engages the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses ¹		
WMNST 502	Global Feminisms	3
WMNST 507	Feminist Theory	3
WMNST 508	Feminist Methodologies	3
	or WMNST 509 Feminist Pedagogies	

9 additional credits of elective graduate coursework will be completed with prior approval from the Director of Graduate Studies in WGSS. No more than three credits counting toward elective coursework can be completed at the 400-level, and at least one of the elective courses will be taken in a department other than the student's major degree program.

Total Credits 18

¹ Any exceptions to the WGSS degree requirements stated above must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree must include two Graduate Faculty members from Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Faculty members holding appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, with questions from both the disciplinary graduate degree program and from Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable (but not past the fourth semester, per Graduate Council policy).

Doctoral Committee Composition

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for doctoral committees (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/doctoral-dissertation-committee-formation/>), all candidates for the Dual-title Ph.D. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies must have at least two members of the Graduate Faculty of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies on their advising committee. One of these members must serve as chair or co-chair of the doctoral committee, as reflected in Graduate Council requirements for all dual-title Ph.D. programs. In addition, we strongly recommend that at least one of these WGSS-affiliated faculty have their tenure home outside of the student's partner discipline.

Comprehensive Exams

Dual-title Ph.D. students take one combined comprehensive exam that integrates questions from both disciplines. The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies-affiliated faculty members on the student's doctoral committee are responsible for assessing a student's mastery of the following areas: feminist theory, feminist methodologies, global feminisms, and feminist studies in the student's partner discipline.

Doctoral Dissertation And Defense

A dissertation on a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies topic is required of students in the dual-title degree program. That dissertation topic must be approved by the student's Ph.D. committee. Upon researching, writing, and completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense). The dissertation must be accepted by the doctoral committee, the head of both graduate programs, and the Graduate School.

Formal Meetings

Once a Ph.D. committee is appointed, dual-title students must include the WGSS-affiliated advisers in all formal meetings required by their partner program (annual evaluation meetings, qualifying exams, proposal defense, etc.). The nature and timing of these formal meetings vary according to each partner discipline's graduate requirements and program practices.