

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, B.A.

Saint Louis University's Department of Women's and Gender Studies is open to people of all genders, with courses focusing on women, gender and sexuality across the curriculum of the humanities and social sciences, and with connections to fields such as nursing, public health, social work and law.

Women's and gender studies is the study of the human experience that places women and gender at the center of the analysis. It is an interdisciplinary field that draws from knowledge and expertise in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. It examines how gender inequality is built into social institutions and practices, envisions more egalitarian alternatives and studies strategies of social change.

Women's and gender studies looks at how gender norms vary across cultures and how they interact with other systems of inequality, such as those based on race and class. Courses range from Gender and Popular Culture to Violence Against Women; from Feminist Theory to Feminism in Action and from Feminisms in the U.S.: Intersectional Approaches to Global and Transnational Feminism.

Curriculum Overview

SLU's bachelor's program offers engaging courses that develop students' multicultural awareness. The program enables individuals to become more reflective about their own lives and the lives of people of all genders everywhere. Courses encourage students to be active citizens of the world.

Students majoring in women's and gender studies take courses that focus on women, gender, sexuality, ethics, families and communities. Women's and gender studies students learn skills designed to help them build communities, develop policies and understand social relationships. Courses pay particular attention to the intersection of issues of ethnicity, class and sex, and explore how gender differences structure society. Many students double major in women's and gender studies and another discipline, introducing even more questions into both fields.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

All women's and gender studies majors have a praxis course requirement that can be satisfied by an internship. Faculty-supervised internships are possible with a wide range of agencies that focus on women, gender or sexuality.

All women's and gender studies majors also have an inquiry/research experience course requirement. The capstone course allows students to complete an individual research project with oversight from both the instructor and another faculty member with expertise in the student's area of interest. In a cross-listed core collaborative inquiry course, students may work together on a faculty-supervised research project. In both cases, there are opportunities for mentoring and professional development.

Careers

Students pursue careers in social service agencies, government, corporations and educational institutions. Some students go on to master's or doctoral work in women's and gender studies or pursue graduate work in a variety of fields, including social work and law.

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application and the Coalition Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to use central concepts from women's and gender studies to analyze how culture and social institutions shape possibilities for justice in everyday life.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate how contemporary feminist thought and movements can take different forms among diverse populations locally, nationally and globally.
3. Graduates will be able to identify and analyze intersections between matrices of power, privilege and oppression across cultures, space and/or time.
4. Graduates will be able to apply research skills and methodologies shaped by the discipline of women's and gender studies in an original and substantial theoretical or empirical research project.
5. Graduates will be able to clearly explain how their activist, service, or reflection in action project addresses a current social justice issue pertaining to intersections of social inequality.

Requirements

Women's and gender studies students must complete a minimum total of **30 credits** for the major.

Courses may simultaneously count for multiple majors and minors, and for core requirements. No single course can count as both a required course and an elective for the WGS major/minor.

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		32-35
Major Requirements		30
<i>Introductory Course</i>		

WGST 1900	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies	3
<i>Diversity and Identity Course</i>		
Select one course from the following:		3
WGST 2700	Feminisms in the U.S.	
WGST 3350	Women and Gender in Global Film	
WGST 3860	Global & Transnational Feminism	
<i>Praxis Course</i>		
Select one course from the following:		3
WGST 3850	Feminism in Action	
WGST 4919	Women's and Gender Studies Internship	
<i>Theory Course</i>		
Select one course from the following:		3
WGST 3775X	Feminist Theory: Gender Justice	
WGST 4810X	Philosophy of Feminism	
<i>Junior/Senior Inquiry/Research Experience Course</i>		
Select one course from the following:		3
WGST 4960	Women's and Gender Studies Capstone	
WGST 3510	The Structure of Poverty in the U.S.	
<i>Elective Courses</i>		
Select a minimum of 15 credit hours 2000-level or above with either a WGST number, a WGST cross-listing, or a WGST attribute. Accepted courses include:		15
WGST 2100	Introduction to Sexuality Studies	
WGST 2400	Gender and Popular Culture	
WGST 3100	Madonnas, Witches, Rebels: Women and Gender in Italy	
WGST 3315	Black Feminist Thought	
WGST 3800	Violence Against Women	
WGST 4400	Marginalized in the Medical Sciences	
General Electives		55-58
Total Credits		120

Additional Academic Requirements

Students must maintain a cumulative major GPA of 2.00 or above.

Saint Louis University has graduation requirements for all degree-seeking students. Students are responsible for understanding these Graduation Requirements (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/>).

Academic Standing

Saint Louis University has undergraduate and graduate standards regarding a student's Academic Standing. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Standing policy (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/academic-standing-undergraduate/>).

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an “!” are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar (Must be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	2-3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community (Must be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes / Must be taken at SLU)	1
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication (Should be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	3
WGST 1900	Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (Core attribute: Dignity, Ethics, and a Just Society)	3
WGST Elective		3
General Electives		3
Credits		15-16
Spring		
CORE 3200	Ways of Thinking: Quantitative Reasoning (Should be taken in first 45 credit hours at SLU)	3
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
WGST Elective		3
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication (Should be taken in first 60 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
WGST Diversity and Identity course	Core attributes (varies by course): Ways of Thinking and Identities in Context, Reflection in Action, Global Interdependence	3
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Spring		
CORE 3800	Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
WGST Elective		3
General Electives		9
Credits		15

Year Three		
Fall		
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
WGST Praxis course		3
WGST elective		3
General Electives		4
Credits		15-16
Spring		
CORE 3600	Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
CORE 4000	Collaborative Inquiry	2-3
WGST Theory Course	Core attributes: writing intensive, identities in context, dignity, ethics, and a just society	3
General Electives		6
Credits		14-15
Year Four		
Fall		
CORE 3500	Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World (May be added to a capstone for the major / Cannot carry attributes)	1
WGST Inquiry/Research Experience Course		3
General Electives		12
Credits		16
Spring		
WGST Elective		3
General Electives		12
Credits		15
Total Credits		120-123

Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact wstd@slu.edu or call 314-977-2057.