Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Michigan

Designed for students already enrolled in a terminal degree program at the University of Michigan, the Certificate in WGS consists of graduate course work totaling 15 credit hours. The Certificate, which can be combined with either a masters or a doctoral degree, aims to provide:

- analyses of contemporary feminist theoretical frameworks and methodologies, and their implications for academic disciplines and professional practices
- an inclusive approach that examines the intersection of gender and other social identities and categories of analysis
- an opportunity to broaden and enrich analytical skills in one or more disciplines while drawing on the interdisciplinary perspectives of WGS
- a challenge to the traditional separation of academic theory from political and professional practice

Address inquiries to:
Graduate Program Coordinator
1122 Lane Hall, 204 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1290
(734) 615-7619
WGSGradInquiry@umich.edu

www.lsa.umich.edu/WGS
REQUIREMENTS

Required Course Work

15 Credits:
- WGS 530 (3 credits)
- WGS 601 or 602 or 603 or 604 or 606 (3 credits)
- WGS 890 (3 credits)
- two electives (6 credits); one elective should fall outside the primary discipline

Core Courses:

WGS 530 (3 credits) Theories of Feminism
Explores various schools of feminist thought covering the last thirty years and examines how knowledge is produced in gendered ways from an interdisciplinary perspective.

One of the following: (These courses can also be taken as electives.)

- WGS 601 (3 credits) Approaches to Feminist Scholarship in the Humanities
  Explores how feminist scholars conduct research in the humanities by investigating questions of authority, evidence and argument in terms of the uses of history and the role of theory.

- WGS 602 (3 credits) Approaches to Feminist Scholarship in the Social Sciences
  Aims to examine critically quantitative and qualitative methods by which social scientists study women, sex, and gender, including feminist empiricism and standpoint epistemologies.

- WGS 603 (3 credits) Feminist Scholarship on Women of Color
  Exposes students to methodological strategies in feminist scholarship on women of color, ensuring knowledge of work written by women of color and an understanding of how even feminist paradigms have excluded them.

- WGS 604 (3 credits) Feminist Practice
  Explores a number of approaches to feminist, anti-racist, and multicultural praxis by studying the relationship between theory and practice in different disciplines and professional settings.

- WGS 606 (3 credits) Transnational & Multicultural Feminisms
  Brings “women of color” and “transnational” feminisms into dialogue by charting the development of U.S./third world feminist thought and action.

WGS 890 (3 credits) Advanced Research
Every student will carry out a culminating scholarly project that demonstrates how the student has integrated feminist perspectives with the student’s discipline(s). The final project can be one of the following (or another format to be approved by the Certificate Advisory Committee in the Women’s and Gender Studies Department): a dissertation chapter, prelim, master’s thesis, independent study focused on research, applied project, written component of a professional practicum, portfolio that integrates work in Women’s Studies with professional work, or an audio, visual, or textual project from the creative arts. In addition to submitting the final project, the student should submit an abstract and framing statement. These will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee, so the student should elaborate on any disciplinary conventions, terminologies, or practices that may not be readily accessible to an audience outside of the student’s specific area or discipline. The faculty advisor should also submit a statement. The deadline for these materials is November 1 for Fall term graduates and March 1 for Winter term graduates. All components of the WGS 890 should be submitted to the WGS Graduate Office.

WGS 890 GUIDELINES
1. The scholarly project should fall into one of the following categories (formats not falling into any of these categories require approval from the WGS Certificate Advisory Committee):
   a. an original piece of research developed specifically for the 890
   b. a redeveloped/expanded/revised dissertation chapter, a prelim exam response, a master’s thesis, an independent study focused on a research project
c. an applied project, professional portfolio, or written component of a professional practicum
d. a product that represents culminating work in the creative arts (for example, an audio, visual, or multi-media portfolio, with accompanying text or program notes if appropriate)

2. In addition to submitting the final project, the student should submit:
   a. A 250 word abstract of the project
   b. A Framing Statement of 3-5 single-spaced pages which addresses the following questions:
      i. What is this project, how is it significant, and how does it fit into your work in graduate school?
      ii. How does this project draw on feminist perspectives or methodologies?
      iii. How has this project been informed by coursework completed for the WGS Certificate?
      iv. How does this project expand the reach of feminist scholarship into your discipline?
      v. How does this project contribute to the larger field of feminist studies?
   c. The certificate completion form, found here.
   d. Optional: Students may include a description of how they intend to circulate the work to their intended disciplinary audience(s). This might include a description of a relevant conference, journal, edited volume, performance, or exhibit to which the student might submit the work.

WGS890 FACULTY ADVISOR STATEMENT GUIDELINES
In addition to the final project and accompanying documents, students should submit a statement from their faculty advisor with their 890 submission. This advisor statement should include at minimum the following components (one to two pages is typically sufficient, but faculty are free to write more if they wish):
   1. Comment on the context(s), quality, and importance of the student’s project;
   2. Explain the impact of the WGS certificate program on the student as a scholar;
   3. Explain the impact of the student’s work on the student’s field(s) of study;
   4. Approve this final project as the culmination of the WGS Certificate.

ADMISSION
Students must be enrolled in a degree-granting program. They must be in good standing with their program and have the consent of their graduate advisor as well as the consent of the Graduate Director in the WGS Department.

Admission to the Certificate program is granted on a rolling basis, meaning students are encouraged to apply any time during the year. Please note: Students must have completed one term of graduate study in their program before applying for admission to the Certificate program. (e.g. If you are a new student in Fall, the earliest you can apply for Certificate admission is for the Winter term. For Masters students, you should submit your Winter term application ideally in October or November.)

At time of application, students must submit:
   1. Graduate Certificate in WGS Application Form [attached below];
   2. A 300-600 word statement of purpose explaining your interest in the Certificate Program and your background in Women’s Studies;
   3. A statement of support from advisor or another faculty member, emailed to WS Grad Coordinator (a short email describing suitability is sufficient); and
   4. One of the two Rackham applications:
      • For current Rackham students: Rackham’s Dual Admissions online form. This form needs to be signed by the student’s other department chair prior to submitting it to Women’s Studies. If the student is admitted, the Women's Studies Director of Graduate Studies will sign and return the form to Rackham.
      • For non-Rackham U-M students (e.g. MSW or MPH students): Rackham’s online application. Submit Rackham’s required materials/transcripts, and pay the application fee. Graduate Certificate applicants do not need to submit new test scores, but a final official copy of undergraduate
transcripts/credentials must be submitted to Rackham. (Note that courses taken to complete certificate requirements should be registered for under Rackham. Dual-enrollment is allowed.)

**COMPLETION OF PROGRAM**

Once all requirements have been fulfilled, all certificate students must “Apply for Graduation” in Wolverine Access in order to receive their Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies. Students must apply for graduation by the Rackham [degree/diploma application deadlines](#) for the desired term of graduation.

If a certificate student is in a Master’s degree program or has received an embedded Master’s along the way to their PhD, they must also complete a dual/joint degree course election form. This form is used to verify that the following double-counting rules have been followed. See below for more details on Rackham’s double-counting guidelines.

**DOUBLE-COUNTING CREDITS**

The double-counting of credits rules apply to all Certificate students in Masters programs and all Certificate students who have received an embedded Masters degree on their way to their PhD. (Double-counting rules are irrelevant for PhD students who do not seek an MA.)

Students in dual degree programs may double-count a limited number of credit hours toward the requirements of both degrees. Double-counting of credit hours for two certificate programs is not allowed. To request double-counting, a student must complete a [Dual Degree Course Election Form](#) no later than one term prior to completing the second degree. [Double-counting rules specific to each dual degree program](#) are found on the Rackham Website. The following general guidelines apply:

- Double-counted courses must be taken within five years of the first date of enrollment of the current degree program.
- To preserve the integrity of each Rackham degree, at least half of the minimum required credit hours for each Rackham degree must be earned in the Rackham program under a Rackham registration and counted solely for that degree. That is, of the 15 credits required for a WS Certificate, the maximum amount that may be double-counted is 7.
- Only 1/6 of the total credits for the Masters degree can be double-counted towards the WS Certificate (e.g., if the MA is 36 credits only 6 can be double-counted between units).
- A graduate program may overlap with only one other program for the purpose of double-counting credit hours. Credit hours may never be used for three or more programs. If a student seeks a third certificate or program, it must stand alone.
- Graduate programs may limit the double-counting of credit hours below the Rackham maximum, but may not allow double-counting above the Rackham limit.
- Credits cannot be split (e.g., A student cannot use 1 credit from a 3 credit course).
- Your non-Rackham degree program may have separate rules regulating double-counting.

**ADDITIONAL RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES ON GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**

Please see: [http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/policies/academic-policies/section9](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current-students/policies/academic-policies/section9)
Graduate Certificate in WGS Application Form

Date: ________________________  UMID: ________________________
Name: ________________________  Phone: ________________________
Mailing Address: ________________________  Email Address: ________________________

I am currently enrolled in the following University of Michigan graduate degree program:

Name of Program: ________________________
Advisor in current degree program: ________________________
Suggested WGS advisor (optional): ________________________

Academic degrees:

Bachelors Degree Institution: ________________________  Received: ________________________
Major Field: ________________________  Minor Field (if applicable): ________________________

Other academic degrees:

Degree: ________________________  Field: ________________________
Institution: ________________________  Received: ________________________

Please attach the following before sending it to the department:

• A 300-600 word statement of purpose explaining your interest in the Certificate Program and your background in Women's Studies;
• A letter of support from advisor or another faculty member; and
• One of the two Rackham applications:
  o For current Rackham students: Rackham’s Dual Admission online form.
  o For non-Rackham U-M students (e.g. MSW or MPH students): Rackham’s online application. Submit Rackham’s required materials/transcripts, and pay the application fee. Graduate Certificate applicants do not need to submit new test scores, but a final official copy of undergraduate transcripts/credentials must be submitted to Rackham. (Note that courses taken to complete certificate requirements should be registered for under Rackham. Dual-enrollment is allowed.)

Submit completed application materials to: Graduate Program Coordinator, WGS 1122 Lane Hall, 204 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1290, wgsgradinquiry@umich.edu