

Graduate Certificate in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Studies at the University of Michigan



Designed for students already enrolled in a terminal degree program at the University of Michigan, the Certificate in LGBTQ Studies 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 an interdisciplinary analysis of the function of sexuality, and particularly sexual identity, in the construction of individuals, as a form of minority discourse, as a signifier of cultural representations, and as a site of power.
- Examine the processes by which sexual desires, identities, and practices are produced, represented, regulated, and resisted, in the U.S. and globally, both in the past and in the present.
- Address sexuality in a way that consistently demonstrates its interconnections to gender, race, ethnicity, and class.

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

REQUIREMENTS

15 CREDITS:

- WS 531 (3 credits)
- WS892 (3 credits)
- One Women's Studies course on sexuality (3 credits)
- Two electives on sexuality or LGBTQ topics (6 credits); one elective should fall outside the primary discipline

CORE COURSES

WS 531 (3 credits) Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

This course is a high-level introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer Studies, along with its various sub-fields. The seminar is designed for graduate students in all schools and disciplines; it does not assume previous knowledge. The course will survey the overlaps and differences between lesbian and gay male studies, will examine some of the foundational texts of Queer Theory, and will take account of the recent emergence of Transgender Studies. While the field of LGBTQ studies is now too vast to be covered systematically, the course will attempt to provide a sense of the range of that field and some of the current controversies within it. The exact content of the course can also be adjusted to suit the individual needs of the students who choose to enroll in it from one year to the next.

WS 892 (3 credits) Advanced Research

Every student will carry out a culminating scholarly project that demonstrates how the student has integrated LGBTQ and 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 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 LGBTQ Studies with professional work, or an audio, visual, or multi-media 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 WS 892 should be submitted to the Women's Studies Graduate Office.

WS 892 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 WS Certificate Advisory Committee):
 - a. an original piece of research developed specifically for the 892
 - b. a redeveloped/expanded/revised dissertation chapter, a prelim exam response, master's thesis, or 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 LGBTQ, queer and/or feminist perspectives or methodologies?
 - iii. How has this project been informed by coursework completed for the LGBTQ Studies Certificate?

- iv. How does this project expand the reach of LGBTQ, queer and/or feminist scholarship into your discipline?
- v. How does this project contribute to the larger field(s) of LGBTQ, queer and/or feminist studies?
- c. 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.

WS 892 FACULTY ADVISOR STATEMENT GUIDELINES

In addition to the final project and accompanying documents, students should submit a statement from their faculty advisor with their 892 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 LGBTQ Studies 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 LGBTQ Studies 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 Women's Studies 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 to the department:

1. [Graduate Certificate in LGBTQ Studies Application Form](#);
2. A 300-600 word statement of purpose explaining your interest in the LGBTQ Certificate Program;
3. A letter of support from advisor or another faculty member; and
4. One of the two Rackham applications:
 - *For current Rackham students:* Rackham's [Add a Degree or Certificate Application](#) form. This is an online form that will be sent to the student's home department and to Women's Studies. Once it has been approved by both departments it will be sent 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>

Graduate Certificate in LGBTQ Studies 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 LGBTQ Studies 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 LGBTQ Certificate Program;
- A letter of support from advisor or another faculty member; and
- One of the two Rackham applications:
 - *For current Rackham students:* Rackham's [Add a Degree or Certificate Application](#) 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.)

Submit completed application materials to: Graduate Program Coordinator, Women's Studies
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