



University of Pittsburgh

*Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program*

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MASTER'S CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies provides a credential for Pitt grad students that may be invaluable on the job market (whether in academia, government, the non-profit sector, etc.). Students pursuing a doctoral degree may enroll in either the Master's or Doctoral Certificate program. Students who are not enrolled in a graduate department at Pitt, but who have already completed an undergraduate degree (at Pitt or elsewhere), may also apply to pursue the Master's Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies.

To apply: Each student must meet with the Director of Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies to complete the Arts and Sciences Application for Admission to the Certificate Program, the Admissions Credentials Evaluation form, and the GSWS Advising Form. Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies certificates are issued through the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, regardless of the graduate school in which the student is enrolled.

The **MASTER'S CERTIFICATE** consists of four courses (12 credits) and completion of a research paper.

- Four courses counting toward a graduate degree offered by or cross-listed with Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies (see the GSWS website for updated lists of course offerings). At least two courses must be outside the candidate's major discipline. Candidates should take at least two courses in one "field" (as designated in the candidate's concept statement). Students can petition to have accepted unlisted graduate courses with a substantial GSWS component.
- No more than one course may be an independent or directed study. Students may select GSWS 2902 (Directed Study).
- GSWS 2252 ("Theories of Gender and Sexuality"), offered regularly, is required and counts as one of two courses outside the candidate's major discipline
- All courses must be passed with at least a "B" grade.
- Students must complete a research paper to be read by two members of the GSWS graduate faculty.
- Students must also compose a 300-600 word concept statement in which they articulate their "field" of study (loosely defined) and how it relates to interdisciplinary approaches to gender/sexuality/women's studies.
- Students may transfer up to one course from another institution if taken at the graduate level, but that course cannot replace the requirement of GSWS courses taken through the program

Research Paper for the Master's Certificate:

This research paper is designated as a paper of length, ambition, and scope appropriate to the master's level. It should be neither simply an uncritical review of research nor a survey of gender/sexuality studies, but should be a sustained piece of graduate-level work, prepared under the supervision of a faculty advisor appointed by the Director of GSWS in consultation with the master's certificate candidate.

The paper may be written explicitly for the certificate requirement or written to satisfy a directed or independent study, or it may be a revised course paper or a section of a master's thesis or dissertation. It may take the form of empirical research, a critical review of empirical research with a substantial agenda of theoretical or empirical direction for the field, a sustained critical essay, a multi-media or hyper-media project, or other form approved by the director of the Program. The paper should involve creativity in its analysis and should demonstrate the student's own contribution to knowledge in a disciplinary or interdisciplinary context.

Students should submit a one-page proposal for this paper to the Director and to the GSWS faculty advisor when appointed. The completed paper must be read by two affiliated faculty members, usually the faculty advisor and another affiliated faculty member.

Graduate Certificate Procedures:

All GSWS Certificates are issued through the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, regardless of the graduate school in which students are enrolled. Students must follow Arts and Sciences Graduate School deadlines for applying for degrees to receive your Certificate. Students must apply to the Graduate School to receive the Certificate at graduation, and certificates cannot be issued after a student graduates. A late fee is assessed if you miss the deadline. Please note that applying to do the Certificate and applying to graduate are two separate processes.

Completion of the graduate certificate requires that you:

- Complete all required courses with a B or better grade
- Complete a research paper to be read by two faculty members, each of whom must sign the signature page. A copy of the research paper with signature page must be received by the appropriate deadline:
June 15 for August graduation
November 15 for December graduation
March 15 for April graduation

A separate certificate will be mailed to you after graduation. It is important to make sure that the Program has a current mailing address.