



University of Pittsburgh

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

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MSW CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies provides an opportunity for MSW students to gain expertise in topics and issues related to gender and sexuality. Offered through the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program, this MA certificate integrates the study of feminist theories with their application in research, policy, and practice. Many MSW students pursue this certificate, which provides them with excellent preparation and an added credential for working in fields related to gender and sexuality, such as domestic violence, sexual assault prevention and counseling, family services, and LGBTQIA services and advocacy, to name just a few.

The **MASTER'S CERTIFICATE** consists of four courses taken before graduation from the MSW (12 credits) and completion of a research paper and a concept statement:

- All students must take the required core course, GSWS 2252, *Theories of Gender and Sexuality*, offered every year by the GSWS Program. This course is sometimes offered in the fall semester and sometimes in the spring, so please plan ahead so that you can take this essential course, which will count as one of your general electives for social work.
- GSWS2058, *Feminist Social Work*, usually offered every fall semester. This course must be taken with the GSWS course number to count. Another course with a GSWS course number can be substituted for this course.
- Social work courses can meet the requirements for the remaining two courses, if you plan accordingly (although you have the option of taking another course outside of social work). Among the other social work courses which satisfy the certificate requirements are the required MSW foundation course, *Foundations of Social Work Practice with Diverse Populations, Intimate Partner Violence*, and *Human Sexuality*. Depending on the instructor and the focus of your own work that semester, other courses may meet the requirements. Students also have the option of doing a directed study with a willing affiliated faculty member. Students can petition to have accepted unlisted graduate courses with a substantial gender, sexuality, or women's studies component.

All courses must be passed with at least a "B" grade.

Students must complete a research paper to be read by two affiliated faculty members. Students must submit a copy of their paper and the signature page to those two affiliated faculty [who must be officially listed on the GSWS AF faculty page] and then deliver the signature page along with a hard copy of the paper to the GSWS Office for inclusion in the student's file. 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



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.

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. This must be turned in to the Director of the GSWS program at least 10 days before the graduate paperwork is due for graduation.

Advising

If you are an MSW student interested in pursuing the Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, please meet with Sara Goodkind, Associate Professor of Social Work, Sociology, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies during your first year in the program to discuss your plans. Email her at sag51@pitt.edu to set up an appointment. Each student must complete the Arts and Sciences Application for Admission to the Certificate Program, the Admissions Credentials Evaluation, and the GSWS Advising Form. A file will be kept in the GSWS main office. The GSWS Program Director is also happy to meet to discuss a plan of study or other aspects of the Program.

Graduate Certificate Procedures (Graduation)

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

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