



University of Pittsburgh

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

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PHD 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.). The Program offers both a Master's and a PhD Certificate. Students often report that the Certificate was a major asset in their job search. The Certificate also aims to help students who are writing dissertations with a gender focus or a gender component theorize their work in a sophisticated manner and to place themselves in dialogue with gender/sexuality studies as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry.

University of Pittsburgh doctoral students in any area may apply to pursue a certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. The Certificate is awarded and recorded on doctoral student transcripts in conjunction with completion of the appropriate advanced degree. Both the Master's and PhD Certificate Programs are open to doctoral students. Certificate students may apply for our research funding program, and advanced students may apply to teach our undergraduate courses.

To apply to the Graduate Certificate Program, interested students should make an appointment with the Director of the program to discuss options for a course of study and to complete the Arts and Sciences Application for Admission to the Certificate Program, the Admissions Credentials Evaluation, and the Advising Form.

The **DOCTORAL CERTIFICATE** consists of six courses (18 credits) and completion of a research paper.

- Six courses counting toward a graduate degree offered by or cross-listed with GSWS. At least three must be outside the candidate's major discipline. Candidates should take at least three courses in one "field" (as designated in the candidate's concept statement). Students can petition to have accepted unlisted graduate courses with a substantial gender, sexuality, or women's studies component.
- No more than one course may be independent study or directed reading. Students may select GSWS 2902 (Directed Study).
- We will consider by petition graduate courses on gender taken at another institution, but no more than 2 courses may be applied toward the Certificate.
- GSWS 2252 ("Theories of Gender and Sexuality"), offered regularly, is required and counts as one of three courses outside the candidate's major discipline.
- At least one other course (3 credits) besides 2252 must be an interdisciplinary GSWS course, other than Independent Reading or Directed Study.

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



Students must complete a research paper to be read by a GSWS-affiliated faculty member. Students must submit their paper and the signature page to the 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 approved paper) to the GSWS Office for inclusion in the student's file.

Students must also compose a 500-1000 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. The document should go beyond a student's dissertation. This statement must be turned in to the Director of the program at least 10 days before the graduate paperwork is due.

Students must register with the Program Director and discuss their program of study with the Director at the beginning of their course of study.

Research Paper for the Doctoral Certificate

This research paper is designated as a paper of length, ambition and scope for publication as a scholarly article. It should be neither simply an uncritical review of research nor a survey of GSWS studies, but should be a sustained piece of advanced work, prepared under the supervision of a faculty sponsor appointed by the Director of the Program in consultation with the doctoral certificate candidate. The paper may be written explicitly for the certificate requirement, written to satisfy a directed or independent study, or it may be a revised course paper, or a section of a dissertation. In its content and scope, it must integrate theories, ideas, and implications from several areas of interest within gender/sexuality/women's studies. 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 journal article intended for publication, a multi-media or hyper-media project, or other form approved by the Director of the Program. The paper should demonstrate creativity in its analysis and the student's own contribution to knowledge in a disciplinary or interdisciplinary context.

One faculty member, usually the faculty sponsor, must read the completed paper.

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 graduation to receive your Certificate. Students must apply to the A&S Graduate School to receive the Certificate for 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 a faculty member, who 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