Women's Studies Major - Bachelor of Arts (BA)

GENDER is a society’s ideas about what it means to be male or female. Gender works with other ideas like RACE, CLASS, and SEXUAL ORIENTATION to shape our lives. It influences how we think about relationships. It structures our decisions about work and determines how much money we are likely to make. It disrupts health diagnoses and treatment. It stigmatizes behaviors and actions. It even helps determine what we eat, wear, and buy.

And it has always generated action and organized movements seeking equality, worldwide.

The Department of WGSS enacts the Wisconsin Idea (http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=752): that universities should produce knowledge and educate students in ways that serve real people. We study and teach on the lives of women, men, and sexual or gender identity minorities. We examine the ways that race, social class, age, and other socially constructed hierarchies connect to gender to impact people’s real lives. We study how social change works and what social justice might look like. We use and teach students to use academic skills to make social change. We maintain the connection between theory and practice, issues and advocacy, throughout our curricula and in all our programs.

Major requirements
(All colleges, excluding teacher certification programs)

33 credits (24 credits must be 300/400 level, and courses may not count in more than one category).

Admission

Admission to the major requires a grade of "C" or higher in any courses taken for the introductory or transnational categories. Students majoring in women’s studies and another major must satisfy requirements for both majors; no more than six credits can count for the women's studies major and another major or minor.

Curriculum

Category I. Introductory

Select one of the following: 3

- WGS 100 Gender, Race and Class in American Institutions
- WGS 210 Women's Voices / Women's Culture
- WGS 230 Women's Diversity: Race, Class, and Culture

Category II. Transnational

Select one of the following: 3

- WGS/SOC 316 Gender, Sexuality, and Social Change in Religion
- WGS/SOC 337 Globalization, Women, and Work
- WGS 373 Gender and Human Rights
- HIS 359 Women, Gender and Sexuality in Modern Europe
- HIS 360 Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Latin America
- HIS 383 Women in South Asia
- HIS 386 Women and Gender in Africa
- HIS 389 Women and Gender in the Middle East
- POL 433 Women and Politics in Asia

Category III. Intimacy, sexuality, and the family

Select two of the following: 6

- WGS/SOC 105 Introduction to LGBT Studies
- WGS/HIS 305 History of Motherhood in the United States
- WGS 320 Violence Against Women
- WGS 333 The Gendered Body in History and Today
- WGS/HIS 370 The History of Black Women’s Activism
- WGS/SOC 375 Lesbian Studies
- WGS 386 Women of Color and Autobiography
- CST 334 Gender Communication
- HED 472 Sexual Health Promotion
- PHL 342 Philosophy of Love, Sex and Friendship
- PSY 305 Human Sexuality
- PSY 318 Psychology of Women
- PSY 319 Men and Masculinities
- SOC 370 Sociology of Gender

Category IV. Gender stratification

Select two of the following: 6

- WGS 230 Women’s Diversity: Race, Class, and Culture
- WGS 255 Women in the Military
- WGS/ESS/PSY 259 Girls and Women in Sport
- WGS/HIS 301 Women in the Modern United States: 1890-Present
- WGS 320 Violence Against Women
- WGS 331 Images of African American Women
- WGS 333 The Gendered Body in History and Today
- WGS/SOC 338 Sociological Aspects of Work and Life
- WGS 340 Women, Learning and Knowledge
- WGS/HIS 370 The History of Black Women’s Activism
- WGS 374 Women, Poverty and Public Policy
- ANT 250 Women and Society
- ARC/HIS 372 History of Women in the Ancient World
- ECO 336 Women in the U.S. Economy
- ENG 220 Women and Popular Culture
- HED 412 Women’s Health Issues
- POL 205 Women and Politics

Category V. Feminisms/social change

Select two of the following: 6

- WGS 201 Social Justice and Peer Education
- WGS 212 Search for Economic Justice
- WGS 225 Women and Leadership
- WGS/ESS/PSY 259 Girls and Women in Sport
- WGS 308 Gender, Justice, and Film
- WGS/HIS 315 History of Feminist Thought
- WGS 321 Gendered Violence Prevention
- WGS 325 Black Feminist Thought
- WGS 360 Hip Hop Culture, Race, and Gender
Degree requirements

All students must complete the general education, college core, major/ minor, and university degree requirements in order to qualify for a degree. The easiest way to track all of these requirements is to refer to the Advisement Report (AR) found in the Student Information System (WINGS) Student Center. All enrolled students have access to the AR.

- General education (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation)
- College core (p. 2)
- Baccalaureate degree requirements (p. 3)

College of Liberal Studies (CLS/SAC)
Bachelor of Arts core requirements

The following conditions apply to one or both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees:

1. Students majoring in English or in a modern language must earn a Bachelor of Arts degree (education majors earn a Bachelor of Science degree).
2. Students majoring in other CLS programs may choose either a B.A. or a B.S. degree.
3. Language courses (CHI, FRE, GER, RUS, SPA, MLG) used to fulfill general education requirement: "Mathematical/logical systems and modern languages" (GE 02, category 2) may also be used to meet the B.A. and B.S. language requirements.
4. All other courses used to meet the requirements below must be in addition to the minimum 39 credits required in the General Education Program.
5. At least one course in the B.A. or B.S. college degree program (core requirements) must be a CLS designated diversity course.
6. Applicable courses may be found on the CLS B.A./B.S. Degree Option Course List (http://www.uwlax.edu/uploadedFiles/Academics/Colleges_Schools/CLS/BA%20and%20BS%20Core%20Courses.pdf) or in the Advisement Report (AR) when the degree has been declared.

Courses used to fulfill general education requirements will not apply to core requirements except for language courses (CHI, FRE, GER, RUS, SPA, MLG) that count in the general education requirement: "Mathematical/logical systems and modern languages" (GE 02, category 2).

Declare ONE of the following tracks in the CLS Academic Services Office in 260 Morris Hall:

A. Language track

1. Native speakers of English complete:

Select one of the following:

- CHI 202 Intermediate Chinese II
- FRE 202 Intermediate French II
- GER 202 Intermediate German II
- RUS 202 Intermediate Russian II
- SPA 202 Intermediate Spanish II
- MLG 202 World Languages: Intermediate II
- MLG 204 Heritage Language: Intermediate
- MLG 304 Heritage Language: Advanced

Non-native speakers of English: score at least 80 on the La Crosse Battery of exams for non-native speakers of English; or submit a TOEFL or IELTS score that meets the university’s English language proficiency requirement for admission; or complete ESL 252 or ESL 253, and one additional course from ESL 250, ESL 251, ESL 252, ESL 253. (Contact the English as a Second Language Institute (http://www.uwlax.edu/esi) for eligibility and regulations);

2. Two additional courses outside of the student’s major in two of the following: humanities, social sciences or fine arts.

B. Humanities track

1. One modern language course 102 or higher or an Office of International Education (OIE) approved semester long study abroad experience combined with the INS 250, INS 251, INS 252 sequence; and

2. Two additional courses outside the department of the student’s major from two different departments chosen from: history, English, philosophy; and

3. One additional course in social sciences or fine arts.

C. Fine arts track

1. One modern language course 102 or higher or an Office of International Education (OIE) approved semester long study abroad experience combined with the INS 250, INS 251, INS 252 sequence; and

2. Two additional courses outside the department of the student’s major from two different departments chosen from: art, communication studies, music, theatre; and

3. One additional course in social sciences or humanities.

In addition to all other College of Liberal Studies core requirements, all students in CLS must complete a second major, minor, or program option by satisfying one of the following:

1. Complete a minor (or second major) outside of the student’s major program, consisting of at least 18 credits; or

2. Complete an emphasis, program or concentration of at least 18 credits outside the student’s major program. General education courses may apply provided they are not being used to fulfill minimum general education requirements; or

3. Complete 18 credits in two or more departments or programs (at least 12 credits earned at the 300/400 level). These courses must be outside the student’s major department and can be from any
college. General education courses may apply provided they are not being used to fulfill minimum general education requirements.

**Baccalaureate degree requirements**

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degrees must accomplish the following:

1. Fulfill the general education requirements.
2. Complete at least one ethnic studies (diversity) course.
3. Complete the courses prescribed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the degree desired in the respective school or college. (No substitutions for graduation may be made in course requirements for a major or minor after the fourth week of the last semester of the senior year.)
4. Earn a minimum of 120 semester credits with at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA.¹ At least 40 credits must be earned in 300/400 (senior college) level courses. Courses earned at the 100/200 level that transferred to UW-L as 300/400 level courses do not apply to this requirement nor do courses from two-year schools.
5. Complete major and minor requirements with at least a 2.00 GPA¹ in each major and minor (and concentration or emphasis, if selected).
6. A minimum of 30 semester credits in residence at UW-L is required for graduation. (See undergraduate resident requirement (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/graduation/#undergraduate-residence-requirement).)
7. File a completed “Apply for Graduation” form via the WINGS Student Center as soon as the student has registered for his or her final semester or summer term in residence. December and winter intersession graduates should file by May 1. May and summer graduates should file by December 1.

¹ Grade point average requirements for some programs will be considerably higher than 2.00. Re-entering students may be required to earn credits in excess of the 120 needed for graduation in any curriculum in order to replace credits earned in courses in which the content has changed substantially in recent years. Each case will be judged on its own merit.

**No degree will be awarded unless all requirements are fulfilled and recorded within 30 days after the official ending date of each term.**

**Sample degree plan**

Below is a sample degree plan that can be used as a guide to identify the courses required to complete the major and other requirements needed for degree completion. The actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). This sample plan also assumes readiness for each course and/or major plan. Actual degree plans may differ. Some courses may not be offered every term. Review course descriptions or the class timetable for course offering information.

The sample degree plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UW-L in the fall term. Students should use the Advisement Report (AR) in WINGS (https://wings.uwlax.edu/psp/csprod/?cmd=login&amp;languageCd=ENG) and work closely with their faculty advisor(s) and college dean’s office to ensure declaration and completion of all requirements in a timely manner.

**General Education Program**

General education (Gen Ed) is the common educational experience for all undergraduates at UW-L. Sample degree plans include Gen Ed placeholders to ensure completion of the general education curriculum. Courses may be rearranged to fit the needs or recommendations of the student’s program of study. Gen Ed courses may be taken during winter term (January between the semesters) and summer to reduce the course load during regular terms (fall and spring). Consult with your advisor and/or the assistant to the dean in your college for assistance with course and schedule planning. Refer to the general education requirements (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation) for more specific details.

Note: at least 40 credits of the 120 credits required must be earned at the 300/400 level.

*This sample degree plan does not establish a contractual agreement. It identifies the minimum requirements a student must successfully complete, to qualify for a degree, in a format intended to assist the student plan their academic career.*

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<td>WGS 100, 230, or 210 (Gen Ed Minority Cultures)</td>
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<td>Gen Ed Health &amp; Well Being</td>
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<td>Minor Course</td>
<td>3 102+ Level Gen Ed¹ CLS Core Language¹</td>
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<td>3 WGS Stratification Course</td>
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<td>WGS Intimacy Course</td>
<td>3 Gen Ed Elective</td>
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<td>Gen Ed Self &amp; Society</td>
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<td>WGS 390</td>
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Total Credits: 15

14

Total Credits: 120

At least two courses must be designed as writing emphasis.

1 **CLS Core Humanities and Fine Arts Tracks** require 102+ level language. **CLS Core Language Track** requires 202 level language. Students unprepared for 202 level will need to complete prerequisite course work.