

# WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (WMST)

Graduate Degree Program  
College: Arts and Humanities

## ABSTRACT

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offers an interdisciplinary and integrative program of study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree. Students will be expected to: develop a thorough grounding in women, gender, and sexuality studies scholarship; acquire an understanding of gender, race, and sexuality as categories of analysis; analyze and assess theories about the role of gender in systems of hierarchy and its intersection with other categories of difference, such as race, ethnicity, religion, class, sexuality, disability, location, and age; develop competence in feminist, queer, and critical race theories, research methods, and pedagogy, including transnational and global issues; and achieve competence in a selected area of specialization.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

An initial funding offer is provided at the time of admission. Funding offers are for 5 years and typically combine one year of Departmental Fellowship with Graduate Assistantships for the remaining time. Funding is contingent on satisfactory progress towards the degree and completion of benchmarks.

## CONTACT

**Coordinator of Graduate Studies**

**The Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

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4200 Lehigh Road  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
**Telephone:** 301.405.6880  
**Email:** wgss@umd.edu

**Website:** <https://wgss.umd.edu/>

## ADMISSIONS

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose: (1000 words or 3-4 pages double-spaced)
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

### PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Sample: 10 pages maximum (not counting the citations)
- Writing Sample Two: (optional)

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/>).

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

| Type of Applicant   | Fall Deadline     |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Domestic Applicants</b>  |                   |
| US Citizens and Permanent Residents   | November 18, 2025 |
| <b>International Applicants</b>   |                   |
| F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants | November 18, 2025 |

### RESOURCES AND LINKS:

**Program Website:** <https://wgss.umd.edu> (<https://wgss.umd.edu/>)

**Application Process:** [gradschool.umd.edu/admissions](https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/) (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

## REQUIREMENTS

- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/women-gender-and-sexuality-studies-wmst/women-gender-and-sexuality-studies-phd/>)
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Master of Arts (M.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/women-gender-and-sexuality-studies-wmst/women-gender-and-sexuality-studies-ma/>)

## FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

Resources for research in the College Park and Washington D.C. area are unsurpassed. The University's libraries hold around 2,500,000 volumes. In addition to the outstanding holdings of the Library of Congress, the area also offers the specialized resources of the National Archives and Archives II (located on the grounds of the University of Maryland); the Smithsonian Institution; the National Museum of Women in the Arts; and a broad array of public policy organizations and "think-tanks" plus the many research and policy institutes that include gender, race, and sexuality issues as part of their agenda. We are also member institution of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, a unique collaboration of D.C. area colleges and universities that promotes cross-institutional learning.

The University of Maryland Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity offers grant-getting potential and otherwise supports the research endeavors of faculty and graduate students in these fields. Grants funded through the Consortium will provide additional funding for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies graduate students and invaluable research experience. High enrollment demand in the department's undergraduate courses provides yet another opportunity for funding graduate students' programs of study with teaching assistantships.