

WELCOME

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Program, welcome to Rutgers University. We hope that you will find your graduate studies at Rutgers intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding.

This handbook is designed to provide an overview of the requirements for the successful completion of your graduate program. It complements the current catalogue of the School of Graduate Studies- New Brunswick, which provides general information about the rules and regulations pertaining to all graduate programs.

The handbook also provides information about some of the resources of the WGSS community at Rutgers including information about the Graduate Faculty, the nationally and internationally renowned research institutes devoted to the study of women and gender, doctoral programs that feature concentrations in feminist scholarship, Rutgers extensive library holdings and archival resources on women and gender.

At its best, graduate education involves intensive intellectual labor within the contours of course offerings, as well as rich co-curricular experiences such as lectures by distinguished scholars, academic conferences, in-depth research opportunities, topical discussion groups, internships and practicum, as well as international travel and exchange programs. Rutgers offers all these opportunities in abundance. Detailed information about these opportunities will be provided regularly through email announcements and flyers. We hope that you participate in a wide range of these programs during your course of study.

We wish you success in your graduate studies. And we hope that you will flourish in the Graduate Program and in the lively community of WGSS at Rutgers University.

Ed Cohen, Graduate Program Director Julie

Rajan, M.A. Program Director

Evelyn Autry, Interim M.A. Director (Fall 2026)

WOMEN'S, GENDER, and SEXUALITY STUDIES AT RUTGERS

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Since its creation in 1973, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Rutgers has become one of the strongest programs in the United States, enrolling 4000 students in undergraduate courses annually, 80 undergraduates in major and minor degree programs, 15 students in the M.A. program, 25 students in the Ph.D. program, and over 50 graduate students from departments across the University in the graduate certificate program. In 2001, the Women's Studies Program became the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. The Department faculty includes 18 core faculty members and 60 graduate faculty members whose expertise in women's and gender studies is enriched by specializations in arts, anthropology, classics, comparative literature, education, ethnic studies, feminist theory, geography, history, law, literatures in English, French and Spanish, philosophy, political science, and sociology.

Graduate faculty members offer required and elective courses, serve on practicum, thesis, and dissertation committees, provide research and teaching opportunities for WGSS graduate students, and serve as advisors and mentors to individual students. A complete list of feminist scholars participating as graduate faculty members in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is included at the end of this handbook.

Augmenting the core and graduate faculty in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, scholars from a wide array of departments, schools, centers, and institutes contribute to the community of feminist scholars at Rutgers.

The interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies investigates gender and sexuality in social, cultural, and historical contexts from cross-cultural and multiracial perspectives. The graduate course offerings explore the intricate connections between feminist theory and practice, illuminate the intersections of gender and sexual identities with other socially and culturally produced identities, and consider women's and gender issues in a global context.

The University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is a major research institution with a distinguished history in feminist teaching and scholarship. It has one of the oldest and most respected Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies programs in the world. The University also hosts nationally and internationally renowned research institutes devoted to the study of women and gender. The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department is a participating member of the Institute for Women's Leadership consortium, which brings together women's education, research, and policy initiatives on the Rutgers, New Brunswick campus. The Rutgers University Library provides one of the nation's most extensive collections in women's, gender and sexuality studies. Rutgers is also the home of Douglass Residential College, one of the largest undergraduate women's colleges and the only residential women's college at a public university.

Rutgers Libraries

The Mabel Smith Douglass Library on the Douglass College Campus is the primary subject library for women's and gender studies. The collections available include monographs, serials, primary and secondary sources, videos and films, specialized microform collections, women's history manuscripts and archives. The Margery Somers Foster Center is in the process of creating an interactive, virtual archive for women's and gender studies scholarship, making many of the University's archival resources available on-line for research and instructional purposes. A specialist librarian in women's and gender studies, Kayo Denda, serves the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies community.

Rutgers University Libraries. Students have access to collections and resources at Rutgers University's twenty-six libraries and centers located on Rutgers' campuses in New Brunswick/ Piscataway, Camden, and Newark, as well as RU-Online, a digital library. In addition, Rutgers libraries participate in Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc (PALCI), which provides access to additional resources through E-ZBorrow.

The Community of Feminist Scholars

Endowed Chairs

The Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College brings to the campus distinguished feminist scholars and activists who remain in residence for a semester (or a year). Each Laurie Chair teaches an interdisciplinary seminar in the area of her expertise. Laurie Chairs have included feminist philosophers Alison Jaggar, Nancy Hartsock, and Elizabeth Grosz, feminist science studies scholar Karen Barad, and internationally renowned women's rights activists Charlotte Bunch, Helen Butegwa, Helen Caldicott, Sara Ahmed, Diane Elson, Tawadros Giland, curator, writer & CEO and Dazon Dizon Diallo. The Office of the Laurie Chair is on the third floor of the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 162 Ryders Lane.

The Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's Political Leadership, created by the New Jersey legislature to honor Wynona Lipman, honors the first African American woman to serve in the New Jersey Senate. During her 27 years in office, Senator Lipman championed the causes of women and people of color. The Lipman Chair was inaugurated by Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress and the first black woman to launch a campaign for the Presidency of the United States. Lipman Chairs have included Gertrude Fester, anti-apartheid activist and South African Parliamentarian; Alexis Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor; and Columbia University Law Professor and MacArthur Fellow, Patricia Williams. The office of the Lipman Chair is at the Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, 191 Ryders Lane.

The Gloria Steinem Endowed Chair in Media, Culture and Feminist studies named in honor of the groundbreaking scholar-activist resides in collaboration between the School of Communications and Information, The Institute for Women's Leadership, and The Department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. Occupants of the chair design and teach courses, providing unique opportunities to connect students with media experts who focus on gender equality and creating a more inclusive and democratic media. The Steinem Chair was launched in 2018 with internally renowned writer-activist Naomi Klein

serving as the inaugural occupant. Roxane Gay an internationally recognized writer, editor, cultural critic, and educator, with a commitment to centering underrepresented voices along with deep and broad experience in media has held the chair since 2022.

Institutes and Centers

Rutgers has an extraordinary array of research centers and institutes devoted to the study of women and gender, to advocacy on behalf of women and gender equity, and to the promotion of women's leadership locally, nationally, and globally. Each of these centers and institutes provides diverse opportunities for internships and practicums, and for graduate student employment. Each also sponsors speakers, conferences, and special events.

The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) is the oldest and most respected University-based research center devoted to the study of women and politics in the United States. It organizes conferences and programs for women public officials, activists and scholars; it conducts research about women and politics, and it recruits and trains young women for political leadership through its award-winning NEW Leadership Program. CAWP is part of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Woodlawn, Douglass Campus.

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/>

The Center for Women and Work addresses the needs of working women by studying public policies in the field, conducting research on issues of concern, and sponsoring educational programs for working women, policy makers, corporate leaders and community organizations. The Center for Women and Work is located in the School of Management and Labor Relations.

<http://smlr.rutgers.edu/cww>

The Institute for Research on Women (IRW) advances and disseminates new scholarship and thinking on women and gender, and works to strengthen the study of women's issues across academic disciplines, as well as among individual scholars and activists. The IRW sponsors an annual research seminar, lecture series, conferences and discussion groups exploring path-breaking work in the study of gender and in feminist theory. The IRW also hosts visiting scholars from the U.S. and abroad who come to Rutgers for a semester or year to pursue their research in the context of an innovative community of feminist scholars. The IRW is located at 160 Ryders Lane.

<http://irw.rutgers.edu/>

The Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) The Institute for Women's Leadership is a consortium at Douglass College dedicated to examining issues of leadership and advancing women's leadership in education, research, politics, the workplace and the world. The Institute supports member units' missions as well as develops a collective focus on women's leadership for social change. The IWL seeks to develop women leaders committed to a new vision of leadership, dedicated to improving people's lives and creating a world with human rights and social-economic justice. The IWL is located on the third floor of the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 162 Ryders Lane.
<http://iwl.rutgers.edu/>

The Center for Research on Ending Violence (CREV) Founded in 2007 at the Rutgers School of Social Work, the mission of the Center for Research on Ending Violence is to eliminate all forms of violence and the power imbalances that permit them, accomplishing this mission through a collaborative approach that focuses on multidisciplinary research, education, and community engagement.
<https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/centers/center-research-ending-violence>

The Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (WiSEM) seeks to improve the stature of women at all levels within Rutgers University through networking events, career development workshops and initiatives for increased visibility and collaborations. WiSEM is located on Busch Campus at 640 Bartholomew Road.
<http://sciencewomen.rutgers.edu/>

The Women's Health Institute (WHI), in collaboration with and the support of its academic partner Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital RWJ Barnabas Health is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in advancing health care for women throughout New Jersey, nationally and globally.
<https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/institute/womens-health>

Other Institutes and Centers

In addition to the Rutgers Centers and Institutes whose missions are uniquely focused on the study of women and gender, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies graduate students also participate

and find work in programs at the *Eagleton Institute of Politics*, the *Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging*, the *Center for Historical Analysis*, the *Center for Cultural Analysis*, the *Center for Negotiation and Conflict Resolution*, the *Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy* and *Center for Race and Ethnicity*.

Course Descriptions for WGSS Graduate Courses

510 Proseminar: Technologies and Poetics of Gender and Sexuality

This concentration investigates the hierarchical production of cultural differences. Technologies of gender and sexuality refer to the manifold imaginary and material practices through which such categorical differences inform particular social and historical contexts. The poetics of gender and sexuality involve the creative and symbolic work that situates "difference" as a defining element of human relationships and cultural meanings.

988:515 Feminism: Theory and Practice

This course aims to illuminate the interconnections between theory and practice by exploring particular modes of feminist activism and the complex theoretical issues that feminist praxis raises. The course seeks to foster an understanding of the multiple ways that feminist theory has opened our imaginations to the possibilities for inclusive democratic practices and has expanded the repertoire of strategies for realizing social change.

988:520 Proseminar: Agency, Subjectivity and Social Change

This course investigates women's mobilizations to transform social and political institutions, which also may impact women activists themselves. Examining global feminist movements in the past as well as in the contemporary world, this course seeks to explicate how women's activism and agency continue to challenge dominant discourses on agency, subjectivity, culture, politics, authority, religion, and society.

988:525 Colloquium

Topic varies according to instructor.

**988:530 Proseminar: Gendered Borders/
Changing Boundaries**

Feminist scholarship has sought to challenge and de-center many traditional boundaries by cultivating voices “from the margin” and exploring dimensions of women’s experiences that defy these boundaries. This concentration examines how feminist scholarship can illuminate phenomena such as fluctuating national borders, shifting contours of sovereignty, displacement, immigration and diasporas, uncertain global economies, hybrid identities, and changing sexualities.

988:535 Gender and Human Rights

The history and discourse of women's human rights. United Nations instruments; reframing of human rights as women's rights; gender-based violence; health; sexuality.

988:536 Gender and Development

This course analyzes women’s location in economic development processes within theoretical frameworks; reflects upon linkages between the global economy and gendered processes of development; and examines a rights-based approach to gender justice.

**988:555 Advanced Topics in Feminist
Theory** Topic varies according to
specialization of instructor.

988:561 Black Feminist Theories

This course provides a broad survey of contemporary Black feminist theory, including the emergence of Black feminist thought and political action, key actors and debates, theoretical engagements with questions of gender, racial, and sexual difference.

988:582 Feminist Genealogies

As a methodology, genealogy does not trace concepts back to their origins (a task which presupposes continuity), but to points at which contradictions and contestations erupt in a manner productive of later discursive formations. This course examines key modern theories whose contradictions provoked feminist thought and elicited feminist critiques (for example, Hegelian, Liberal, Marxist, Existentialist and others).

988:583 Contemporary Feminist Theories

This course examines how recent feminist theories have critiqued a variety of traditional boundaries such as theoretical categories of identity, global hierarchies of power, and disciplinary boundaries. The original contributions of feminist theories to conceptual thinking will be explored around key concepts such as agency, identity, difference, location, intersectionality, transnationalism and nationalism, representation, resistance, power and sexuality.

988:587 Feminist Pedagogies

This course examines theories and practices of feminist pedagogy, engaging both practical issues of teaching interdisciplinary thinking about gender in a classroom, issues of the connection of theory to practice, and feminist critiques of educational practices.

988:590 Independent Study

WGSS Graduate Students with an interest in a specialized area not represented in the current curriculum may arrange an Independent Study under the supervision of a member of the Graduate Faculty.

988:602 Feminist Methodologies

This course focuses on both the advantages and disadvantages of different philosophical, methodological, theoretical, and disciplinary traditions for contributing to our knowledge of central issues in women's and gender studies. The goal is to provide students with the critical tools to utilize and interrogate existing methodologies and to adapt them to the enterprise of feminist research. What counts as authoritative knowledge? What defines good research and bad research? What is the role of the social in the constitution of knowledge? What constitutes research as *feminist*?

988:603 Feminist Knowledge Production

This course is an introduction to many of the methods used in feminist interdisciplinary research. The course looks at how to formulate a research question, collect data, interpret and analyze evidence, and report research results. The course will be a forum to apply knowledge of methods and methodologies to students’ own research and research-activist interests.

THE PH.D. PROGRAM

Admissions Criteria

The Ph.D. program is designed for students seeking advanced interdisciplinary training in the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Since the entering class each year is very small (3-4 funded students), admissions are highly competitive. Preference is given to students who demonstrate excellence in analytical abilities and creativity in interdisciplinary research pertaining to women, gender, and/or sexuality. Students applying to the doctoral program will be selected both based on the excellence of their preparation for doctoral level work, and on the intersection of their research interests with those of the faculty at Rutgers.

All applicants must have completed a B.A. degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or a comparable institution in another country. Students must submit transcripts, a personal statement concerning their intellectual interests and their reasons for graduate study in an interdisciplinary program focused on gender and sexuality, a writing sample that demonstrates their analytical abilities, and three letters of recommendation from scholars familiar with their academic work. Students whose native language is something other than English and have not completed either a B.A. or an M.A. taught entirely in English must submit scores from TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

Application Procedures

The administration of the admissions process is handled by the Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions. Applicants to the Ph.D. Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies must apply for admission through the School of Graduate Studies-New Brunswick.

The deadline for applications is December 21. All materials should be sent directly to the Graduate School.

<https://rutgers.my.site.com/ApplicantPortal/AppPortalCustom>.

Upon receipt of the application from the School of Graduate Studies, a Committee of the Graduate Faculty in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies carefully reviews all application materials and makes recommendations for admission. Every effort will be made to inform students of decisions concerning their admission by early March.

Fellowships and Funding Opportunities

All students admitted to the Ph.D. Program are funded for five years through fellowships and teaching assistantships in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. Additional work and research opportunities might be available in the units of the Institute for Women's Leadership.

Students receiving departmental funding in the form of fellowships, assistantships, tuition remission, or other assistance are expected to maintain good academic standing, to be pursuing full-time graduate studies, and to be making demonstrable progress toward their degrees.

Various opportunities for funding exist throughout the year from the School of Graduate Studies, the Mellon Foundation, the Graduate Student Professionalization Fund, and the Summer Research Grants. The School of Graduate Studies has annual opportunities to apply for conference travel or summer study. The School of Graduate Studies prioritizes funding for students who wish to present at large annual association conferences such as the National Women's Studies Association. Small conferences will typically not be funded. The Department also has funding up to \$500 available once a year. Conference funding is generally reserved for students who are ABD. Students are expected to be focused on seminar work for the first three years and only begin presenting at conferences after attaining ABD status.

Gradfund: The Resource Center for Graduate Student External Support

The School of Graduate Studies provides outstanding services and support for students who wish to compete for external funding. All Ph.D. students are expected to familiarize themselves with these resources early in their careers.
<https://gradfund.rutgers.edu>

Advising

All entering Ph.D. students are expected to meet with the Graduate Director upon entering the program. The Graduate Director will work with the student to plan a course of study and to advise the student on appropriate courses for the first year.

The Director will serve as the initial advisor for all incoming Ph.D. students; however, all Ph.D. students will be expected to select a primary advisor with whom they plan to work closely from among the Graduate Faculty by the end of their first year. The primary advisor will assist the student in developing research interests and in identifying appropriate resources both in the University and elsewhere to support the student's work.

Advisor and Student Responsibilities

The advisor can be a student's most important ally and aide in graduate study. Developing and cultivating a relationship with one's advisor will give the advisor a better opportunity to serve as an advocate and mentor, to identify potential opportunities that might otherwise be overlooked, and to help the student succeed.

Students are expected to meet formally with their advisors at least twice a semester. Near the beginning of the semester, students should meet with advisors to review the previous semester and discuss current projects and courses. Toward the end of each semester, students should meet with advisors to discuss course selection and other plans for research and study. Ideally, students will meet more frequently with their advisors.

Advisors will receive end of semester reports for each student noting courses completed, grades and incompletes. Advisors should bring any areas of potential concern to the attention of the student and follow up with the Graduate Director as needed.

Advisors should attempt to remain apprised of their students' progress, and to be aware should any difficulties arise. Advisors may serve as advocates in the students' relations with the Graduate Program, other faculty members, or the University. Often it is the advisor who is in the best position to intervene on behalf of a student and help a student with difficulties achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Registration for Courses

Incoming Ph.D. students will receive information from Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies concerning their first fall registration. All in-coming students must attend the orientation organized by Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The orientation will be held each year during the week before the official start of classes. The orientation will include advising for course selection for the fall semester.

Registration begins in late March and early April for the fall semester and late October and early November for the spring semester. During this period, students may register by accessing WEBREG Online Registration <https://sims.rutgers.edu/webreg/> Term bills can be paid in person at any Cashier's Office, or on-line at <http://www.studentabc.rutgers.edu/>

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING AND MONITORING THEIR REGISTRATION STATUS. WGSS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR FIXING REGISTRATION MISTAKES OR OVERSIGHTS.

Program Requirements

The program includes 21 credits for 7 core courses in feminist theory, methods, pedagogy, and proseminar areas, and 18 credits of additional course work. All core courses are to be taken at Rutgers in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department, not at other institutions or in other departments. Other substantive requirements include successful completion of qualifying examinations, demonstration of working knowledge of a second language, and writing and defense of the doctoral dissertation.

Ph.D. students must complete 7 courses (21 core credits) in WGSS as follows:

1. **988:582** Feminist Genealogies
2. **988:587** Feminist Pedagogies
3. **988:603** Feminist Knowledge Production
4. An additional course in Feminist Theory, chosen from designated 988 courses*
5. An additional course in Feminist Methods, chosen from designated 988 courses*

* Students may substitute a colloquium (988:525/6) for their additional theory course or methodology course.

6. Two out of the three regularly offered Proseminars:

988:510 Technologies and Poetics of Gender and Sexuality
988:520 Agency, Subjectivity and Social Change
988:530 Gendered Borders/Changing Boundaries

Attendance

Seminar attendance is **mandatory** for all students. While individual professors may have their own grading policies for attendance, seminar attendance is considered part of the yearly progress evaluations.

While teaching, TA's must attend all their classes and cannot cancel class to attend conferences. If a class must be cancelled due to illness, TA's must contact the undergraduate director immediately.

Students are required to attend all departmental events, talks, conferences, colloquia, bag lunches, etc.

Publications

Students are expected to focus on seminar work and to refrain from major publishing until they are ABD. Exceptions include book reviews, submissions on graduate student journals, or special issues related to their research.

Language Proficiency

Ph.D. students must demonstrate working knowledge of a second language. Proficiency is generally understood to be equivalent to completion of the "intermediate" level of study. Given the time required to develop proficiency, students without second language skills are encouraged to begin language training within the first three semesters of their arrival at Rutgers.

The language proficiency requirement may be satisfied with one of the following options:

A) Take a graduate language proficiency exam through Rutgers given 4 times a year.
<https://tlc.rutgers.edu/resources-and-services/testing>

B) Complete one semester of foreign language instruction at the intermediate level at Rutgers.

C) Complete a summer foreign language reading course offered by the Language Center (<https://tlc.rutgers.edu/graduate/summer-reading-knowledge-courses-g>). These are free, non-credit courses (so students do not need to pay summer session tuition), but they are graded, and they are only open to Rutgers graduate students. These courses are generally not onerous and are a good option for grad students to fulfill their language proficiency requirement, especially students with no background in a particular foreign language.

D) Obtain exemption from graduate director due to status as a bilingual or multi-lingual student for whom English is a second language.

E) Provide documentation of foreign language instruction through a different organization in the case of field work or summer study elsewhere. This instruction should be the equivalent of one semester of foreign language instruction at the intermediate level.

Registration and Credits to Degree

The School of Graduate Studies requires a total of 72 credits for the Ph.D., of which a minimum of 24 “research” credits are required subsequent to passing the qualifying exams. The WGS Ph.D. requires a minimum 39 credits of coursework. The remaining required 9 credits may be satisfied in a number of ways, depending on the individual student’s needs in consultation with their advisor.

Summary of Required Credits for Ph.D.

- * 39 WGS/cognate course credits
- * 24 dissertation research credits (988:701 and 988:702)
- * 9 “other” credits

Options for 9 “other” credits: Any combination of the following

1. Additional course work: languages, other WGS or cognate courses.

2. Transfer credits.

3. Up to 9 credits in the following courses:

988:601 Readings in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Intensive reading in feminist theory and women’s and gender studies scholarship in preparation for the Ph.D. qualifying examination. To be taken in the semester preceding exams.

988:604,605 Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Dissertation Proposal

Independent work towards preparation of dissertation including literature review, preliminary data collection, preliminary research and writing. To be taken in the semester preceding or the semester of the examination.

4. Research credits (988:701 and 988:702) in excess of the required 24 dissertation research credits.

Minimum and Maximum Credits

1. The maximum number of credits allowed per semester is 16.
2. After the completion of course work and exams, all students MUST register for at least one credit per semester (fall/spring) until completion of the degree, regardless of the total number of credits.
3. Students in residence at Rutgers must register for at least three credits per semester until they reach 72 credits, after which time they must register for one credit per semester.
4. During the exam and post-qualifying dissertation phase, students should plan their registration over time to ensure that they do not over-enroll in research or “other” credits (988:701, 702, 601, 604, 605). For students receiving tuition remission, the School of Graduate Studies must pay for each credit for which a student registers, and it seeks to limit such payments to 72 credits per student.

Teaching Assistant/Graduate Assistant Registration

1. Students with a Teaching or Graduate Assistantship must register for 6 “E” credits each semester they hold the Assistantship.

These credits do not count toward the degree, but they do count toward the maximum allowed credits per semester, therefore TA/GAs may not enroll in more than 10 additional credits during fall and spring.

2. Teaching or Graduate Assistants are entitled to register for up to 6 credits toward the degree over the summer following the appointment.

International Students

1. International students must register for at least 9 credits per semester until they complete 72 credits. After 72 credits, international students may register for as little as one credit per semester and retain their student status.
2. ALL international graduate students who register for fewer than 9 credits MUST submit a form to the Center for International Student Services for each semester in which they register for fewer than 9 credits. The form they must submit will depend upon their situation:
 - a. In the FIRST semester in which they are registered for 1 credit because they have completed all required credits, they MUST submit a "Reduced Credit Form" (signed by the GPD) to the International Center.
 - b. If they have already submitted at least ONE "Reduced Credit Form" (signed by the GPD) that certifies the student has completed all required credits, they can then submit a "Confirmation of Reduced Credits" (signed by the student only) in subsequent semesters for which they register for 1 credit.

Other Options for Credit Towards Degree

988:590 Independent Study

WGSS Graduate Students with an interest in a specialized area not represented in the current curriculum may arrange an Independent Study under the supervision of a member of the Graduate Faculty. As the supervision of Independent Study requires a significant investment and preparation on the part of the faculty member involved,

students should approach possibly faculty supervisors well in advance of the anticipated semester of enrollment.

Normally, no more than 6 credits of Independent Study may be counted toward the 39 credits of coursework required by the Department. All Independent Studies must be approved by the Graduate Director. To obtain approval, students must submit a memo of agreement signed by the student and the faculty supervisor which includes: a brief synopsis of the topic and content of the Independent Study; an outline of the reading or research which will be undertaken; and a statement of the assignments that will be used as a basis for the determination of completion and grading. After the memo of agreement has been submitted, the student may register for Independent Study.

On completion of the Independent Study, the faculty supervisor must communicate the final grade to the Graduate Director for submission to the School of Graduate Studies.

Proseminars and Areas of Concentration

Feminist scholars at Rutgers have identified three innovative areas of focus to shape the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These areas are designed to stimulate original scholarship addressing new research questions and fostering the growth of feminist inquiry and practice. Each area of concentration is introduced through a proseminar that presents key questions, theories, methodologies, and empirical case studies.

988:510 Proseminar: Technologies and Poetics of Gender and Sexuality

This concentration investigates the hierarchical production of cultural differences. Technologies of gender and sexuality refer to the manifold imaginary and material practices through which such categorical differences inform particular social and historical contexts. The poetics of gender and sexuality involve the creative and symbolic work that situates "difference" as a defining element of human relationships and cultural meanings.

988:520 Proseminar: Agency, Subjectivity and Social Change

This course investigates women's mobilizations to transform social and political institutions, which also may impact women activists themselves. Examining global feminist movements in the past as well as in the contemporary world, this course seeks to explicate how women's activism and agency continue to challenge dominant discourses on agency, subjectivity, culture, politics, authority, religion, and society.

988:530 Proseminar: Gendered Borders/Changing Boundaries

Feminist scholarship has sought to challenge and de-center many traditional boundaries by cultivating voices "from the margin" and exploring dimensions of women's experiences that defy these boundaries. This concentration examines how feminist scholarship can illuminate phenomena such as fluctuating national borders, shifting contours of sovereignty, displacement, immigration and diasporas, uncertain global economies, hybrid identities, and changing sexualities.

Admission to Candidacy: The Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination determines whether a student is prepared for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Ph.D. students in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies must complete Written and Oral Qualifying Examinations within 12 months of the completion of course work (minimum 39 credits) and prior to admission to candidacy status.

Qualifying exams include both a written and an oral component which address (1) the general field of women's and gender studies, (2) a specific area of specialization, and (3) goals for dissertation research. Students preparing for Qualifying Exams should complete the *Doctoral Qualifying Form* (<https://grad.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2024-11/qualifying-exam-application%209.2024.pdf>). This form records committee membership, topics, and student progress through the exam and proposal stages of the Ph.D.

All exams will be graded "Pass" or "No Pass." No gradations of passing or distinction will be conferred.

The Written Exam: The written portion of the Qualifying Examinations is normally administered in the Fall semester and scheduled at the convenience of the cohort sitting the exam. Unless there is an extremely extenuating circumstance, students are expected to sit for written exams at the first offered date following the completion of their coursework. The Written Exam will be administered to all students in a given academic year by a common faculty committee.

Written Exam Components

In consultation with the Graduate Director, members of the faculty serving on Exam Committees will develop a written exam consisting of two parts:

Part A is designed to demonstrate breadth of knowledge concerning the field of women's and gender studies, including major theoretical approaches and their methodological implications, core concepts, interdisciplinary methods of analysis, and substantive research findings. This section should include 3-4 questions, of which the student must answer 2 questions.

Part B will focus on the individual areas of concentration (Technologies and Poetics of Gender and Sexuality; Agency, Subjectivity, and Social Change; or Gendered Borders/Changing Boundaries). Questions in this section will be designed to tap the student's understanding of the central issues shaping each research field and the student's ability to analyze critically a range of scholarship. This section should include 2-3 questions, of which the student must answer one question.

Administration of the Exam

Exams must be returned within no more than two weeks after they are distributed. Exams may be turned in earlier. Answers to questions should be 15- 20 pages each. Students sitting for qualifying exams are expected to have achieved sufficient facility with the key bibliography such that their textual references are clear and specific; however, extensive citation and quotation is not necessary.

The committee will read and evaluate the written exam to determine whether it is of passing quality. Once the written exam is passed, the student may then continue to the oral examination.

Repeating the Written Exam

Students who do not pass the first time must retake the exam during the next regularly scheduled period. Students who do not retake the exam within the specified time frame or who take the exam a second time and do not pass will not be permitted to continue to progress toward the Ph.D.

The Written Exam may be repeated once. After a student has received the exam questions, the student will be considered to have taken the exam, and will have only one subsequent opportunity to take it whether a completed exam is submitted or not.

Postponing the Written Exam

In the event of illness or emergency, a student may petition in advance of the scheduled exam date for a specific short-term postponement for that individual student. Such petitions will be considered only in advance of the distribution of the exam and will be granted only at the discretion of the Graduate Director and with the agreement of the Exam Committee. If no agreement can be reached, the student will take the exam at the next regularly scheduled exam period. An exam delayed under such circumstances will not be considered to have been attempted until the student actually takes the exam.

If the student becomes ill in the course of the exam, or following the distribution of the exam, the student may complete and submit the exam or not submit any response. Whether for reasons of illness or other contingency, a blank or non-submitted exam response will not be graded, but the student will have only one more opportunity to take and pass the exam.

The Oral Exam

While the written exam focuses on the general field of women's and gender studies, the oral exam will focus on the student's individual area of specialization, that is, the area of intended dissertation research.

The student should assemble a committee of four members of the Graduate Faculty who will serve as the oral exam committee and will be likely to

continue as members of the student's dissertation committee. Students should consult with each faculty member they would like to serve on the committee. A preliminary bibliography related to the student's area of specialization should be submitted both to members of the orals committee and the Program at the time the committee is constituted. The student should register the names of the committee members on the *Doctoral Qualifying Exam Form*, and submit the preliminary bibliography to the Graduate Director.

No less than one week prior to the oral exam, the student must submit to their committee a final annotated bibliography indicating how the individual texts on the list contribute to the general areas of inquiry, research questions, and methods that the student expects to develop into a full dissertation proposal. This annotated bibliography will form the basis for questioning, which will engage the student's capacity to undertake independent and original scholarship in the student's chosen field. In addition, the exam prepares the student to undertake more advanced dissertation research by brainstorming about ways to approach the proposed dissertation topic. The oral exam aims to assure that the student is ready to proceed with more detailed research and development of a dissertation topic.

The oral exam must occur no later than 5 months following the written exam (and no later than 12 months following the completion of course work). Students who have not completed their oral exam within the specified time frame, or who sit for the oral exam but do not pass, may be placed on academic probation for one semester during which period they are expected to complete and pass the oral exam. Failure to do so may result in suspension of funding or termination of studies.

Once the student has passed the written and oral exams under the conditions described above, the student's oral exam committee will sign the *Doctoral Qualifying* form and the student will be advanced to candidacy (ABD).

Model Exam Timelines

While the written exam should be taken at the next offered date following the completion of coursework, students have some flexibility in the timing of their oral exams and dissertation proposal defenses (see below). Specifically, students who begin their

graduate study at Rutgers with more advanced preparation or a more developed area of specialization are expected to pursue a more accelerated path through the exams. Accelerated students may complete the exams and proposal defense in as short a time as is practicable. Students who opt to extend the time between stages to the maximum allowed should take into account funding considerations, particularly the annual cycle of application deadlines for external funding, when planning the schedule of development of their dissertation proposals.

Ideal exam timeline

Coursework complete

Spring of 2nd year (with MA) or Fall of 3rd year

Written exam

Fall of 3rd year

Oral exam

Early Spring of 3rd year

Proposal defense

Late Spring of 3rd year

All dates are approximate, for the purpose of example. Written exam dates will be set by the Graduate Director in consultation with the students taking the exam in the same semester; all other dates will be arranged with the appropriate committee.

Dissertation and Dissertation Committee

Each candidate for the doctorate pursues, under faculty direction, an original investigation of a problem or problems in a field of concentration and presents the results of the investigation in a dissertation. The member of the program faculty who supervises the student's investigation becomes chairperson of the committee. The panel also includes two members or associate members of the program faculty and an "outside" member, who not on the WGSS graduate faculty. Whenever possible, "outside" shall be "outside the University." The outside member is expected to be a recognized authority on the subject of the dissertation.

Substitutions in committee membership, once it has been determined, are the responsibility of the Program Director. Replacements will occur only if

a member is unable to serve, if a student's dissertation topic changes, requiring a new dissertation director and/or modification in the committee, or if the working relation between the faculty member and the student no longer facilitates the student's progress towards the degree.

School of Graduate Studies Policy on the "Outside Member"

The School of Graduate Studies requires that one member of a Ph.D. dissertation committee be an individual who is not a member of the student's degree program. This individual may be a Rutgers faculty member or someone from outside the university. Outside members are intended to bring a fresh perspective to the supervision of a student's research and to bring an unbiased look at the quality of the work. Therefore, they must be people with no conflict of interest about the assessment of the student's work.

In a program such as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies there is such a broad inclusion of relevant individuals on program faculties that it may be challenging to find a Rutgers faculty member to appoint as an outside member of a dissertation committee who is not already a member of the program faculty. At the same time, the WGSS Graduate Faculty is drawn from a wide range of units within Rutgers, such that there many faculty members of a program who have little professional contact.

The School of Graduate Studies has therefore deemed it permissible, in such situations, that the "outside" member be drawn from within the program faculty when it can be shown that that individual has no close personal or professional ties to the student, the adviser and other members of the committee. In these cases, the outside member may not be a member of a department already represented on the committee. Requests for these exceptions will have to demonstrate that this is the case and will require approval by the School of Graduate Studies.

Dissertation Proposal

Upon successful completion of the written and oral portions of the qualifying examinations, the student will work in consultation with her/his advisor and committee to develop a dissertation proposal. The maximum time allowed between completion of the Qualifying Examinations and the presentation of a

dissertation proposal is 7 months; however, students are strongly encouraged to proceed expeditiously through the proposal stage and to develop their proposals quickly and efficiently.

Students should discuss the format and requirements for their particular proposal with their supervisor and committee members, but the dissertation proposal is generally expected to include:

- A discussion of the rationale for, significance, and implications of the study. The dissertation is expected to make an original contribution to knowledge in the area of theory, empirical findings, and/or methodology.
- A critical review of the literature, which connects the specifics of the dissertation topic to larger themes and issues in the relevant field(s).
- A statement of the research problem and possible hypotheses.
- Methodological design of the study.
- A detailed and extensive bibliography.

In so far as students will need a proposal or abstract to apply for outside funding, funding application considerations may also play a role in the development of the scope and content of the dissertation proposal.

Students are recommended to work closely with their committee members in developing their dissertation proposals. When the proposal is complete, the student must schedule an oral defense of the proposal. It is expected that this defense will be attended by the full committee, including all three internal members and where practical the outside member as well. However, there may be circumstances under which some members are not available during the desired period; students should consult with the Graduate Director for approval to proceed with the defense with fewer than three members of the committee. If members of the committee are unable to participate in the proposal defense, they should submit their suggestions and comments in writing. Three members of the committee must formally approve the proposal in order for the student to pass on to the writing of the dissertation.

Student Progress

All ABD students will be evaluated yearly to facilitate and encourage progress on their dissertations. Students may complete this requirement either by meeting with the Graduate Program Director to discuss their work and/or complete 'The School of Graduate Studies' online Individual Development Plan (<https://sgs-studentidp.rutgers.edu>). Students beyond their sixth year of matriculation must complete the online 7+ Individual Development Plan which will be reviewed by their dissertation advisor and the graduate director and then forwarded to the Graduate School which must decide to approve the student's continued progress. Granting of continuation after 7 years is contingent upon approval from the Graduate School. Students may appeal against the decision to terminate enrollment in accordance with the formal appeals process in the bylaws of the graduate program and the bylaws of the School of Graduate Studies. (Students who file for October degrees need not file the 7+ form.)

School of Graduate Studies Definition of Dissertation

The School of Graduate Studies policy on Dissertations states: The dissertation itself must be a single entity and a clearly written account of the student's original research. In addition to a description of the details and results of the research, it should contain an appropriate general and contextual introduction, written at a level accessible to most other workers in the wider field. If the thesis consists of more than one piece of research, the elements of the dissertation must be related parts of a common research program and should be tied together in the introduction and the conclusion.

Dissertation Defense and Completion of Degree Requirements

A dissertation defense is held under the auspices of the committee in charge of the candidate's course of study. A candidate must defend the dissertation and otherwise satisfy the committee that he or she is qualified to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

The dissertation must be approved by a minimum of three members of a faculty committee of four members. For committees having more than four members, only one non approval is permitted.

At the time of the final defense, it is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain from the Office of the School of Graduate Studies the candidacy application (on which the result of the qualifying examination was recorded) for completion by the committee at the final examination. The same committee members also must sign the title page of the dissertation, signifying their acceptance of it. Once the program director certifies that all program requirements have been completed for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the candidate must return the candidacy application to the Office of the School of Graduate Studies.

Submission of the Dissertation

The final version of the dissertation should be prepared in strict accordance with the instructions given in the pamphlet Style Guide for Thesis and Dissertation Preparation, issued by the School of Graduate Studies Dean's Office (<https://grad.rutgers.edu/academics/graduation/electronic-thesis-and-dissertation-style-guide>). After the dissertation has been accepted by the committee, the student should follow the instructions provided by the School of Graduate Studies for submitting their dissertations. (<https://grad.rutgers.edu/academics/graduation>). The submission process is detailed and requires a week or two to complete, so students should plan ahead in order to meet the submission deadline for the cycle (Spring, Fall, Winter) in which they hope to graduate.

Grades and Academic Standing

Satisfactory Performance

Ph.D. students are expected to maintain "good academic standing." For doctoral students, minimum requirements for good academic standing include:

- Attainment of a grade of "A" in at least two 3-credit course per semester;
- No more than one grade of "B+" in any semester. A second grade of "B+" or below in a subsequent semester will be grounds for being placed on academic probation.
- Only courses receiving a grade of "B+" or better will count toward the Ph.D. in

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

- Any student who receives a "B" or below in a course will be immediately put on academic probation.
- For full-time students, no fewer than 3 graduate level core or cognate courses completed per semester until coursework is complete. Students on teaching assistantships are expected to complete no fewer than 2 graduate level core or cognate courses.

Students who receive grades resulting in automatic probation, or whose academic status is cause for concern for other reasons, will be notified by the Graduate Director. Following notification of probation, or at the conclusion of the probationary period, the Graduate Committee will be convened to consider the student's circumstances and make recommendations. No student can remain on academic probation for more than two semesters. Students whose performance does not improve may face academic dismissal.

Academic Standing and Student Funding

Students who receive university financial support in the form of stipends, fellowships, Graduate Assistantships, Teaching Assistantships, tuition remission, health insurance, and the like, are expected to perform at the highest academic and professional level both in their coursework and in the performance of any duties associated with their financial support. Assistantships are important opportunities for professional development of teaching, research, and professional skills which are an integral part of doctoral education. Students who exhibit unsatisfactory performance as determined by the job descriptions for TAs and GAs will not have their funding renewed in the subsequent period.

Fellowships and Assistantships are reserved for those students who maintain the highest level of academic excellence. Fellows and Assistants are expected to maintain a GPA no lower than 3.75 in any semester and no lower than 3.83 overall. Students who fail to make satisfactory academic progress in coursework, exams, and dissertation research may not have their funding renewed in the subsequent period.

Academic Integrity at Rutgers University

Students must be aware of and adhere to standards of Academic Integrity at Rutgers. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action, ranging from being

placed on probation to the revocation of fellowship funding and even suspension or expulsion from the graduate school. Students who plagiarize material, submit the same or similar work to multiple courses, use prior coursework to complete current coursework, or otherwise improperly conduct scholarly writing and research will be immediately reported to the School of Graduate Studies, where appropriate action will be taken. Students who have any questions or confusions about meeting the standards of academic integrity should consult with the Graduate Program Director immediately.

The statement on academic integrity included here can also be found at:
<https://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

Principles of academic integrity require that every Rutgers University student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions
treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to insure that:

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments
- all student work is fairly evaluated, and

no student has an inappropriate advantage over others

- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

Appeals Process

Students who believe their work has been evaluated unfairly or incorrectly should first discuss the matter with the faculty member(s) involved. If the matter cannot be resolved to the student's satisfaction, the student should appeal to the Graduate Director. If the Graduate Director cannot resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the student and the faculty member(s) involved, then the student should appeal to the WGSS Graduate Committee.

Students may also appeal decisions of the Graduate Director regarding status and progress to the Graduate Committee. If no resolution is forthcoming, the matter must be referred to the School of Graduate Studies for final resolution.

Incompletes

Grades of Incomplete are available only on a limited basis. No more than one grade of Incomplete is permitted in any one semester, and it must be removed within one year. No grade changes submitted later than two semesters past the conclusion of the course will be approved by the Graduate Director. Failure to resolve an Incomplete grade within the allowed time frame will result in a notation of "PIN" (permanent incomplete) on the transcript and no credit awarded for the course. Students with more than one outstanding Incomplete will not be allowed to register for classes

Transfer Credits

Ph.D. students may apply for transfer of up to 12 credits for relevant and acceptable graduate courses completed at other colleges and universities. Credits may not be transferred until students have completed at least 12 credits of graduate courses with a grade of B or better as a matriculated student at the School of

Graduate Studies—New Brunswick. Transfer credits can only be used toward fulfillment of cognate or “other” course credits and cannot be substituted for any of the 21 core credits.

Transfer credits are subject to individual approval by both the Graduate Director and the School of Graduate Studies. Students must submit an application form, evidence of completion (transcript), and course syllabi to the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director forwards recommendations for transfer credit to the School of Graduate Studies, which makes the final determination and awards the credit. While transfer credits may not be officially awarded prior to the completion of 12 credits, it is recommended that students should consult with the Graduate Director earlier to discuss which credits might be accepted for transfer in order to facilitate the student’s planning of his/her curriculum.

School of Graduate Studies policies restrict the transfer of credit in several ways. The courses must relate directly to a student’s program of study at Rutgers, and the student must have received a grade of B+ or better in them. No credit may be transferred for thesis research work, course work done as independent study, or work in courses that were not graded. In most cases, transfer credit will only be considered for courses taken no more than six years prior to the application for transfer of credit.

The credit transfer form is available here: https://grad.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/Transfer%20of%20credit%20application%201.2025_0.pdf),

Exemption from Required Courses

Transfer credits are awarded as credits toward coursework, not as specific courses. Generally, all students including those with previous graduate degrees are expected to complete required courses. In extraordinary cases, a student may seek exemption from one or more requirements. Students seeking exemption from specific departmental course requirements based upon prior course work and/or transfer credits must submit a written petition to the Graduate Committee, explaining the rationale for requesting

exemption and the evidence for outstanding prior achievement in relation to the area of expertise or competence represented by the course requirement. All determinations of exemption from course requirements will be made on an individual basis by the Graduate Committee. Exemptions cannot be granted prior to the completion of one semester of full-time study in the graduate program. Students contemplating a petition for exemption should consult with the Graduate Director.

Human Subject Research

IRB review is required when a student research proposal meets both of the Federal regulatory definitions for *research* and *human subjects*.

Research is defined as a *systematic investigation...designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge*. Examples of such projects are: research development testing, pilot studies, clinical studies, surveys, certain program evaluations, ethnographies, and oral history projects. Theses and practicum reports should be assumed to fall under this definition of research.

Human Subject is defined as a *living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information* (such as data sets that contain identifiable information). It is vital to note that in order to qualify under this definition information must be obtained about an individual. Merely obtaining information from an individual about a process, policy, etc. (but not another living individual), will not require IRB review.

Any paper, essay, report or dissertation that draws general conclusions or analysis from particular data should be assumed to fall under this definition of research. Therefore, when any student paper, dissertation or other curricular activity involves acquiring information about living individuals as described under “human subjects” above (including any kind of interview or client interaction undertaken as part of the practicum), the student should assume that IRB review is necessary. Many projects may be determined to be exempt, but it is IRB, not the student or advisor, who makes this determination.

<https://research.rutgers.edu/faculty-staff/compliance/human-research-protection/irb-process-and-requirements>

Inter-University Doctoral Consortium

Doctoral students who have completed one year of doctoral work are eligible to cross-register for graduate courses at the following institutions: Princeton, CUNY-Graduate Center, Columbia, Fordham, New School, NYU, or the University of Pennsylvania. Students must obtain approval from the Graduate Director as well as from the professor at the visiting institution. Students should be aware that forms and procedures for registration vary at each institution. The general Rutgers policy and information about each school is available here:

<https://grad.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2022-09/IUDC%20Registration%20Form%209-1-2022.pdf>

Interdisciplinary Ph.D.

In extremely rare circumstances, the School of Graduate Studies allows already-matriculated Ph.D. students to arrange for special Interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs. This program is a means for combining existing School of Graduate Studies programs when none of the individual programs can alone accommodate the interdisciplinary nature of a student's studies. As such, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. will only be considered in cases where a student's interests extend to areas or disciplines not represented in the WGSS Graduate Faculty.

Models of Ph.D. course work

Three (3) Graduate Courses each semester is considered a full load, although a student may take four (4) courses.

First Year

Fall

988:582 Feminist Genealogies
988:520 Proseminar: Agency, Subjectivity and Social Change
Colloquium or Cognate Course

Spring

988:583 Contemporary Feminist Theories 988:530
Proseminar: Borders and Boundaries **OR** 988:510
Technologies and Poetics of Gender 988:603
Feminist Knowledge Production

Second Year

Fall

988:587 Feminist Pedagogies Colloquium or
Cognate Course Colloquium or Cognate
Course

Spring

988:530 Proseminar: Borders and Boundaries **OR**
988:510 Technologies and Poetics of Gender
Colloquium or Cognate Course

Third Year

Fall

Colloquium or Cognate Course or Independent Study
(for those entering without MA)

Written Qualifying Exam

Spring

Oral qualifying exam
If possible: Dissertation Proposal Defense

Fourth and Subsequent Years

Dissertation Proposal Defense
Research and write dissertation
Dissertation Defense

Filing for a Ph.D. Degree

Students who are near completion of the requirements for the degree must fill out two forms: the **Ph.D. candidacy form** and the **diploma application form**. Information about Dissertation submission can be found here:

<https://grad.rutgers.edu/academics/graduation>

Required Form are available here:

<https://grad.rutgers.edu/academics/forms?&location=23>.

Students may confirm with Ben Arenger in the School of Graduate Studies Dean's Office (bma45@grad.rutgers.edu) that all credits required for graduation have been completed. Students should also confirm with the Graduate Director that all departmental requirements have been met.

When all requirements, including satisfaction of credits and defense of dissertation, have been met, these forms must be filed. The deadline for filing for

next year has not been announced but according to previous years we expect it will be:

October 1, 2026, for October degree
January 6, 2027, for January degree,
April 1, 2027, for May degree (diploma application is due **March 15**)

Students filing for an October degree do not need to register for fall semester.

THE M.A. PROGRAM

The WGSS M.A. Program is comprised of three distinct degrees: the M.A. *Track in Feminist Practices for Social Change*; the M.A. with Thesis; and the B.A./M.A. *Track in Feminist Practices for Social Change*. All three are liberal arts degrees that provide students with an opportunity to pursue advanced interdisciplinary work in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and enables them to become active practitioners in this rapidly expanding field of study. While these Programs serve as a "terminal" Master's degree for students planning non-academic careers, they may also serve as a precursor or a supplemental degree for subsequent professional degrees in fields such as law, social work, public health, labor studies, public policy, medicine, or clinical psychology. With an increasing emphasis on careers focusing on the delivery of services relating to gender and sexuality and a rethinking of the needs of women and families worldwide, WGSS helps to fill a growing demand for experts versed in women's and gender issues. The M.A. Program is designed to emphasize global and multicultural perspectives on these matters.

Admissions Criteria

The Department welcomes a wide variety of applicants—ranging from recent college graduates to mid-career professionals to international activists—who wish to enrich their engagement with women's and gender studies.

M.A. Track and M.A. with Thesis Admissions

Applicants must *apply only either* to the M.A. *Track* or M.A. with Thesis. Applicants will not be allowed to switch once admitted. Applicants for the M.A. *Track* and M.A. with Thesis must have completed a B.A. degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or a comparable institution in another country. Students must submit transcripts, a personal statement concerning their intellectual interests and their reasons for graduate studies, a writing sample that demonstrates their analytical abilities, and three letters of recommendation from scholars familiar with their academic work. When required by application cycles, students must also submit GRE scores. Students whose native language is something other than English must submit scores

from TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) if they have not completed either a B.A. or and M.A. taught entirely in English.

Admission to the M.A. Program is entirely separate from admission to the Ph.D. program.

Students in the M.A. Programs who wish to pursue doctoral work in WGSS at Rutgers must apply to the Ph.D. program separately and directly, where they will compete with the general pool of applicants for admissions.

B.A./M.A. Track Admissions

Only students already pursuing their B.A. and majoring in WGSS at Rutgers University may apply to the WGSS B.A./M.A. *Track*. Students outside of Rutgers University or who are not majoring in WGSS at Rutgers University at the time of application will not be considered. The B.A./M.A. Program will also not consider students newly transferring into Rutgers at the time of application, as transfer students must present a solid record of academic excellence in Rutgers' WGSS courses at the time of application.

Rutgers B.A. students majoring in WGSS should apply to the B.A./M.A. during their sophomore or junior year. Once admitted, students cannot transfer into the WGSS M.A. with Thesis degree.

Admission to the B.A./M.A. Programs is entirely separate from admission to the Ph.D. program. Students in the B.A./M.A. Programs who wish to pursue doctoral work in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers must apply to the Ph.D. program separately and directly, where they will compete with the general pool of applicants for admissions.

Application Procedures

The administration of the admissions process is handled by the Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions. Applicants to the M.A. Program in WGSS must apply for admission through the School of Graduate Studies-New Brunswick. For application information and to apply on-line, applicants should go to: <http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/>

Application Deadlines

The deadline for applications is December 21, 2022, for the MA *Track* and MA with Thesis Programs, and February 15, 2023, for the B.A./M.A. Program and will approximate these dates in subsequent years. All materials including transcripts, personal statements, writing samples, and letters of recommendation must arrive by the application deadline. To avoid delays in the processing of applications, all materials should be sent directly to the Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions.

Members of the Graduate Faculty in WGSS carefully review all application materials and make recommendations for admission to the School of Graduate Studies. Every effort will be made to inform students of decisions concerning their admission by early March.

Non-Matriculating and Transfer Students

Unfortunately, the WGSS Masters Program does not accept non-matriculating students. It also does not accept transfer students from other departments within Rutgers University or from other Universities/Colleges.

Financial Support

Extremely limited financial support is available to M.A. students, in general, at Rutgers University. Financial support through the University, in the form of loans, grants, and work study, may be obtained by contacting the Financial Aid office directly at (848) 932-7057. Once enrolled in the M.A. Program, students may also consult with the Rutgers Grad Fund to explore potential merit-based funds and fellowships. In addition, various jobs are available on campus, including jobs and assistantships in other departments and centers. A list of women-related centers, some of which employ research assistants, is included in this *Graduate Handbook*.

Registration for Courses

Incoming M.A. students will meet with the Masters Director and receive information from WGSS concerning their first fall registration. All incoming students must attend an orientation organized by

WGSS. The orientation will be held each year sometime during August before the official start of classes.

The WGSS orientation will include advising and registration for course selection for the fall semester. Typically, registration begins in early-to-mid November for the spring semester, and in late March to early April for the fall semester. During this period, students may register using the Rutgers Touchtone Telephone Registration System (RTTRS) by dialing (732) 445-4357; WEBREG Online Registration <https://sims.rutgers.edu/webreg/>; or through in-person registration. Term bills may be paid in person at the Cashier's Office on College Avenue or on Busch Campus or on-line at <http://www.studentabc.rutgers.edu/>

Incoming graduate students are also expected to attend an additional one-day orientation organized by the University; information about the latter can be located on the main university website. Finally, all international students may be required to attend additional events scheduled by the Rutgers Global.

B.A./M.A. students entering their fifth and final year of their degree are required to attend the WGSS Orientation scheduled in August of that year.

Program Requirements for M.A. Degrees

All Masters students (only in the Track and completing the Thesis) are required to complete the Masters degree within 3 years from the time of matriculation (i.e., September of the first semester to December of the third year). Students wishing to take additional time to complete the degree are responsible for securing express permission for this approval directly from SGS.

M.A. Track in Feminist Practices for Social Change

Students in the M.A. *Track* are required to complete 30 credits to earn the M.A. degree. Nine of those credits apply toward 3 core WGSS classes:

- (1) 988:515 *Feminism: Theory and Practice*
- (2) 988:516 *Social Justice Movements*
- (3) 988:517 *Advocacy: Tactics and Techniques*

Fifteen credits (5 courses), termed ‘cognate’ or ‘elective’ courses, are earned by completing a combination of proseminars and/or advanced colloquia offered by the Department (988 courses that are at the 500-level or above). Students may also complete cognate/elective courses focused on gender, sexuality, women’s studies, etc., offered by other departments at Rutgers University also at the 500-level or above with the approval of the M.A. Director. Students wishing to take graduate courses in other departments must petition the M.A. Director in writing and include the syllabus for the course in this petition.

Students may use these 5 cognate/elective courses to form an area of concentration resonant with their area of interest if they wish to do so. Students are not required to develop an area of concentration for their degree, but those wishing to pursue higher education or a specific line of work subsequent to completing the Masters Degree are strongly encouraged to do so. Students may craft a concentration on the basis of their particular intellectual interests and courses available in any particular academic year.

The last six credits are earned by completing the Masters Practicum. The Practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate academic analyses of particular feminist issues by working either in an organization focused on feminist or gender-related issues, or a social justice/human rights organization focused on a project addressing these issues. The Practicum requires 150 to 180 hours of work in the organization. Upon completion, students are required to write and defend a *Practicum Report* before a Committee of three graduate faculty members in WGSS.

Due to the nature of the Practicum projects, students may complete the Practicum after finishing at least 4 of their courses, 3 of which must be core classes, toward their M.A. Degree. *Students showing incompletes on their transcript without will not be allowed to embark on a Practicum until the incomplete has been resolved.*

For more detailed information students should consult with the Director of the Masters Program.

M.A. with Thesis

Students completing the M.A. with Thesis are required to complete 30 credits in order to earn the M.A. degree. Twelve credits apply toward four required core WGSS courses:

(1) 988:515 *Feminism: Theory and Practice*

(2) 988:520 *Agency, Subjectivity, and Social Change*

(3) One course in feminist theory:

This course may be selected from 988:555, 988:582, 988:583, or other courses to be designated each semester as fulfilling this requirement and approved by the M.A. Director.

(4) One course in feminist research and methodology:

This course may be selected from 988:545, 988:602, 988:603, or other courses to be designated each semester by the M.A. Director as fulfilling this requirement.

Twelve other credits (4 courses), termed ‘cognate’ or ‘elective’ courses, are earned by completing a combination of proseminars and/or advanced colloquia offered by the Department (988 courses that are at the 500-level or above). Students may also complete cognate/elective courses focused on gender, sexuality, women’s studies, etc., offered by other departments (also at the 500-level or above) within Rutgers University with the approval of the M.A. Director. Students wishing to take graduate courses in other departments must petition the M.A. Director in writing and include the syllabus for the course in this petition.

Students may use these 4 cognate/elective courses to form an area of concentration resonant with their area of interest if they wish to do so. Students are not required to develop an area of concentration for their degree, but those wishing to pursue higher education or a specific line of work subsequent to completing the Masters degree are strongly encouraged to do so. Students may craft a concentration on the basis of their particular intellectual interests and courses available in any particular academic year.

The last six credits are earned by completing the Masters Thesis. This thesis reflects a more traditional academic approach to student research in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Students may initiate thesis work only after completing *all* M.A. coursework, or while in the final semester of

coursework having already completed all 4 core courses.

The thesis of 100-pages should be developed over the course of no less than 9 months to 1 year under the mentorship of the Chair of the student's Thesis Committee. All members of this three-person Thesis Committee must be members of the WGSS Graduate Faculty.

For more detailed information, students should consult with the Director of the Masters Program.

B.A./M.A. Track in Feminist Practices for Social Change

The B.A./M.A. *Track in Feminist Practices for Social Change* is a 5-year academic path comprised of a 4-year B.A. Degree in WGSS followed by a degree in WGSS M.A. *Track in Feminist Practices for Social Change* to be completed in the additional 5th year.

Students in the B.A./M.A. *Track* are required to complete 30 credits to earn the M.A. degree. Ideally, students will complete 1 of those graduate classes during the spring semester of their junior year, and the remaining 2 during graduate classes in their senior year. They may also complete all 3 graduate classes in their senior year. *Please keep in mind that the University will not allow undergraduate students to complete more than 3 graduate classes at undergraduate tuition rates.*

In addition, as long as the B.A./M.A. student has completed all 120 credits toward their the WGSS WGSS B.A. Degree, they may transfer 1 of their WGSS advanced undergrad courses (988:400+) to count toward their MA *Track* Degree subject to WGSS Departmental and SGS approval; consistent with the policies of SGS; and with the approval of the MA Director. Students will complete the remaining 5 graduate classes after they have completed their B.A. Degree and have formally matriculated into the M.A. *Track*, which should constitute the 5th year of the 5-year B.A./M.A. Degree.

Students in the M.A. *Track* are required to complete 30 credits in order to earn the M.A. degree. Nine of those credits apply toward 3 core WGSS classes:

(1) 988:515 *Feminism: Theory and Practice*

(2) 988:516 *Social Justice Movements*

(3) 988:517 *Advocacy: Tactics and Techniques*

It is strongly suggested that students complete these three courses while completing the final year/s of their undergraduate degree.

In the 5th year, 15 credits (5 courses), termed 'cognate' or 'elective' courses, are earned through a combination of proseminars and/or advanced colloquia offered by the Department (988 courses that are at the 500-level or above). Students may also complete cognate/elective courses focused on gender, sexuality, women's studies, etc., offered by other departments (also at the 500-level or above) within Rutgers University with the approval of the M.A. Director. Students wishing to take graduate courses in other departments must petition the M.A. Director in writing and include the syllabus for the course in this petition.

B.A./M.A. students may use these 5 cognate/elective courses to form an area of concentration resonant with their area of interest if they wish to do so. Students are not required to develop an area of concentration for their degree, but those wishing to pursue higher education or a specific line of work subsequent to completing the Masters Degree are strongly encouraged to do so. Students may craft a concentration on the basis of their particular intellectual interests and courses available in any particular academic year.

The last six credits are earned by completing the Masters Practicum. The Practicum provides students the opportunity to integrate academic analyses of particular feminist issues by working either in an organization focused on feminist or gender-related issues, or a social justice/human rights organization focused on a project addressing these issues. The Practicum requires 150 to 180 hours of work in the organization. Upon completion, students are required to write and defend a *Practicum Report* before a Committee of three graduate faculty members in WGSS.

Due to the nature of the Practicum projects, students may complete the Practicum after finishing at least 4 of their courses, 3 of which must be core classes, toward their M.A. Degree. *Students showing incompletes*

on their transcript without will not be allowed to embark on a Practicum until the incomplete has been resolved.

For more detailed information, students should consult with the Director of the Masters Program.

Course Attendance

Students are required to attend *all* the classes scheduled for each of the graduate course they are taking unless expressly excused by Professors of those courses and approved of by the M.A. Director. Students who are repeatedly absent from a course may be withdrawn from it or subject to a failing grade, which may lead to their placement on Academic Probation. If any matter related to a continuous absence from a class/classes is brought to the attention of the Masters Director, it will be referred to the Graduate Director who will, with the MA Director and the Professor/s, determine the course to be taken.

If for any reason a student plans to be absent for any course or delayed in completing any coursework, the student must immediately contact the relevant Professor for approval of the delay and notify the M.A. Director of the issue.

Re-Taking Courses

MA students who receive a B or below in a graduate course may, with the approval of the Professor of the course/s and the M.A. Director, retake the course. If the student receives a B+ or above in the repeated course, the MA Director may supplant the previous course with the new grade in consultation with the Graduate School. *However, please note that students receiving a B or below will be placed immediately on Academic Probation.*

Prior Academic Research

Any research completed prior to initiating coursework toward any graduate degree in the WGSS Masters Program cannot be used as primary research in completing the Masters or B.A./M.A. Track or Masters Thesis degrees. Research for any of the WGSS Masters degrees should be premised on fresh research begun and completed during tenure in the Masters Program.

Other Options for Credit Towards Degree

988:590 Independent Study

All WGSS MA Students and B.A./M.A. students only in their 5th year as official M.A. students with an interest in a specialized area not represented in the current curriculum may arrange to complete an *Independent Study* at the graduate level (16:988:590) under the supervision of a member of the WGSS Graduate Faculty. As the supervision of an *Independent Study* requires a significant investment and preparation on the part of the faculty member involved, students should approach potential faculty supervisors at least 2 to 3 months prior to the semester of the anticipated enrollment. If applying for an *Independent Study* in the fall, students should contact Professors supervising the *Independent Study* by the March before the start of the summer holiday.

No more than 3 credits of *Independent Study* at the graduate level may be counted toward the 30 credits required for the M.A. degree (M.A. Thesis, or M.A. or B.A./M.A. *Track*), and these credits may count only as one cognate/elective course. All *Independent Studies* must be approved by the Masters Director. To obtain approval, students must complete the *Independent Study Contract*, to be signed by the student, the faculty supervisor, and any other Site Supervisor (if the study involves working at an organization). After the signed *Contract* has been submitted to the M.A. Director, the student may register for the *Independent Study* by contacting the WGSS Administrator for a special permission number.

Upon completion of the *Independent Study*, the faculty supervisor must communicate a final grade to the Masters Director to be recorded on their transcript.

Advanced Undergraduate Classes

All WGSS Master's students may enroll in one advanced undergraduate course (400-level) from a list of courses pre-approved of by the Graduate Director (if available). These must be selected from in WGSS courses offered as 988:4## or from courses in other departments also at the 400-level+ and focused on the vision of WGSS, including topics relating to: women, gender, sexuality, feminism, queer studies, masculinity, women's rights, development, ecofeminism, intersectionality, etc. Any and all courses that are not officially WGSS courses must be approved of by the M.A. Director. Students wishing to enroll in advanced undergraduate classes for graduate credit should consult with the instructor of

the course to make sure they may enroll in the course.

M.A. students may take no more than one undergraduate course at the 400 level **and** one independent study (16:988:590). This means that all M.A. students may take up to 6 credits comprised of *one* undergraduate course and *one* graduate-level independent study (both pre-approved of by the MA Director) to count toward **ONLY** cognate/elective courses.

A B.A./M.A. *Track* student who has completed all 120 credits toward their the WGSS B.A. Degree may transfer one of their WGSS advanced undergrad courses (988:400+) used toward their WGSS B.A. degree toward their MA *Track* Degree subject to WGSS Departmental and SGS approval; consistent with the policies of SGS; and with the approval of the MA Director. They may also, if they choose, instead take a new advanced undergraduate course (400+) with the approval of the MA Director to count toward their MA degree. **HOWEVER, ONLY ONE ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE COURSE MAY COUNT TOWARD THE MA DEGREE.**

All M.A. and B.A./M.A. students may take no more than one undergraduate course at the 400 level, and/or no more than one independent study (16:988:590), both approved by the M.A. Director. This means that B.A./M.A. students may take up to 6 credits comprised of *one* undergraduate course and *one* graduate-level independent study to count toward **ONLY** cognate/elective courses.

Time to Completion of Degree

Maximum Time to Complete Degree

In accordance with School of Graduate Studies policies, the maximum time allowed to complete the requirements for the M.A. Degree (with Thesis or *Track*) is 3 years. Students who have not completed all requirements (including the Defense) within this three-year time limit and who are not making progress toward the Degree will be recommended for academic dismissal in accordance with the WGSS By Laws and University protocol. Students who do not satisfy the minimum required GPA of 3.5 at the time of graduation may be terminated from the Program in accordance

with the WGSS By Laws and in accordance with University protocol and at the discretion of the M.A. and Graduate Directors.

In the case of part-time students, extensions are available only to students in good academic standing who are making consistent and verifiable progress toward completion. Extensions are granted by petition in writing to the WGSS Masters and Graduate Directors, as well as to the School of Graduate Studies. The extension may not exceed more than 5 years starting from the date of matriculation into the Program.

It is strongly suggested that *all* M.A. students prioritize completion of their Core courses (3 for the MA and B.A. *Track* and 4 for the M.A. with Thesis) toward their degree to allow them some flexibility in completing the remaining cognate/elective courses.

For students who seek to complete the M.A. Track in Feminist Practices for Social Change in one year:

Only Masters students completing the M.A. *Track* may complete the degree within 1 year with the approval of the M.A. Director. Students expecting to complete the M.A. *Track* in one year should complete all 24 required course credits during the fall and spring semesters of their first and only year in the WGSS M.A. Program. Students may complete Practicum during the spring or summer of their one year in the WGSS M.A. *Track*; however, they must complete the 517 *Advocacy: Tactics and Techniques* and 515 *Feminism: Theory and Practice* courses before undertaking any Practicum work.

Students who need to maintain their student status over the summer may register for the 6 required Practicum credits (988:584 or 585) during the summer of their only year in the Program and subsequent to completing all coursework, as the Department allows students to register for Practicum credits during summer session. Students who are operating under more restrictive circumstances (e.g., are from abroad or do not have funds to take courses over the summer) should register for all 6 Practicum during the academic year: either three credits in each of the fall and spring semesters during which they will be completing their coursework, or all 6 credits either during the fall or spring. An 'Incomplete' grade will be assigned for these credits during those semesters, which will allow the student to complete the Practicum work and *Report* over the summer.

This 'Incomplete; will be resolved upon the successful completion of the Practicum Defense.

The Academic Year for this 1-year option assumes a start date of September with the intention of graduating by the October of the following year, organized as such:

- Complete 4 fall (515/517)/4 spring course load during the academic year (possible to register for 6 Practicum credits during these semesters)
- Select their Committee during the Spring semester
- Register for all 6 Practicum Credits (584/585) over the summer if not previously registered
- Complete the Practicum (150-180 hours) and write the *Practicum Report* with the Chair of their Committee over the summer if they are willing
- Defend the *Practicum Report* in mid-September to secure an October-dated degree

Students planning to complete the M.A. Track within this 1-year schedule may do so only after consulting with the M.A. Director and with the approval of the M.A. Director.

PLEASE NOTE: Students earning an October degree need not register for the few weeks during the fall semester when they will be defending and graduating. Students earning an October need not pay any extra tuition, unless they must register for Practicum credits during the summer before they defend.

The pathway to complete the M.A. in 1 year **is not available for students intending to complete the Masters with Thesis**, as thesis work requires a writing process that will take anywhere from 9 to 12 months.

Students completing the M.A. Thesis, however, may complete the degree within 1.5 years if they follow regimented schedule as follows:

Fall 4/Spring 4 course load

Spring: select committee and write Thesis Proposal

Summer: Begin thesis writing

Fall: register for Research Credits (701/702); complete thesis; defend in December to receive a Jan-dated degree

Students planning to complete the M.A. with Thesis within this 1.5 year schedule may do so only after consulting with the M.A. Director and with the approval of the M.A. Director.

For Students Completing the M.A. in More than One Year:

Most WGSS M.A. students complete the M.A. degree within the three-year limit allowed by the School of Graduate Studies. It is strongly suggested that *all* M.A. students prioritize completion of their Core courses (3 for the MA and B.A./M.A. *Track* and 4 for the M.A. with Thesis) toward their degree to have the flexibility in completing the remaining cognate/elective courses.

Students completing the M.A. with Thesis may not embark on Thesis writing (including the *Thesis Proposal*) until they have completed the majority of their classes (6 classes) *including all 4 Core courses*. Students entering their final semester of courses may initiate the process of selecting Committee members and developing the *Thesis Proposal*.

PLEASE NOTE: Students earning an October degree need not register for the fall semester when they will be defending and graduating. Students earning an October need not pay any extra tuition, unless they must register for Research Credits (701/702) during the summer before they defend.

Matriculation Continued

The term 'Matriculation Continued' indicates a placeholder in the University's registration system that allows M.A. students to remain registered in the University system even when, due to special circumstances, they are not actively registered for any coursework. In the WGSS MA Program, these special circumstances include instances when students:

* have completed all of their course requirements but need to remain actively registered in the Program while either completing their Practicum, or writing their *Practicum Reports* or *Thesis* on or away from campus.

OR

* are experiencing extenuating circumstances that require them to take some time off from the Program.

Both options **require express permission** by the Masters Director.

Students may not register for Matriculation Continued for more than two semesters. Students who do not qualify for the 'Matriculation Continued' designation are subject to additional fines and paperwork required by the School of Graduate Studies to be matriculated back into the system. Students alone are responsible for remaining active in the system.

International students may not take advantage of this option given the credit requirements per semester outlined for them by the University.

M.A. Advising

All incoming M.A. students will work together with the M.A. Director upon entry into the Program to plan a course of study and seek information about courses and faculty. The M.A. Director may also assist the student in developing research and Practicum interests, and in identifying appropriate resources both in the University and elsewhere to support the student's work.

The M.A. Director will assume primary advising responsibilities for students in terms of planning coursework, exploring internships, etc. They also may Chair a Practicum or Thesis Committee if they choose this option. The M.A. Director may assist the student in locating an other Practicum and Thesis advisors whose research resonates with those of the student and in identifying additional possible committee members. .

The M.A. Director will reach out to each student about her/his progress during the course of each semester. The Masters Director will also apprise students of any warnings about inadequate progress for students who fail to follow agreed-upon calendars for completion of required course work.

Even as the M.A. Director will advise students, it is the responsibility of all M.A. and B.A./M.A. students to make sure that they are completing required coursework and making progress toward completing their degrees.

Advising and Student Responsibilities

The M.A. Director can be a student's most important ally and aide in the sometimes arduous project of graduate study. Developing and cultivating a relationship with the Director will give the Director a better opportunity to serve as an advocate and mentor for the student, to identify potential opportunities that might otherwise be overlooked, and to help the student succeed.

Students are required to meet with the M.A. Director in person or remotely at least one time per semester to stay on top of coursework and graduation deadlines. **Students who are working full- or part-time are not exempt from these meetings. Students who miss meetings with the M.A. Director are responsible for rescheduling those meetings.**

The M.A. Director should bring any areas of potential concern to the attention of the student and follow up with the Graduate Director as needed.

The M.A. Director should attempt to remain apprised of Masters students' progress and to be aware should any difficulties arise. The M.A. Director may serve as an advocate in the students' relations with the Graduate Program, other faculty members, and or the University. Often it is the M.A. Director who is in the best position to intervene on behalf of a student and help a student with difficulties achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Mandatory Workshops

WGSS M.A. and B.A./M.A. students are required to attend all workshops offered during the course of academic year including those related to: Thesis and Practicum writing and defense; Writing; CV and Job Market; and IRB.

Students are also required to attend mandatory M.A. meetings scheduled throughout the year. If a student misses any of these workshops, they must notify the M.A. Director in writing and must follow-up on what was missed from the workshop/meeting of their own accord.

The Practicum (6 Credits)

The Practicum provides M.A. and B.A./M.A. *Track* students with the opportunity to integrate academic analysis of particular feminist issues with work in a feminist organization addressing those issues. As such, the Practicum is an ideal means to explore praxis: the bringing together of feminist/gender/sexuality theory and practice in real-world contexts.

The Practicum is comprised of two elements: the Practicum itself, which is a work experience of 150-180 hours at a work site focused on gender, sexuality, feminism, etc.; and a written *Practicum Report* (35-50 pages) integrating knowledge gained during the Practicum with knowledge gained during coursework.

PLEASE NOTE: Before embarking a Practicum, students' must turn in a completed *Practicum Contract* and a completed *Practicum Committee* form. Before writing the *Practicum Report*, students should secure the *Practicum Final Evaluation*; complete the *Practicum Proposal* with their main advisor; and the *Practicum Approval* form.

Students wishing to complete the Practicum should enroll for the Practicum credits by registering for 6 credits total of 988:584 and 988:585 (depending on the semester in question), or for 6 credits of the same number in either semester. . Practicum credits will not carry letter grades ; instead performance will be categorized as "PA" for a passing grade for these credit hours upon the completion of the *Practicum Report* (*see below*) or will remain noted as 'Incomplete' if the Committee requires a second Defense at a later date.

M.A. students may enroll in Practicum credits *prior* to undertaking the Practicum if it is advantageous for the purposes of registration or due to Financial Aid issues only with express permission from both the Masters Director. These credits will show as an "Incomplete" on student transcripts until the *Practicum Report* has been defended. Note, however, like all incomplete coursework, incompletes for Practicum work must be resolved within one year and in time for graduation.

The Practicum Work Experience

M.A. and B.A./M.A. *Track* students completing the Practicum must perform 150-180 hours of work in an agency or organization pertinent to women's and gender studies or in an agency/organization focusing on a project pertinent to women's studies, gender, sexuality masculinity, etc., with the express permission of the M.A. Director. Students may also complete a Practicum in an agency that employs them full-time or part-time.

While Practicum placements may vary widely, each should involve intellectual challenges, responsibility, creativity, and programmatic impact. The work performed in the Practicum should be comparable to that of a professional as best as possible. Students should be very clear in negotiating with prospective Practicum agencies to ensure that the work they are assigned to complete for the Practicum fulfills these expectations.

Students should consult with and secure permission from the Masters Director about their choices for Practicum sites. While students have great flexibility in choosing their Practicum sites, they must be careful to ensure that they have the requisite skills to successfully complete the work expected of them. If students seek a Practicum placement in an organization in another country, they should possess sufficient language proficiency to complete their work assignments in the language of their host nation.

OF NOTE! All students completing the Practicum must keep track of the hours completed during the Practicum and must send this to the MA Director once the Practicum has been completed.

Preparing for the Practicum

At least **three months** before embarking upon the Practicum, each student must identify the issue(s) that s/he wishes to investigate; choose a Practicum advisor from the WGSS Graduate Faculty with expertise on this issue; and identify a feminist organization appropriate for fieldwork on the issue. The M.A. Director must approve each student's choice of worksite before the student develops a *Practicum Proposal*. At least **four weeks** before beginning work at the Practicum site, the student must submit to their Practicum Advisor, Site Supervisor, and the M.A. Director the *Practicum*

Contract, which presents a detailed plan of the Practicum work.

The student must then select two other Graduate Faculty members to serve on their Practicum Committee. The student is responsible for securing the agreement of these individuals to serve on the Practicum Committee; having them all sign the *Practicum/Thesis Committee* form; and submitting that *Form* to the M.A. Director.

The Practicum Proposal

The *Practicum Proposal* (5 typed pages) must be developed in consultation with the Practicum Faculty advisor after completing the Practicum work and before initiating the *Practicum Report*.

The *Practicum Proposal* should indicate how the student plans to bring theory and practice together in pursuing a specific work opportunity. Towards that end, the proposal should **identify the issues**, questions, themes, controversies, or contradictions that the student hopes to **explore** through the work experience and research related to that work experience.

The *Practicum Proposal* should indicate the set of questions that the student brings to the work experience and the **relevant** articles, books, films, or other primary sources that the student will use as **resources** in thinking about some central questions about the work relating to gender, sexuality, women's studies, etc.

The *Practicum Proposal* should also include a discussion of any **previous experience** or specific skills that the student brings to the Practicum that will assist the student in undertaking the work and in reflecting critically upon that work.

The *Practicum Proposal* should **outline the specific work** that the student has agreed to undertake in consultation with the Site Supervisor of the worksite and the Practicum Faculty Advisor. The time frame for fieldwork completion must be clearly identified.

The *Practicum Proposal* should indicate how this engagement with feminist theory and practice would contribute to her/his **longer-term career** goals.

A systematic bibliography of feminist scholarship relevant to the Practicum must be included with the Practicum Proposal.

The Practicum Report

The challenge of the *Practicum Report* is to bring together the academic treatments of the issue(s) with the experience gained during fieldwork. As the culmination of the student's M.A. experience, the *Practicum Report* provides the student an opportunity to integrate insights gleaned from academic course work with challenges posed by particular forms of activism related to gender, sexuality, women's studies, etc.; and by bringing together theory and practice, to contribute to feminist understandings of the issue being explored. The *Proposal* could, for example, examine feminist organizational or decision-making issues, substantive feminist policy or service delivery, theoretical questions raised by feminist practice within the worksite, and strategic questions concerning the achievement of specific feminist goals.

Guided by the questions the student formulated in the *Practicum Proposal*, the student should use the fieldwork to provide evidence to support or contest particular academic claims, to offer suggestions for reframing or expanding particular debates, or to develop concepts and practices that further feminist ends.

Each student should write the Report while consulting with their Primary Practicum Faculty Advisor. The final draft of the *Report* should be submitted to the other two members of the Practicum Committee no less than 3-4 weeks prior to the Defense. While the length of the *Practicum Report* will be dictated by the nature of the issue addressed, a typical *Practicum Report* should range from 35 to 50 pages. Those pages may not include endnotes, cover or title pages, bibliography/works cited, or any graphics.

It should be expected that the *Practicum Report* will go through multiple revisions prior to its final approval by the Practicum Faculty Advisor.

The Practicum Defense

In conjunction with the student, the Practicum Faculty Advisor will decide when the *Practicum Report* fulfills the expectations of the Graduate Faculty and

is ready for Defense. Once the Practicum Faculty Advisor has provided this approval, the student should provide copies of the final draft of the *Practicum Report* to the other two members serving on the student's Practicum Committee. Committee Members should be allowed at least **three to four weeks** to review the *Practicum Report* in order to prepare adequately for the Defense.

It is the responsibility of the M.A. or B.A./M.A. Track student to set up the Defense date and time, as well as the room in which it will take place or the Zoom link if it is being carried out remotely. This should be completed at least 4-6 months prior to the date of the Defense. Students should set the actual Defense to take place at least two weeks before the SGS submission requirements, when all of the material from the Defense as well as final corrections from the Committee regarding the *Practicum Report* will be due.

For the Academic Year 2022/23 the deadlines for filing for degrees are:

October 1, 2022, for October degree

January 6, 2023, for January degree

April 1, 2023, for May degree (diploma application is due **March 15**)

See the link for additional information:

<https://grad.rutgers.edu/academics/graduation/masters-degree-without-thesis>

The Defense, which generally takes one hour, is an opportunity for the student to reflect on the Practicum experience and for the faculty committee to ask questions about the *Practicum Report* and the student's experiences in developing it. All faculty members on the Practicum Committee should be present at the Defense, which can be in-person or executed remotely. Other members of the WGSS Community may be invited to attend the Defense at the student's request. For more information, please consult with the M.A. Director.

Grading the Practicum

The Faculty Advisor, in conjunction with advice from Committee Members, awards the final grade for the Practicum as either 'pass' (PA) or 'fail' (the grade on the transcript may remain as an incomplete: INC at the discretion of the

Committee. In this calculation, the Committee as a whole will consider the following factors:

- *Final Evaluation by Site Supervisor:* At the end of the Practicum, the Site Supervisor sends a letter evaluating the student's performance to the Masters Director. This letter is also made available to the faculty advisor and committee.
- *The Practicum Report:* The quality of the *Practicum Report* must be assessed by Committee Members prior to the Defense. Concerns about the academic quality of the report raised by other members of the Practicum Committee during the Defense will also be considered in the determination of the final grade.

Thesis (6 credits)

Before beginning the Thesis, M.A. students completing the Thesis should complete and submit supporting materials to the Masters Director. These materials include all necessary documents to initiate the Thesis: the *Thesis Committee* Form and the *Thesis Proposal Approval* form.

Students who complete a WGSS M.A. Thesis are required to develop a *Thesis Proposal*, which should range from 5 to 7 pages in length. Students must meet with the M.A. Director to explore requirements of the *Proposal* but should write the *Proposal* in conjunction with their Primary Thesis Advisor, who must be a member of the WGSS Graduate Faculty. Theses may not be initiated until the *Proposal* has been approved by the student's Main Thesis Advisor. In general, students may not embark on Thesis writing until at least 6 (including all 4 core courses) and 2 cognate/elective courses completed. Students begin the writing process in the final semester of courses (completing the final 2 cognate/elective courses).

Before embarking upon Thesis writing, students must identify the issue(s) that they wish to investigate; and choose a Thesis Advisor from among the WGSS Graduate Faculty with expertise in their area of research in consultation with the M.A. Director.

The student must then select two other Graduate Faculty members to serve on their Thesis Committee. The student is responsible for securing the

individuals to serve on this Committee; having them all sign the *Thesis Committee* and the *Thesis Proposal Approval* forms; and submitting both *Forms* to the M.A. Director.

Theses must be at least 100 pages in length, which should be written over the course of anywhere from 8-12 months in conjunction with the Thesis Advisor. Those 100 pages may not include endnotes, cover or title pages, bibliography/works cited, or any graphics. It should be expected that the *Thesis* will go through multiple revisions prior to its final approval by the Thesis Faculty Advisor.

The Thesis Defense

In conjunction with the student, the Thesis Faculty Advisor will decide when the *Thesis* fulfills the expectations of the Graduate Faculty and is ready for Defense. Once the Thesis Faculty Advisor has provided this approval, the student should provide copies of the final draft of the *Thesis* to the other two members serving on the student's Thesis Committee. Committee Members should be allowed at least **four weeks** to review the *Thesis* in order to prepare adequately for the Defense.

It is the responsibility of the M.A. student to set the Defense date and time, as well as the room in which it will take place or the Zoom link if it is being carried out remotely. This should be completed at least 4-6 months prior to the date of the Defense. Students should set the actual Defense to take place at least two weeks before the SGS deadlines for degree filing, when all of the material from the Defense as well as final corrections from the Committee regarding the thesis will be due.

For the Academic Year 2022/23 the dates for filing for degrees are:

October 1, 2022, for October degree

January 6, 2023, for January degree

April 1, 2023, for May degree (diploma application is due **March 15**)

Human Subjects Research Approval for Practicum and Thesis

IRB (Institutional Review Board) review and approval is required when any portion of a student's research conducted while completing an academic degree at the University (whether Practicum, Thesis, Independent Study, etc.) meets **both** of the Federal regulatory definitions for *research* and *human subjects*.

Research is defined as a *systematic investigation...designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge*.

Examples of such projects are: research development testing, pilot studies, clinical studies, surveys, certain program evaluations, ethnographies, and oral history projects. *Theses* and *Practicum Reports* may fall under this definition of research.

Human Subject is defined as a *living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains: (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual; or (2) identifiable private information* (such as data sets that contain identifiable information). It is vital to note that in order to qualify under this definition information must be obtained **about** an individual. Merely obtaining information **from** an individual about a process, policy, etc. (but not another living individual), will not require IRB review.

Theses and *Practicum Reports*, insofar as they do draw general conclusions or analysis from particular data, should be assumed to fall under this definition of research. Therefore, when any student *Report* (Practicum, Thesis, or other curricular activity) involves acquiring information about living individuals as described under "human subjects" noted earlier (including any kind of interview or client interaction undertaken as part of the Practicum), the student should assume that IRB review is necessary. Many projects may be determined to be exempt, but it is IRB—not the student, Masters Director, or Faculty Advisor—who makes this determination. Students undertaking Human Subject Research should, therefore, contact the IRB at Rutgers University, complete the necessary application (due usually on the 12th of each month during the academic year), and complete any certification testing required of the IRB.

Please note that the lead faculty member of any Thesis/Practicum committee overseeing

Practicum/Thesis requiring IRB approval must also be IRB-certified.

University policy and additional information can be found at

<http://orsp.rutgers.edu/humans/SocBhvr.php> and on the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Web Site:

<http://orsp.rutgers.edu/humans/human.php>

Grades and Academic Standing

Plagiarism

All Masters *Thesis* and *Practicum Reports* will be run through the program entitled ‘Turn-It-In’ either by the main Faculty Advisor or the Masters Director prior to a Masters Defense to insure that no part of those reports has been plagiarized. If that program indicates that a student may have plagiarized her/his work, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Graduate Director and the Chair of the Department for further investigation. Students who are found to have plagiarized their work in any coursework counted toward their degree or in their Masters *Practicum Report* or Masters Thesis will be withdrawn from the Program and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the School of Graduate Studies.

Satisfactory Performance

Only courses receiving a grade of "B+" or better will count towards the M.A. or Graduate Certificate in WGSS. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average to graduate from the WGSS M.A. Program. Any student who receives a "B" in a course will be put on academic probation immediately. No student can remain on academic probation for more than two consecutive semesters. Students whose performance does not improve may face academic dismissal in accordance with WGSS By Laws and University Policy.

Sudden Changes in Pursuing the Degree

Students are responsible for contacting immediately all members of their committees as well as the Masters Director in the following contexts: leaving the Program for a semester (which must be pre-approved by the Masters and Graduate Director);

making significant changes to the intended date of graduation; and delaying Defense/graduation date. Failure to apprise all relevant Faculty Advisors about these and other issues may result in delays in graduating, etc.

Appeals Process

Students who believe their work has been evaluated unfairly or incorrectly should **first** discuss the matter with the Masters Director. At the discretion of the Masters Director and only in conjunction with the Masters Director may the student then approach the faculty member in question in **a respectful manner**; at no point will disrespect be tolerated.

If the matter cannot be resolved to the student's satisfaction, the student should appeal to the Graduate Director. If either route cannot resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the student and the faculty member(s) involved, the student may then appeal to a WGSS Faculty Committee appointed by the Graduate Director for this purpose. If no resolution is forthcoming, the matter must be referred to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for final resolution.

Incompletes

Incomplete grades are allowed students only on a limited basis. No more than one grade of “Incomplete” is permitted in any one semester and that same Incomplete grade must be removed within one year from the time it was issued. Incompletes that are not resolved within one year become “Permanent Incompletes.” Students receiving a Permanent Incomplete will not receive credit for the course and, furthermore, be prevented from registering for additional classes. Students who accumulate more than one Incomplete may be subject to termination from the Program at the discretion of the M.A. and Graduate Directors in accordance with WGSS By Laws and University Policy. Students who do not resolve Incompletes to the satisfaction of the Professor and Graduate Director may be subject to termination from the Masters Program at in accordance with WGSS By Laws and University Policy.

Working Students

Students who are working part- or full-time are required to complete M.A. degree requirements within the 3-year time limit imposed by the School of Graduate Studies. Those students are required to meet with the M.A. Director once a semester to take status of their progress. Meetings and completion of the degree are dependent upon the initiative of the student.

Registration and De-Registration

WGSS does not allow students enrolled in the Program to be deactivated from the Masters Program. If students cannot take classes for any reason during a particular semester, they must obtain a continuing registration number (otherwise termed, "Matriculation Continued") from WGSS that will allow them to remain actively registered in the Program. Students, with the exception of international students, are allowed a maximum of 2 Matriculation Continued passes during their entire tenure in the Program.

Registration numbers regarding such absences must be cleared with the M.A. and Graduate Directors, and will be approved of only at their discretion. Consistent absence from the Program, beyond one semester, may result in the termination of the student from the Program.

Transfer Credits

The M.A. Program will accept up to six transfer credits of relevant and acceptable graduate courses from other colleges and universities with a grade of 'B' or better. The acceptance of these courses is at the discretion of the M.A. and Graduate Directors. However, transfer credits may not satisfy any of the core course requirements.

Requests for the transfer of course credits will only be considered after the successful completion of 12 credits of graduate course work. Students who are interested in transferring credit must document satisfactory completion of the course(s) request for transfer, present a syllabus from the course(s), as well as emails from the Professors of the course(s) to the Graduate and Masters Directors.

Policy on Joint Degrees

Graduate students may earn a Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies M.A. along with another graduate degree granted by Rutgers University. Students undertaking this effort must make the WGS M.A. and Graduate Directors aware of their goals.

Extensions in the WGS M.A. Program will not be given to students who are completing a degree in another department. Students in these circumstances must still complete the WGS M.A. degree within the required 3-year limit and according to the regulations concerning coursework.

Admission and financial aid are separate processes for each program; therefore, **students must apply separately to each program.** No special consideration is given to students already accepted in a program at Rutgers. Students who are accepted to both programs may enroll for both, but technically cannot earn the degrees simultaneously. Thus, after the student completes the first program, the student must request that credits from the first program be applied to the second degree program. Students interested in this option should discuss it with the Graduate Directors of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and the second Department in which s/he is interested.

Models of M.A. Course Work with Specific M.A. Concentrations (suggestions only):

M.A. students may select cognate courses that collectively cater to their interests in a certain concentration of academic work.

The following concentrations are merely suggestions for students who are looking for guidance in developing the curriculum for their MA degrees. Students are free to develop their own concentrations.

Women & Work

Fall

- 988:515 Feminism: Theory and Practice
- 988:520 Agency, Subjectivity and Social Change
- 510:525 Colloquium in the History of Women
- 578:541 Women Workers and the Labor Movement

Spring

- 988:583 Contemporary Feminist Theories
- 988:602 Feminist Methodologies **or**
- 988:603 Feminist Knowledge Production
- 578:566 Work and Alienation
- 910:542 Women, Work and Single Parent Families

Women & Politics

Fall

- 988:515 Feminism: Theory and Practice
- 988:520 Agency, Subjectivity and Social Change
- 790:587 Proseminar on Women and Politics
- 790:593 Gender and Comparative Politics

Spring

- 988:583 Contemporary Feminist Theories
- 988:602 Feminist Methodologies **or**
- 988:603 Feminist Knowledge Production
- 790:591 Women and Public Policy
- 970:581 Gender in Development and Planning

Women & Literature

Fall

- 988:515 Feminism: Theory and Practice
- 988:520 Agency, Subjectivity and Social Change
- 350:571 Gender, Class, Power in 19th Century England
- 350:583 Women Writers of Modernism

Spring

- 988:583 Contemporary Feminist Theories
- 988:602 Feminist Methodologies **or**
- 988:603 Feminist Knowledge Production
- 350:529 Black Women Writers
- 350:629 Early Modern Women in Poetry and Prose

Filing for an M.A. Degree

Students who are near completion of the requirements for the degree must meet with the Masters Director at least 6 months prior to their intended date of graduation. The M.A. Director will assist the student in planning their Defense committee, completing all necessary forms, and providing advice about the Defense date.

Students must also complete and take with them the following to the Defense: the *M.A. Candidacy* and the *Diploma Application forms* (see M.A. Director). Students graduating from the *Track* must complete the *Candidacy Form* denoting 'Master's Degree without Thesis.' Students graduating with Thesis must complete the *Candidacy Form* denoting 'Master's Degree with Thesis.' Both forms are available online at the SGS website.

<https://grad.rutgers.edu/academics/forms?&location=23>

Students should meet with the Masters Director to confirm that all departmental requirements have been met.

Questions regarding the submission of candidacy forms should be directed to Barbara Sirman at sirman@grad.rutgers.edu

Students filing for an October degree do not need to register for the fall semester or make tuition payments over the summer---bar those payments that are outstanding on any student bills.

OTHER GRADUATE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Certificate Program

The Certificate Program offered by Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies allows students enrolled in other graduate degree programs to earn a Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The certificate program consists of nine credits. At least six credits must be taken in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies core courses or advanced colloquia. Three

credits may be located in cross-listed or cognate course offered in other departments.

Students interested in the Certificate Program must be accepted in a disciplinary department other than Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program does not admit students for the Graduate Certificate alone.

Requirements

To obtain a Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, a student must:

- **Take two Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (988) graduate courses. No exceptions.**
- **Take one approved graduate cognate course.**
- **Complete an application at <http://womens-studies.rutgers.edu/graduate-program/graduate-certificate> and forward**

Of these three courses, one must be a feminist theory course. This theory course can be any of the theory courses offered by Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies except for 988:515 Feminism: Theory & Practice, or it can be a course offered by another department if it has been approved by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Director. Obtain approval prior to enrolling in a course; no courses will be approved retroactively. If the theory course is from another department, then this course may satisfy the theory requirement and serve as the optional cognate course.

- The School of Graduate Studies New Brunswick will forward students certificate upon completion and certificate will be noted on final transcript.

Rutgers Discipline-based Doctoral Programs with Concentrations in Feminist Scholarship

English: Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality

The doctoral program in English is known for its work in feminist and gender studies offering a graduate concentration in Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality. The English Department includes faculty with specializations in women's writing in every historical period. Lesbian and gay studies are a feature of the program. English also features concentrations in African-American studies, and in colonial and postcolonial literature and theory.

History: Women's and Gender History

Rutgers has housed one of the top-ranked graduate programs in women's history for the past two decades. A hallmark of the program has been its emphasis on comparative perspectives that introduce students to commonalities and differences among women within and across nations, regions, and time periods. In addition, analyses of gender relations – including the study of men and masculinities as well as women and femininities – have long been integrated into the Department's course offerings. In recognition of that fact, the major field has recently been renamed Women's and Gender History. Geographically, the program traditionally focused on Western Europe, England, and the United States. The History Department is now building strengths in South Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean, thereby developing the graduate program's global reach.

Political Science: Women and Politics

The Political Science Department at Rutgers was the first in the United States to develop a doctoral concentration in the area of women and politics. The Women and Politics program deploys gender as an analytic category to enrich disciplinary understandings of political theory, political behavior, American politics, comparative politics, public law, and international relations. Through extensive course offerings and independent research, students are challenged to consider the ways in which the theoretical prism of gender challenges traditional analyses of governing institutions, political processes, public policies, and theories of politics, and lays the foundation for inclusive, democratic practices.

Sociology: Gender, Difference, Inequality

Sociology of Gender is a vibrant and innovative area of study within the Rutgers Sociology Graduate Program, which regularly offers graduate seminars in the Sociology of Gender; Race, Class and Gender; Feminism and Social Theory; Feminist Theories; Social Psychology of Gender; Gender and the Family; and Human Sexuality. Faculty in the gender area are engaged in innovative research projects including work on

occupational feminization and earnings; the relationship among gender, race and class inequality; recruitment of women to careers in math, science and engineering; women and home-based employment; immigrant identities; Jewish women and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict; gender and racial inequality and mental health; conceptions of masculinity and femininity among adolescents; reconceptualization of gender; and research methodology, both quantitative and qualitative.

The Graduate Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies requires any student who wishes to take a graduate course on a non-degree basis to make a formal application to Graduate Admissions at <http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/>. When the permission of both has been granted, the Graduate Administrator will provide a special permission numbers to enable the non-matriculated student to enroll in the course.

STUDENT LIFE

Mail

Mailboxes for Ph.D. and M.A. students are located outside the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies administrative office.

Address:

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Rutgers,
The State University of New Jersey Ruth Dill
Johnson Crockett Building
162 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555

Students may also acquire a student post office box in the Douglass Student Center. The Student Center is located on the corner of George Street and Nichol Avenue, (848) 932-9432. To obtain a Rutgers email account visit:
<http://email.rutgers.edu/>.

Opportunities to Get Involved in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Graduate Program

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Program offers students from all departments several ways to be involved in the program:

- **Email** alerts and our **newsletter** keeps students informed about upcoming events, courses, fellow students and faculty.
- Our **website** offers a host of events and information:
<http://womens-studies.rutgers.edu/>

- **Two Graduate Student Representatives** (one M.A. student and one Ph.D. student) are elected each year. Graduate Student Representatives attend faculty meetings and communicate matters of concern to the faculty.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Association

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies graduate students, as well as certificate students from other departments, are invited to join the Women's & Gender Studies Graduate Association. WGSGA elects officers each year, meets regularly, and organizes committees to work with new student recruiting, new program initiatives, fundraising, the Graduate Symposium, and other areas of interest. WGSGA also hosts social events.

University Services

The Graduate Student Association (GSA)

The Graduate Student Association, of which all graduate students are automatically members, sponsors a variety of social and cultural activities for graduate students and represents their interests to the University and agents of the State through its legislative body.

The GSA sponsors films, mixers, dances, theater trips to New York, lectures, intramural athletics, and community action programs. Increasingly, the Association has assumed a lobbying role to speak for graduate student needs in such areas as housing, tuition policy, financial aid, department governance, health services, and rights of teaching assistants through liaison with the American

Association of University Professors. It also represents individual students in difficulties with departments or administrative offices of the University. All graduate students are encouraged to participate in the GSA and its activities. The GSA allocates financial resources as well to each program and department. The GSA offices are located in the College Avenue Student Center, 126 College Avenue, College Avenue Campus, (732) 932-7995.

The Center for International Faculty and Student Services

The Center for International Faculty and Student Services coordinates services for international faculty, staff, students, and scholars. It assists with all matters of special concern to them and serves as a referral source to other University offices and academic departments. Center staff members provide direct support with employment, immigration, personal, family, financial and health care matters. In addition, the Center sponsors a variety of programs throughout the year.

Every semester, the Center sponsors an orientation program. It also publishes a newsletter. Of particular interest to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies graduate students may be their International Women's Group which supports the spouses of international students with English language conversation classes, lectures, and short trips.

Students may contact the Center for their handbook and schedule of events at (732) 932-7015. The address is 180 College Avenue, College Avenue Campus, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8537.

Housing

On-campus housing for individuals and families is available. These include furnished double rooms with private bath, four-person apartments (on Busch and Cook campuses) and unfurnished apartments on the Busch campus for married students. Demand is heavy, so applications should be made early. Contact the University Housing Office, 581 Taylor Road, Busch Campus, Piscataway, NJ 08855-5610, (732) 445-0039 (individual housing), or (732) 445-2215 (family housing).

Health

Through three clinics, one operating year round, graduate students have access to complete health services. Fees may be required. Questions can be directed to the Hurtado Health Center (for the College Avenue Campus), 11 Bishop Place, (732) 932-7402, or the Willets Health Center, Suydam St. (for the Douglass Campus), (732) 932-9805/9806.

Dining

Five meal plans are offered, ranging from a full seven day plan to five lunches for commuters, all usable at any of the five University dining halls in the New Brunswick area. A board agreement must be signed with the Division of Dining Services. Records Hall Room 102, 8am - 8pm M-F, College Avenue Campus, (732) 932-8041/8042.

Day Care

Limited opportunities for child care exist, including the Rutgers-Livingston Day Care Center, Inc. Arrangements can be made for part-time or whole-day care, lunch, nursery school classes, or development programs. (732) 445-8881.

Recreation Centers and Athletics

Athletic facilities at the University include: gymnasiums, swimming pools, tennis, squash, and handball courts, baseball fields, and an 18-hole golf course. In general, graduate students may use the facilities without charge, but student ID cards are required to use the facilities. For more information, call the Cook/Douglass Recreation Center: (732) 932-8574; Intramural Office, (732) 932-9178; Racquetball Court/Fitness Center Reservations, (732) 932-7290; Livingston Gym, (732) 445-2398/2399; College Avenue Gym, (732) 932-7171; Busch Tennis Center, (732) 445-3204; Easton Ave Fitness Center, (732) 932-6890. More information at <http://recreation.rutgers.edu/>

Career Services

When nearing completion the graduate program students may want to contact one of the three Career Services offices to help plan their future. Career Services has offices on three campuses, at the Busch Campus Center, (732) 445-6127, 56 College Avenue (732) 932-7287 on the College

Avenue Campus, and 61 Nichol Avenue (732) 932-9742 on the Douglass Campus. They hold regular sessions on resume and CV writing, have the Chronicle of Higher Education available, and hold numerous workshops. They also publish a newsletter which you should receive in the mail. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies also offers resources to help. These include National Women's and Gender Studies Association publications, information on Ph.D. programs, and job postings.

Counseling Services

Rutgers University provides free counseling to graduate students who are enrolled full time or who pay the health care fee. There is a wide range of services available including psychological counseling and peer counseling, and referral services. Please note that these services are professionally staffed. Because graduate school poses unique challenges to students, many find counseling extremely helpful in making the transition. Tillett Hall on Livingston campus, (732) 445-4140, 17 Senior Street on the College Avenue Campus, (732) 932-7884, Cook Campus Center on the Cook Campus, (732) 932-9150, and Federation Hall on Douglass Campus, (732) 932-9070.

Libraries

Students may use all libraries within the Rutgers system. The Mabel Smith Douglass Library is located adjacent to Voorhees Chapel. Books can be delivered there from any other Rutgers library. Librarian Kayo Denda, who specializes in women's scholarship, is located at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library. The Alexander Research Library on the

College Avenue Campus holds orientation workshops in the beginning of the fall semester.

Parking and Transportation

Graduate students must register their vehicles for on-campus parking by presenting the car's registration as well as their student identification card to Department of Transportation Services 55 Commercial Avenue, Douglass Campus to receive the appropriate tags and stickers. Rutgers also provides bus service between all campuses on a daily basis.

Call (732) 932-7744 for a complete schedule.

Evening Transportation

Late Night Shuttle and Knight Mover: Two security Shuttles are in operation each night. One originates at the Douglass library and services the Cook and Douglass campus, while the other originates at LSM and serves Busch and Livingston. These shuttles are on set routes. In addition, individualized transportation is available between 2:00am and 6:00 am every night of the week during the fall and spring terms. Students, faculty, and staff can call for a ride from one campus location to another or from one campus to another. The Knight Mover is driven by a RUPD Community Service Officer for added safety and protection. This service is a demand-responsive service covering the New Brunswick/Piscataway Campuses and the 2nd, 5th, and 6th wards of New Brunswick. The number for these services is (732) 932-7433.

DIRECTORY OF FREQUENTLY USED OFFICES

From campus phones, drop the first two numbers to dial. Off-campus, dial the entire number. All numbers have 732 or 848 area code. DC – Douglass Campus, CAC – College Avenue Campus, LIV – Livingston Campus, BC – Busch Campus.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality STUDIES PROGRAM (<http://womens-studies.rutgers.edu/>) 162

Ryders Lane, 2nd Floor, Douglass Campus
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555

848-932-9331
848-932-1335 fax

Ethel Brooks , Chair
Kyla Schuler, Director Undergraduate Program (on leave F 2022)
Monique Gregory, Senior Department Administrator
Feronda Orders, Program Coordinator

932-8420
932-8402
932-8401
932-8405

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Ed Cohen, Graduate Director	
Julie Rajan, M.A. Director (on leave F 2022)	932-8428
Graduate Administrative Assistant	932-9331

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSTORES

Cook/Douglass Campus	57 Lipman at Nichol Avenue, DC	932-9017
Livingston Campus	Avenue D, LIV	445-3210
Rutgers Bookstore	Ferren Mall, CAC	246-8448
N.J. Books	108 Somerset Street, CAC	828-7401

BUS INFORMATION - INTERCAMPUS

932-7817

<http://gobble.rutgers.edu/newpats/buses.htm>**CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FACULTY AND STUDENT SERVICES**

180 College Avenue, CAC	
Marcy P. Cohen, Director	932-7015
http://cifss.rutgers.edu/	

ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE

Tillet Hall, Room 107, LIV	
Kay Lynch, Director	445-6675
http://esl.rutgers.edu/	

FINANCIAL AID

Graduate Fellowships & Student Support	
25 Bishop, CAC	932-2286
Financial Aid	Records Hall, Room 140, CAC
Career Services	61 Nichol Ave, DC
	932-7057
	932-9742
http://studentaid.rutgers.edu/	

COMPUTER LABS/FACILITIES

College Avenue Campus Student Center, Lab	932-5007
	Records Hall
	932-8541
Douglass Campus	Student Center, 3 rd Floor
	932-1964
	Loree Building
	932-9750
http://www.nbcs.rutgers.edu/ccf/main/	

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES-NEW BRUNSWICK

25 Bishop Place, CAC	932-7034
	932-7407 fax
Henrik Pedersen, Dean	932-7896
Barbara E. Bender, Associate Dean, Academic Support	932-7747
Ben Arengner, Sr. Administrative Assistant	932-7449
http://gsnb.rutgers.edu/	

Gradfund: The Resource Center for Graduate Student External Support

25 Bishop Place, CAC	
Teresa Delcorso, Program development Specialist	932-2705
http://gradfund.rutgers.edu/	

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS

56 College Ave., CAC

Linda Costa, Director 932-7743
<http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/>

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Rutgers Student Center, CAC 932-7995
<http://gsa.rutgers.edu/>

LIBRARIES

Alexander Research Library	169 College Avenue, CAC	932-7851
Library of Science & Medicine	Bevier Road, BC	445-3850
Mabel Smith Douglass Library	Chapel Drive, DC	932-9411
Kilmer Library	Avenue E, LIV	445-3613

<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>

REGISTRAR

Administrative Services Building, Rm. 200F, BC 445-3556
<http://registrar.rutgers.edu/>

STUDENT INFORMATION & REFERRALS

932-INFO (4636)

UNIVERSITY PARKING OFFICE

55 Commercial Ave. Douglass Campus 932-7744
<http://parktran.rutgers.edu/>

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

55 Commercial Ave. Douglass Campus 932-7211
<http://publicsafety.rutgers.edu/>

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING

542 George Street, CAC <http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/> 932-7766

