

Graduate Program in Women's and Gender Studies Master's Degree Learning Goals and Assessment

The M.A. program in Women's and Gender Studies trains students at an advanced level to assume leadership roles in research, teaching, and applied work in fields related to women's and gender studies. The M.A. program also prepares students to continue graduate studies at the Ph.D. level in women's and gender studies.

Learning Goal 1 for Students: Attain mastery of scholarship on the theory and practice of issues related to women, gender, and sexuality

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- An applied "practicum" report or a Master's thesis
 - Assessment of student's performance by committee of graduate faculty members
- Continuation of graduate studies or placement in a position that requires ability and scholarship in issues related to women, gender, and sexuality

Role of the graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies in helping students to achieve Goal 1:

- Close advising to assure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion
- Effective monitoring of student progress by the graduate director and the practicum/thesis committee
- Periodic review of curricular offerings and assessment tools
 - By program faculty
 - In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 2 for Students: Engage in and conduct original research

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 2:

- Engage in and conduct research in a practicum report or Master's thesis:
 - Practicum includes an applied work experience that the students rigorously interpret, using literature to connect the practical experience with theory (praxis)
 - Master's thesis reflects original research that demonstrates knowledge of various research methods appropriate to interdisciplinary inquiry
- Assessment of quality of practicum report or Master's thesis:
 - Defense of practicum/thesis
 - Critical reading of practicum/thesis by committee of graduate faculty members

- Achievement of students as evidenced by professional placement or continuation of graduate studies

Role of the graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies in helping graduate students to achieve Goal 2:

- Provide early introduction to research methods, theory, and opportunities for research
- Provide opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Provide comprehensive advising and assist in the identification of mentors

Learning Goal 3 for Students: Prepare to be professionals in careers that require training at an advanced level in issues related to women, gender, and sexuality

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 3:

- Participation in practicums, internships, and other work tailored to career goals, assessed accordingly
- Collection of data on practicum placement, professional placement, and continuation of graduate studies
- Review by external advisory committees, both inside of and external to the academy

Role of the graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Host and promote professional development programs in such areas as human subjects research, library use, interview skills, presentation skills, development of cv's, use of research tools, and proposal writing
- Develop practicum and internship opportunities
- Host other training sessions related to women's and gender studies when appropriate
- Develop or enhance programs related to job and networking skills, including activity in professional societies

The leadership of the Women's and Gender Studies graduate program will regularly review the structure and content of the M.A. program and the feedback received from assessments and surveys. These reviews will be used to provide the best possible education to students in order to meet the needs for highly trained individuals in issues related to women, gender, and sexuality.