Dedicated to the merging of research, teaching, and activism, the Women and Gender Studies (WGST) concentration is extraordinary in two respects. First, our commitment to a multidisciplinary pedagogy ensures that you’ll have the opportunity to explore courses throughout the university that advance your intellectual and professional goals. Second, we are a community. Here, students, faculty and staff find a welcoming home that supports their work and personal development, both inside and outside the classroom. Our students take required coursework in feminist and queer theory, critical race theory, and transnational and global feminisms. Elective course offerings in WGST include African American women’s history, disability studies, gender and health, human rights, immigration, sexuality and globalization, black psychology, and ecofeminism.

WGST students regularly complete internships with a variety of DC-area organizations that support trans and queer communities, sex workers, women, and immigrants. Recent students have completed internships at the American Association of University Women, the Fairfax County Office of Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, the World Bank, and in a range of public service activities devoted to addressing gender inequality, youth unemployment, disability advocacy, and women’s human rights.

Who’s in the Program
Students come from all walks of life and backgrounds and range from recent college graduates to mid-career professionals. A desire to merge their interests in the intersections among gender, sexuality, race and class with coursework in a discipline of interest such as history, literature, sociology, anthropology, health, education, philosophy, social work, conflict analysis and resolution, or the arts, is a central characteristic of students in this concentration. The program accommodates both full-time and part-time students.

Career Paths
WGST graduates go on to careers in academia, teaching and education, public service, non-profit work, community organizing, international human rights, and gender-based violence prevention.

mais.gmu.edu
MAIS: A Master’s With A Mission

The Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) program in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences consists of multiple established degree paths that exist in partnership with academic units and faculty across the University. It offers a home for students with broad academic interests who seek a master’s degree that will help them to create a better world. While their degree paths may vary dramatically, our students share a desire to address critical problems facing the world today.

Available Degree Paths
- Computational Social Science - Energy and Sustainability
- Individualized Studies - Religious Studies - Social Entrepreneurship
- Social Justice and Human Rights - War and the Military in Society
- Women and Gender Studies

How to Apply

Along with the completed Application for Graduate Admission and application fee, applicants should submit:

- Official transcripts from previous institutions of higher education attended
- Goals statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Formal writing sample of at least 1,000 words

See [chss.gmu.edu/admissions](http://chss.gmu.edu/admissions) for complete details on the application process.

An Accelerated Master’s pathway (BAM) is available to current undergraduates. For more information about this program, visit: [chss.gmu.edu/accelerated-masters/about](http://chss.gmu.edu/accelerated-masters/about)

Faculty and Research

You will study with renowned faculty whose research emphasizes the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and globalization in a variety of social settings. Faculty expertise includes feminist and queer theory, transnational feminisms, African American Women’s History, critical race studies, human rights, gender and health, and disability studies.

Why Mason

The diversity—including sexual, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, ability status, religion, and nation—within the women and gender studies community grounds an informed and multi-perspective discussion in and outside the classroom. Students also benefit from the program’s proximity to the Washington, D.C, area, with its abundant opportunities for research and career opportunities in the non-profit sector, public policy and education.

Degree Requirements - 36 Total Credits

**Required Courses - 17 Credits**
- MAIS 796 ProSeminar
- MAIS 797 Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal
- WMST 630 Feminist Theories
- IWMST 640 Transnational Issues of Gender and Race
- WMST 610 Feminist Approaches to Social Research

**Course on Race and Intersectionality (chosen from a selection of courses) - 3 credits**

**Course on Queer and Sexuality Studies (chosen from a selection of courses) - 3 credits**

**Elective Courses - 15-18 Credits**

Students take 15-18 credits in elective courses that address the study of women and gender and that are not part of the core focus. Three of these credits must be in a WMST course from a list of selected courses.

**Capstone Project or Thesis - 1 or 4 Credits**

Contact Information

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