

- **Women and Gender Studies, MAIS Concentration**
- **Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies**

PROGRAM PROFILE

The Women and Gender Studies Program at George Mason University offers interdisciplinary perspectives on gender and its intersections with race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality. Our curriculum is designed to provide students with the training in theory and methods needed to examine the complex social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and psychological forces that shape both women's and men's lives, the formation of gender relations, and the notions of femininity and masculinity. Students are equipped with tools for analyzing these issues within the context of a transnational world. At the core of our graduate programs are two required courses: Feminist Theories across the Disciplines and Women and Global Issues.

With the rapid and uneven changes accompanying globalization, the study of gender takes on added significance. Gender, women's rights and sexuality are overtly politicized as well as re-fashioned as the subtext of current domestic and international politics. Transnational issues of democracy, social justice, and environmental justice have mobilized women in unprecedented ways.

MASTER'S DEGREE

The 36-credit master's degree program in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in women and gender studies promotes advanced scholarship that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Students combine required coursework in women and gender studies with courses in a discipline of interest, such as history, literature, sociology, anthropology, health, education, public policy, philosophy, social work, conflict analysis and resolution, environmental science, and the arts.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The 15-credit certificate program combines two required courses and three electives and can be completed as a stand-alone program or in conjunction with another advanced degree. The certificate enables students interested in an academic career to enrich their research and analytical skills. Students interested in a professional career are prepared for addressing gender-related challenges in both domestic and global settings.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A graduate degree in women and gender studies give students a competitive edge in the work world, demonstrating to potential employers an understanding of issues of diversity, equal opportunity, gender awareness, global perspectives, and other matters pertaining to the shifting dynamics of the world.

Our graduates have the expertise to make important contributions to government, nonprofit organizations, and the business world in the fields of law, public policy, development, health, social work, and many others. The rigorous training in women and gender studies also prepares students for doctoral programs in a variety of disciplines.

COURSES

Drawing on the research strengths of the faculty, the program offers a wide range of courses each year. Courses meet once a week in the late afternoon or evening in order to meet the needs of working professionals. Recent electives include:

- Women and Global Issues
- Women and Work
- Representations of Women
- Current Research in Sex and Gender
- Bodies in Question
- History of Modern Feminism
- Conflict and "-isms"
- Gender Conflict in Development / Nonwestern Societies

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES CENTER

The Women and Gender Studies Center organizes a variety of lectures, conferences, workshops, and other public events. We promote a strong community of scholars and leaders and regularly invite guest speakers ranging from scholars, filmmakers, and poets, to community activists. The Center hosts a library and functions as a community space for students and faculty. The Center supports the Gender Justice Research Group, a monthly forum for research on gender and global human rights, as well as the Gender Research Project, a methodology class and project focused on gender issues on the Mason campus.

FACULTY

Nancy Weiss Hanrahan, Director -- feminist theory, cultural sociology, aesthetic, critical social theory

Saida Hodzic, Academic Director -- transnational feminism, gender and sexuality, global activism, neoliberalism, development, African studies, medical anthropology

Paula R. Gilbert -- French, Francophone women writers, violence and gender, critical literary theory

Yvette Richards -- gender/race/class, oral history, representations of women, labor history, African-American women's history

Over 50 faculty members from virtually every academic unit on campus are affiliated with the Women and Gender Studies Program. Their breadth and diversity is illustrated by the following sampling of their research areas:

- gender and globalization
- women in transitioning societies
- women's rights as human rights: rape as a crime against humanity
- empathy and political solidarity
- race, ethnicity, and nationalism
- representations of women in the media, literary texts, and political discourse
- gender, language, and ethics
- diversity in the workplace
- gender, law, and public policy
- sexuality and identity

- women's health
- cross-cultural adoption
- girls and girlhood/boys and boyhood
- women's labor history
- women and religion
- gender and violence

WHY WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES AT GEORGE MASON?

Mason's unique graduate programs offer students flexibility in choosing their area of specialization. Students are trained in a productive, challenging, and supportive environment. The courses are taught by faculty members who combine their innovative and cutting-edge research with a commitment to teaching and advising students. Students have a choice of enrolling full-time or part-time and the class schedule accommodates working professionals.

The faculty collaborate with organizations in the Washington metropolitan area to enable student access to research and internship opportunities with local, national, and global organizations that focus on gender issues. These include Women for Women International, the American Association of University Women, the Feminist Majority Foundation, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, as well as many other organizations that are active in politics in the capital region. Through the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, students can take courses at other 11 area schools, including Georgetown, George Washington, and the University of Maryland.

Named the #1 national university to watch by *U.S. News & World Report*, George Mason University is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with global distinction in a range of academic fields. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor near Washington, DC, Mason prepares its students to succeed in the work force and meet the needs of the region and the world.

See wmst.gmu.edu for a full listing of faculty, courses, and program requirements.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

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