Welcome
Gender & Women's Studies program is a member of the Department of Diversity & Community Studies. Our mission is to broaden women's and men's knowledge of gender dynamics, globally and historically, with an emphasis on issues central to women's lives.

Through an interdisciplinary classroom experience, community outreach, and special events, the Gender & Women's Studies Program advances understanding of the social and cultural institutions and practices that affect us.

Studying Online
Online classes require self-discipline and motivation, especially since you do not have a specific time and place established for class meetings. Familiarizing yourself with what's required of an online student and the many tools available to support online learners is key!

The Orientation for Online Learners provides guest access to Blackboard, along with helpful information ranging from pre-enrollment through registration. It is designed to walk you through the different processes involved with admissions, financial aid, advising and registration. The Student Resource Portal provides one-click access to academic support and student resources across campus. The link to each area is provided below:

**Orientation for Online Learners:** [www.wku.edu/online/orientation](http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation)

**Student Resource Portal:** [www.wku.edu/online/srp](http://www.wku.edu/online/srp)

In addition to online support, which is accessible in these areas, there is also a team of distance learning professionals available to answer questions, listen to your concerns and provide solutions. You can reach us at learn.online@wku.edu.

Admission Requirements
Applicants to the graduate certificate program **first need to be admitted to The Graduate School** by completing the online graduate application at [www.wku.edu/graduate](http://www.wku.edu/graduate). **(NOTE: Select "Apply First Time Graduate & Transfer" if you have not taken graduate courses at WKU before. Select "Apply for Graduate Readmission" if you have previously taken WKU graduate courses or are currently enrolled in graduate courses at WKU.)**
Once you have submitted the online application, mail any required supporting materials to:

**Western Kentucky University**  
The Graduate School  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11010  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1010

Questions? Contact The Graduate School by email at graduate.school@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-2446. Approximately 10-14 days after all required admission documents have been submitted, you should receive a letter from the WKU Graduate School indicating your admission status.

Please note the following:

- To be eligible for any type of financial aid you must be admitted in good standing to a degree/certificate program.
- **Current Master’s Degree Students:** If you are currently pursuing a master's program at WKU and wish to add the certificate as an additional credential follow the steps below:
  - Apply online as a readmit student at [www.wku.edu/graduate](http://www.wku.edu/graduate).
  - Email The Graduate School at graduate.school@wku.edu to notify them that you are adding the certificate as a second program of study and wish to keep your master’s program listed as your primary program of study. *While we understand that this is an extra step, we strongly recommend it, as it will help prevent any miscommunication regarding your primary program of study vs. your newly filed application.*

**Certificate Program Requirements**

**CORE COURSES (6 HOURS)**

- GWS 545 Feminist Knowledge and Social Change
- GWS 555 Global & Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women

Students may take any of the electives listed below, with the following stipulation: only six hours may be taken in the student’s primary discipline (excluding GWS courses). Students should check with the Gender & Women’s Studies Office for an updated list of electives.

**ELECTIVES * (9 HOURS)**

- ENG 497G Women's Literature
- ENG 579 Studies in Victorian Literature
- FLK 585 Foodways
- GWS 535 Roots of Feminism
- GWS 565 Black Feminism and the Politics of Community
- GWS 575 Justice Gender and Sustainability
- GWS 625 Women in Leadership
- GWS 630 Feminist Pedagogies
- HIST 446G American Legal History
- HIST 553 Women & Gender in US History
- HIST 555 American Radicals
- ICSR 515 Utopias, Dystopias, & Intentional Communities
- ICSR 525 Place & the Problem of Healing
- PH 464G Women's Health
- PH 565 Public Health Issues in Women's Health
- PSY 430G Psychology of Women
- SOCL 535 Family Violence
- SOCL 546 Gender, Crime, and Justice

* Note: Faculty and students may make recommendations to include other courses at any time. All new courses are reviewed by the Gender & Women's Studies Curriculum Committee. Students should check with the Gender & Women's Studies Office for an updated list of electives.

**Financial Aid**

**Eligibility**

Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose which is called FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran's benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, you must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at [http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php](http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php).

**Helpful Resources**

- Orientation for Online Learners: [www.wku.edu/online/orientation](http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation)
- The Student Resource Portal: [www.wku.edu/online/srp](http://www.wku.edu/online/srp)
- The WKU Graduate School: [www.wku.edu/graduate](http://www.wku.edu/graduate)

**Financial Aid and Scholarship Information**

- Student Aid: Types of aid, who qualifies and how to apply: [https://studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov)
Career Resources and Average Salary Information

Resources to aid in finding a major right for you, as well as the most current information regarding average salary, job outlook and the most common positions within the field, may be found on the websites below:

- Find Occupations, Salary Information and Job Outlook: http://www.onetonline.org/find/career
- Identifying A Career Based on Personal Interests: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers
- Choosing a Graduate Degree: http://www.onlinemastersprograms.org/

Contact Information

WKU Online Support: Carol Taylor
Email: learn.online@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5173
Toll-Free: (888) 4WKUWEB / (888) 495-8932