

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THE STUDY OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

Requirements and Procedures for Penn Law Students

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/wstudies/>

The Graduate Certificate in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality is designed to enrich students' traditional disciplinary training and broaden their perspectives. The Certificate provides law students with opportunities to think in an integrated fashion about gender and sexuality, and to learn from a variety of theoretical approaches such as feminist, critical race, and legal theory, cultural and sexuality studies, as well as traditional disciplinary methodologies.

I. OVERALL REQUIREMENTS

- **A core curriculum of 4 Gender, Culture, and Society (GSOC) courses:**
 - 1 feminist theory or sexuality/queer theory seminars
 - 3 courses offered by the Law School that focus on issues related to women, gender, and/or sexuality
- **A paper:**

The paper for the Graduate Certificate should be based on research on a current topic in the study of women, gender, and/or sexuality and the law and should demonstrate an understanding of relevant theoretical concerns. A student may have a paper written for a course that fulfills this requirement, or may need to expand an existing paper.

II. PROCEDURES

- **Acceptance in the Program -- A student must:**
 - Obtain a Graduate Certificate Application Form from the Women's Studies office, or on our website.
 - Select a Faculty Advisor. (A list of Women's Studies affiliated faculty is available at the Women's Studies Office, or can be viewed on our website.)
 - Consult with the chair about a plan of study.
 - Write a ONE PAGE statement about why she/he wishes to obtain a Certificate. The statement should include a discussion of how the certificate program relates

to the student's current scholarly interests. (This may include what work the student has already done in the area of gender/sexuality studies, and what undergraduate and extracurricular/practice work the student has done in this area—if applicable).

- Submit the statement and the “Application for a Graduate Certificate” form to the Women’s Studies Graduate Certificate Committee for approval (c/o the Women’s Studies Program office). The Graduate Certificate Committee, which is composed of faculty members from a variety of disciplines, meets to review proposals three times a year, in October, February, and May.

Course of Study and Completion of Requirements:

Upon the Graduate Certificate Committee's approval of the student's application, the student will select the 4 courses for the certificate requirement in consultation with his or her faculty advisor: 1 theory course, and 3 courses offered by the Law School that focus on issues related to women, gender, and/or sexuality .

- The theory course must be taken in the School of Arts and Sciences and must be a graduate level course.
- The 3 electives must be courses offered by the Law School that focus on women, gender, and/or sexuality. The relevant syllabi must be approved by Professor Demie Kurz (Co-Director of the Women’s Studies Program) in order to count toward the Certificate.
- One out of the 5 courses can be an independent study.**

** "Grandmother" course credit is available at the discretion of the Graduate Certificate Committee - credit given for students who have finished their coursework and may not have taken 3 courses which were officially cross -listed with GSOC, but whose work in a given course focused on gender or sexuality and related issues. The student should submit to the Committee a statement detailing why they believe their course of study at Penn fulfills the requirements of the Graduate Certificate.

Students should meet with their faculty advisor at least once a year. The student’s advisor is responsible for seeing that the student completes her/his coursework and writes an acceptable paper. A student is eligible to receive the Certificate when her/his advisor has signed the final approval (available in the Women’s Studies office or on our website) form indicating that the requirements for the Certificate have been met.

III. FINAL APPROVAL

- The student submits the signed “Graduate Certificate Approval” form to the Women’s Studies Program Graduate Certificate Committee for final approval. If students have followed the procedures, approval is typically granted. The student is also asked to submit a copy of the paper written for the Certificate, which will be kept on file at the Women's Studies Program Office.
 - After final approval of the Certificate work, a notation that the student has successfully completed the Certificate will be placed on the student's transcript, and the student will receive the Graduate Certificate in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.
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I. OVERALL REQUIREMENTS

A. A core curriculum of **4 Gender, Culture, and Society (GSOC)** Courses:

- 1 feminist theory course
- 3 courses offered by the Law School that focus on issues related to women, gender, and/or sexuality

3 of the requirements listed should also meet the requirements for the J.D. Thus in most cases, earning the Certificate will only increase the total number of courses a student must take by one. The feminist theory course requirement will most likely be satisfied outside of Penn Law in the School of Arts and Sciences. There is a graduate level Feminist Theory seminar offered every other year through GSOC. Please contact the Women’s Studies Program office for a list of courses or visit us on the web at <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/wstudies/>

B. **A paper.** The paper for the Graduate Certificate should be based on research on a current topic in the study of women, gender, and/or sexuality and the law and should demonstrate an understanding of relevant theoretical concerns. A student may have a paper written for a course that fulfills this requirement, or may need to expand an existing paper.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Application and Acceptance into the Program

A student must:

1. Write a ONE PAGE statement about why she/he wishes to obtain a Certificate. The statement should include a discussion of how the certificate program relates to the student's current scholarly interests. (This may include what work the student has already done in the area of gender/sexuality studies, and what undergraduate and extracurricular/practice work the student has done in this area—if applicable).
2. Submit the statement and the "Application for a Graduate Certificate" form to the Graduate Certificate Committee for approval (c/o the Women's Studies office). A student will be informed within a month of the status of her/his application.

B. Completion of the Requirements

1. Upon approval of the student's application, the student will select a principal faculty advisor.
2. In consultation with her/his advisor, the student will select and take the 4 courses for the certificate requirement.
3. The student's advisor is responsible for seeing that the student completes her/his coursework and writes an acceptable paper. A student is eligible to receive the Certificate when her/his advisor has signed the final approval form indicating that the requirements for the Certificate have been met.

C. Final Approval

1. The student submits the signed "Graduate Certificate Approval" form to the Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate Committee for final approval. If students have followed the procedures, approval is typically granted. The student is also asked to submit a copy of the paper written for the Certificate, which will be kept on file at the Women's Studies Program Office.
2. After final approval of the Certificate work, a notation that the student has successfully completed the Certificate will be placed on the student's transcript, and the student will receive the Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate.