**Women’s and gender Studies**

**Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Priority Admission Application Deadlines:**

**Fall:** February 15

**Spring:** October 15

**Summer:** February 15

International applicant deadlines:

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/majors>

**Minimum Total Hours:** 36

**Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 05.0207

**Dept. Code:** WGS

**Major/College:** WST AS

**Approved:**  1997

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Arts and Sciences

**Department:** Women’s and Gender Studies

**Contact Information:** www.grad.usf.edu

**MAJOR INFORMATION**

The M.A. in Women’s and Gender Studies requires the completion of 36 credit hours. The major has three tracks: 1) a research option that requires a thesis, 2) an applied option that requires an internship and subsequent analytic report on the internship experience, and 3) a non-thesis option. This format is designed to serve the needs of a variety of different categories of students desiring a graduate degree in Women’s and Gender Studies. The thesis option is recommended for students who intend eventually to pursue a doctoral degree. Either the non-thesis option or the internship option is recommended for students who seek the M.A. as a terminal degree.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions), as well as requirements for admission to the major, listed below. Applicants without training in Women’s and Gender Studies are admitted on a conditional basis. In addition, applicants must submit the following requirements:

* GRE scores are required
* A personal narrative statement of purpose
* A writing sample (appropriate examples include a term paper or research paper)
* Three letters of recommendation

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

The M.A. in Women’s and Gender Studies requires the completion of thirty-six credit hours. These hours are divided as follows:

**Minimum Hours: 36 credit hours**

**Core Requirements 12 credit hours**

WST 6001 Feminist Research and Methodology 3

WST 6560 Advanced Feminist Theory 3

WST 6003 Feminist Scholarship and Pedagogy 3

WST 6936 Selected Topics in Women’s Studies 3

**Electives 18 credit hours**

To be selected from

* Graduate courses on issues surrounding the intersection of gender/class/race/sexuality offered by other departments approved by the graduate director or student’s major professor;
* No more than one other graduate-level course approved by the graduate director.

**Comprehensive Examinations**

In lieu of comprehensive examination, defense of final projects is used as the culminating assessment: defense of thesis for the thesis track, defense of internship narrative for the internship track, and defense of portfolio for the non-thesis electives track.

**Track Requirements 6 credit hours**

Students should choose their M.A. track at the end of 18 hours of coursework.

Six credit hours are required on each track. Track Options include:

**Thesis Track (6 credit hours)**

WST 6971 Thesis: Master’s

Students must enroll in six credit hours of WST 6971 Thesis: Master’s. Taken over two semesters, the student will develop a thesis proposal approved by the student’s thesis committee and complete a Master’s thesis on the approved topic. The completed thesis must be defended at an oral defense.

**Internship Track (6 credit hours)**

WST 5940 Internship in Women’s Studies

Students must enroll in six credit hours of WST 5940 Internship in Women’s Studies. The internship experience, typically over two semesters, should take place in a human service agency or other organization which focuses on women, sexualities, or gender issues. The internship will be approved by the student’s internship committee. The student will be required to write a narrative report describing the internship in detail and analyzing the experience in terms of appropriate theoretical frameworks. The completed narrative must be defended as an oral defense.

**Non-Thesis Track Option (6 credit hours)**

In lieu of thesis or internship hours, students must take two additional electives to complete the total 36 hours for the M.A. degree and prepare a portfolio under the guidance of the major professor. The portfolio, approved by the student’s committee, will consist of 1-2 polished academic papers produced for graduate courses, academic conferences, or scholarly publication.

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>