

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Admission Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-titles/>).

Students will be considered for admission to the interdisciplinary master's or Ph.D. dual-title programs by the WGSS Graduate Studies Committee. Applicants to the dual-title should have a junior/senior cumulative average of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) and should have previous course work in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies or in related fields.

Applicants may apply to the dual-title program in two ways:

1. As an "external" candidate. When a student first applies for graduate study at Penn State, they can indicate their interest in a dual-title on the main online graduate application (each department will list its dual-title options). After the major disciplinary program admits a student into its degree program, the interested student's application is forwarded to the WGSS dual-title Graduate Studies Committee for consideration. This student may apply using the same application materials as provided to the disciplinary program and Graduate School. It is *strongly* recommended, however, that a dual-title applicant include in their statement of purpose a discussion of how their research will integrate the partner fields (i.e., the disciplinary major and the interdisciplinary major). Alternatively, the applicant is encouraged to attach both a separate statement of purpose and a writing sample demonstrating their previous work with and in feminist/gender theory. *Please note: External candidates with little or no previous course work in women's, gender and/or sexuality studies are unlikely to be admitted; in that case, the student is encouraged to take at least one graduate core course in WGSS upon matriculation, and then to (re)apply as an "internal candidate" (see below) after completing at least one core WGSS course.*
2. As an "internal" candidate. Current Penn State graduate students pursuing a degree in one of our partner programs can also apply for admission into the dual-title Ph.D. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The application *and official admission* must be completed *before taking qualifying exams*. Internal applications are considered twice per year, with application deadlines on October 15th for fall semester consideration, and February 15th for spring semester consideration. Internal applicants will provide, in addition to their original application materials for graduate study at Penn State: an unofficial Penn State graduate transcript; a statement of purpose addressing research and professional goals that reflect interest and substantive engagement in interdisciplinary and feminist research, theories, and/or methodologies; and a letter of recommendation from a member of the WGSS graduate faculty.

***Important reminder:** As noted above, Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in WGSS prior to taking the qualifying examination in their major disciplinary graduate program, and no later than the end of the fourth semester.