Saint Louis University’s Master of Arts in women’s and gender studies provides an interdisciplinary education about contemporary social justice issues, preparing students for leadership and advocacy roles in community or academic settings. While gender is the primary focus, each course and the discipline as a whole examine gender in light of race, ethnicity, class, sexual identity, ability, age and religion. The discipline teaches students to think critically and to engage in the world as responsible citizens.

The M.A. is a 30-hour program. Graduate work is designed to develop: 1) students’ ability to engage critically with multicultural feminist theories concerning social inequalities; 2) strong research and writing skills; and 3) knowledge and skills that enable communication with diverse audiences, coalition building for social action and development of initiatives for change.

The interdisciplinary M.A. program welcomes applicants from all academic fields. There is also an accelerated B.A./M.A. program for undergraduates at Saint Louis University. Students who enter the accelerated B.A./M.A. program take six credit hours (two graduate classes) in their senior year that count for both the B.A. and M.A. requirements.

Each student works out a curriculum plan for his or her area of specialization and a capstone project in consultation with the director of graduate studies.

Course Requirements – 30 credit hours (10 courses total):

Five core required courses:
- WGST 5010: Feminist Theory
- WGST 5020: Feminist Epistemologies
- WGST 5030: Cultural Methods: Gender, Politics, and Power
- WGST 5040: Current Issues and Debates
- WGST 5910: Women Leaders Internship

Five cross-listed elective courses:
The electives are chosen from dozens of courses in women’s and gender studies; political science; African-American studies; philosophy; English; history; languages, literatures, and cultures; fine and performing arts; social work; and law, among others.

Capstone project:
A capstone project and presentation based on either an internship or research developed through coursework is also required.

Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Minor:
SLU’s graduate minor in women’s and gender studies provides graduate students the opportunity to integrate the study of women and gender into their chosen field of study. The nine graduate-level credit hours required include: feminist theory, feminist epistemologies, and a graduate level course that is cross-listed with women’s and gender studies.
Our distinguished faculty all hold doctoral degrees and are a dedicated group of mentors. Many secondary and affiliated faculty are also in schools and colleges across the University who publish their research in national and international venues.

Gretchen Arnold, Ph.D., graduate director: Social movements and politics, violence against women, battered women and the law, inequality, program evaluation

Amanda Izzo, Ph.D.: History of women and gender, sexuality studies, religious activism

Claudia Karagoz, Ph.D.: Italian women's writing and cinema, motherhood

Robert Strikwerda, Ph.D.: Men and masculinities, history and philosophy of social science, cultural methods

Elena Dalla Torre, Ph.D.: Feminist transnational and queer theories, queer cinema, sexuality studies, gender and masculinities, migration studies, French and Italian literature and cinema

Penny Weiss, Ph.D., department chair: History of feminist theory and activism, global declarations of sexual equality, feminist reflections on childhood

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• Emphasizes both scholarship and practice.
• Social change oriented.
• Interdisciplinary, flexible to a variety of interests.

Career Paths:
The SLU M.A. in women’s and gender studies prepares students for:
• Careers in community organizing, nonprofit organizations, government service, health care, business, the arts and policy research.
• Doctoral work in women’s and gender studies and related fields.
• Professional schools, including public health, law, social work and public policy.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Graduate students admitted to the program by Jan. 30 are eligible to apply for University-wide fellowships and assistantships for the following fall semester. To be considered for Presidential or Diversity Fellowships, applications are due by Dec. 15.

Contact Dr. Gretchen Arnold at arnoldgw@slu.edu for more information.