GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN LGBT+ AND QUEER STUDIES

The Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at VCU introduces students to new analytical, theoretical and creative frameworks for understanding today's world. Students work toward positive social change, gaining life-changing insight on addressing social, cultural, economic and political inequities. Graduates can enter any of a broad range of careers, including nonprofits, social services, healthcare, art and media production, publishing, education, government and international development agencies, social justice and law.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know how to do the following:

Program core outcomes

- Demonstrate strong critical thinking skills that connect theory to action
- Employ multiple theories informed by intersectionality
- Demonstrate critical engagement with multiple epistemologies and methods of research
- Articulate the ways diverse feminisms converge and diverge in the 21st century
- Articulate contexts for intellectual, academic and artistic activism

LGBT+ and Queer studies concentration-specific outcome

- Demonstrate critical engagement with the socio-political aspects of topics in LGBT+ and Queer studies

Special requirements

A Bachelor of Arts in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies requires a total of 120 credits with 30 credits in GSWS courses and at least 15 of these credits in upper-level courses. Students may choose a general interdisciplinary program, a health, society and social justice concentration, or a concentration in LGBT+ and Queer studies

All students must complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in the College of Humanities and Sciences. All students also must complete core course requirements of GSWS 301, GSWS 393, GSWS 401 and GSWS 493 with the ancillary requirements of GSWS 201 and GSWS 420.

Students in the LGBT+ and Queer studies concentration must complete GSWS 205 and choose an additional three courses in the area of LGBT+ and Queer studies. At least one of the electives must focus on race and/or ethnicity as they relate to LGBT+ and Queer studies and one of the electives must focus outside the United States.

The remaining credits in the major are electives, but must be GSWS courses or courses in other departments that have been approved by the major's adviser. These electives may include GSWS 391, GSWS 491 or GSWS 492. Note, however, that an independent study is permitted only after the student has an agreement with a supervising faculty member and permission from the major's adviser.

Degree requirements Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in LGBT+ and Queer studies

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major Requirements		
• Major core requirements		
GSWS 301	Feminist Theory	3
GSWS 393	Feminist Research and Methods of Inquiry	3
GSWS 401	Topical Senior Seminar	3
GSWS 493	Internship	3
• Additional major requirements		
GSWS race, racism and anti-racism perspective course (200-400 level)		3
Concentration requirements		
GSWS 205	Introduction to LGBT+ and Queer Studies	3
GSWS elective		3
LGBT+ and Queer studies electives		9
Ancillary Requirements		
GSWS 201	Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	3
GSWS 420	Algorithmic Inequalities: Gender, Race and Power in Big Tech	3
HUMS 203	Career Compass	1
Experiential fine arts [1]		1
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		6
Open Electives		
Select any course.		46
Total Hours		**120**

[1] Courses offered by School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Perspective areas

Note: A course listed in two different areas may not be used to fulfill both area requirements for the major. Some courses may have prerequisites to meet before enrollment

Course	Title	Hours
Race, racism, and anti-racism		
GSWS 291	Topics in Women's Studies	3
GSWS 309	Gender and Global Health	3

GSWS 318	Politics of Race, Class and Gender	3
GSWS 319	Women and American Politics	3
GSWS 356	Open Minds	3
GSWS 359	Black Women Writers	3
GSWS 360	Mujerista Ethics	3
GSWS 361	Decolonial Feminisms	3
GSWS 366	Women and Global Politics	3
GSWS 371	Women and Gender in Islam	3
GSWS 382	Gender, Crime and Justice	3
GSWS 383	Beyoncé: Music, Race and Fame	3
GSWS 384	Queer Nightlife	3
GSWS 390	Forced and Coerced Labor in Africa and the Americas	3
GSWS 391	Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	3
GSWS 415	Black Performance Theory	3
GSWS 450	Black Feminist Thought	3
GSWS 451	Narratives of Asian American Sexualities	3
GSWS 460	Gender, Sexuality and HIV In African Literature	3
GSWS 470	Latine Feminisms	3
GSWS 491	Topics in Women's Studies	3
LGBT+ and Queer Studies		
GSWS 202	Introduction to Trans Studies	3
GSWS 302	Trans Theory and Activism	3
GSWS 303	Sociology of Masculinities	3
GSWS 341	Gender and Sexuality in America I	3
GSWS 342	Gender and Sexuality in America II	3
GSWS 347	Black Queer Politics	3
GSWS 354	Queer Literature: ____	3
GSWS 355	Queer Cinema	3
GSWS 357	Queer Comics	3
GSWS 405	Activism Practicum in Feminist and Queer Organizing	3
GSWS 409	LGBTQ Health and Wellness	3
GSWS 459	Gender, Sexuality, and Religion	3
GSWS 461	HIV, Memory and Queer Archives	3
GSWS 490	GNDR, SEX, & HIV AFR LIT	3

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What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year		
Fall semester		**Hours**
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University (or open elective) [1]	1
UNIV 111 Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communicatio	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education courses		12
	Term Hours:	**15**
Spring semester		
GSWS 201	Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
HUMS 203	Career Compass	1
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
General education course		3
Open electives		5
	Term Hours:	**15**
Sophomore year		
Fall semester		
GSWS 301	Feminist Theory	3
GSWS 420	Algorithmic Inequalities: Gender, Race and Power in Big Tech	3
GSWS race, racism and anti-racism perspective course (200-400 level)		3
Foreign language (101 level)		3
General education course		3
	Term Hours:	**15**
Spring semester		
GSWS 205	Introduction to LGBT+ and Queer Studies	3
GSWS LGBT+ and Queer Studies perspective		3
Experiential fine arts [2]		1
Foreign language (102 level)		3
General education course		3
Open elective		2
	Term Hours:	**15**
Junior year		
Fall semester		
GSWS 393	Feminist Research and Methods of Inquiry	3
LGBT+ and Queer studies elective		3
Open electives		9
	Term Hours:	**15**
Spring semester		
GSWS elective		3
LGBT+ and Queer studies elective		3
Open electives		9
	Term Hours:	**15**
Senior year		

Fall semester		
GSWS 401	Topical Senior Seminar	3
LGBT+ and Queer studies elective		3
Open electives		9
	Term Hours:	**15**
Spring semester		
GSWS 493	Internship	1-3
Open electives		12
	Term Hours:	**15**
	Total Hours:	**120**

[1]

Recommended course to apply as open elective; credits currently not included in displayed semester total credit hours. Open elective credits required in later semesters will need to be adjusted accordingly.

[2]

Courses offered by the School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.