GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN’S STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Student learning outcomes
Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

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

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 those credits in upper-level courses. Students may choose a general interdisciplinary program or a health and science concentration.

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 401 and GSWS 493 in addition to the ancillary requirement of GSWS 201.

The general interdisciplinary program requires that students take at least one course in each of the following thematic areas: race, racism and antiracism; art, media, culture and creative expression; methods of social transformation; and systems of power. The remaining credits in the major are electives, but must be GSWS courses or courses crosslisted with GSWS. These electives may include GSWS 391, GSWS 491 and 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 for Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Major core requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSWS 301</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 401</td>
<td>Topical Senior Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSWS 493</td>
<td>Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Additional major requirements</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS art, media, culture and creative expression course (200- to 400-level)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Ancillary requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 201</td>
<td>Introduction to Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 202</td>
<td>Choices in a Consumer Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential fine arts</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)</td>
<td>0-6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Open electives

Select any course. 50-58

Total Hours 120

Courses offered by the 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race, racism and anti-racism</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>GSWS 291</td>
<td>Topics in Women’s Studies (if topics deal with race, racism and/or anti-racism)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/AIAM/SOCY</td>
<td>Oppression, Resilience and the Black Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 309</td>
<td>Gender and Global Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/AIAM/POLI</td>
<td>Politics of Race, Class and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/POLI 319</td>
<td>Women and American Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 356</td>
<td>Open Minds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 359/ENGL 355</td>
<td>Black Women Writers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 360</td>
<td>Mujerista Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 361</td>
<td>Decolonial Feminisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/POLI 366</td>
<td>Women and Global Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/RELS 371</td>
<td>Women in Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/CRJS 382</td>
<td>Gender, Crime and Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 383</td>
<td>Beyoncé: Music, Race and Fame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 384</td>
<td>Queer Nightlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/AIAM/HIST</td>
<td>Forced and Coerced Labor in Africa and the Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 391</td>
<td>Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies (if the topic deals with race, racism and/or anti-racism)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS/DANC 415</td>
<td>Black Performance Theory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**
- **UNIV 101** Introduction to the University (or open elective)  
  Hours: 1
- **UNIV 111** Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  
  Hours: 3
- **Play course video for Focused Inquiry I**
- **General education course**  
  Hours: 3
- **General education course**  
  Hours: 3
- **General education course**  
  Hours: 3
- **General education course**  
  Hours: 3

**Term Hours:** 16

### 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)  
  Hours: 3
- **HUMS 202** Choices in a Consumer Society  
  Hours: 1
- **UNIV 112** Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  
  Hours: 3
- **General education course**  
  Hours: 3
- **Open electives**  
  Hours: 5

**Term Hours:** 15

### Sophomore year

**Fall semester**
- **GSWS 301** Feminist Theory  
  Hours: 3
- **UNIV 200** Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  
  Hours: 3
- **GSWS race, racism and anti-racism perspective (200-400 level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **Foreign language (101-level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **General education course**  
  Hours: 3

**Term Hours:** 15

### Spring semester
- **GSWS art, media, culture and creative expression perspective (200- to 400-level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **GSWS methods of social transformation perspective (200- to 400-level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **Experiential fine arts**  
  Hours: 1-3
- **Foreign language (102-level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **Open elective**  
  Hours: 3

**Term Hours:** 13-15

### Junior year

**Fall semester**
- **GSWS systems of power perspective (200- to 400-level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **GSWS elective (300- or 400-level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **Open electives**  
  Hours: 9

**Term Hours:** 15

### Senior year

**Fall semester**
- **GSWS 401** Topical Senior Seminar  
  Hours: 3
- **Open electives**  
  Hours: 12

**Term Hours:** 15

### Spring semester
- **GSWS 493** Internship  
  Hours: 3
- **GSWS electives (upper-level)**  
  Hours: 3
- **Open electives**  
  Hours: 10

**Term Hours:** 16

**Total Hours:** 120-122

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