

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC POLICY, WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES CONCENTRATION

## OVERVIEW

Along with courses in feminist theory and empirical knowledge about women, gender, and sexuality in the United States and around the world, students take at least four policy courses in the GW Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration. Through the program's interdisciplinary curriculum, students learn to analyze policies and structures of power, particularly as they are grounded in gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, and nationality.

Graduates of the program apply their knowledge and skills to careers in government and as teachers, researchers, lobbyists, public affairs specialists, and advocacy organizations staff members; approximately one-third of program graduates go on to earn doctoral or other professional degrees. Credits earned in this program may be applied toward the doctor of philosophy (PhD) in public policy and public administration degree program.

Visit the program website (<https://wgss.columbian.gwu.edu/ma-public-policy-womens-gender-and-sexuality-studies/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall – April 1 (February 1 for applicants applying for assistantships/fellowships)

**Standardized test scores:** The GRE general is not required, however, if you feel as though submitting scores will strengthen your application, you are welcome to submit them. (Institutional Code: 5246)  
The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.  
Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or
- PTE Academic: 68

**Recommendations required:** Two (2) recommendations. Three (3) recommendations are welcome for those applying for fellowships.

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.  
If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:**

In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Please discuss your readiness to undertake rigorous graduate coursework, including basic courses in quantitative methods and economics. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for a teaching assistantship or fellowship, also describe an teaching experience you have had.

**Writing Sample:**

A 10-15 page writing sample is required.

**International applicants only:**

Please review International Applicant Information (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

**Contact:**

askccas@gwu.edu  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

36 credits, including 24 credits in required courses, 9 credits in electives, and 3 credits of practicum or thesis research.

**Code****Title****Credits****Required**

WGSS 6220	Fundamentals of Feminist Theory	
WGSS 6240	Gender and Public Policy	
WGSS 6221	Research Issues in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	
WGSS 6299	Capstone Research Seminar	
Public Policy Core		
PPPA 6002	Research Methods and Applied Statistics	
PPPA 6003	Economics for Public Decision Making	
PPPA 6006	Policy Analysis	
And one of the following: an additional PPPA course, PHIL 6230, PHIL 6242, WGSS 6265, or SOC 6265.		
Practicum or Thesis (3 credits)		
WGSS 6283	Practicum in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies	
or WGSS 6999	Thesis Research	
<b>Electives</b>		
9 credits in electives that may be chosen from policy, WGSS, or other approved courses		

**Electives**

This program is affiliated with the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration (<https://tspppa.gwu.edu/>).