

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN STUDY OF WOMEN, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of feminist thought in the past and present.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with key issues in the study of women's lives and histories.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of social, political, and cultural features of gender and sexuality in the US and globally.
4. Understand diverse global feminist perspectives, including critical race studies and feminist contributions to social and critical theory.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the feminist concept of engaged research based upon cumulative practice as engaged researchers in extra-classroom activities.
6. Develop skills in analytical writing as well as in oral and visual presentation.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

For general university requirements, see [Graduation Requirements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality must complete:

- A minimum of 10-11 courses (30-31 credit hours), depending on course selection, to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 5 courses (15 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 4) tab.

All students must work out their individual courses of study with their faculty advisors. Each student's course of study must be approved by the SWGS Undergraduate Advisor.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major's Official Certifier (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/>).

[officialcertifier/](#).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality		30-31
Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality		120

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
SWGS 101 or SWGS 201		
<i>Select 1 course from 3 of the 4 following fields (see course lists below):</i>		9
Critical Race		
Global South		
Sexuality		
Theory		
Research, Practicum, and Seminar		
<i>Select 1 from the following:</i>		6-7
Research, Practicum, and Seminar		
SWGS 494	PRE-SEMINAR IN ENGAGED RESEARCH	
SWGS 496	ENGAGED RESEARCH PRACTICUM	
SWGS 497	ENGAGED RESEARCH SEMINAR	
Senior Thesis		
SWGS 498	RESEARCH IN THE STUDY OF WOMEN GENDER SEXUALITY	
SWGS 499	RESEARCH IN THE STUDY OF WOMEN GENDER SEXUALITY	
Elective Requirements		
<i>Select 4 elective courses from department approved electives or from additional elective courses in Critical Race, Global South, Sexuality, or Theory (see course lists below)</i>		12
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Women, Gender and Sexuality		27-28
Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements *		58-59
University Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/) *		31
Total Credit Hours		116-118

Footnotes and Additional Information

* **Note:** [University Graduation Requirements](#) include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying FWIS or distribution requirements may additionally meet other requirements, such as the Analyzing Diversity (AD) requirement, or some of the student's declared major, minor, or certificate requirements. [Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements](#) include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Students must select a minimum of 1 course (3 credit hours) from 3 of the following 4 fields to fulfill Core Requirements: Critical Race, Global South, Sexuality, and Theory. To fulfill the remaining major requirements, students must complete a total of 4 courses (12 credit hours) from the department approved electives, or from additional elective courses in Critical Race, Global South, Sexuality or Theory. Course offerings may vary from year to year, and students are urged to consult with the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS) Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Center's Director at the beginning of each semester.

Critical Race

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ANTH 316	BLACK DECOLONIAL FEMINISMS IN THE AMERICAS	3
EDUC 304	RACE, CLASS, GENDER IN EDUCATION	3
ENGL 397	TOPICS IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE ¹	3
FREN 308	BEAUTY AND THE BEAST(S): SEX, VIOLENCE, AND FOLKTALES IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA	3
FREN 337	SHAKESPEARE IN THE CARIBBEAN: POST/ COLONIAL READINGS	3
FREN 340	GENDER AROUND THE WORLD	3
FREN 413	BLACK VENUS/VÉNUIS NOIRE: REPRESENTATIONS OF BLACK WOMEN IN THE LONG 19TH CENTURY	3
FREN 414	SEX AND RACE IN THE FRENCH ATLANTIC	3
HART 306	WHAT ARTISTS CITE: CORE TEACHINGS IN BLACK STUDIES	3
SOCI 307	INTERSECTIONALITY	3
SOCI 343	RACE, SOCIETY AND POPULATION CHANGE	3
SOCI 389	RACE, GENDER, CLASS IN FILM	3
SWGS 247	SEX, RACE, AND THE CITY	3
SWGS 327 / ENGL 381	TOPICS IN WOMEN WRITERS	3
SWGS 329 / ENGL 369	THE AMERICAN WEST AND ITS OTHERS	3
SWGS 338 / HIST 338	19TH CENTURY WOMEN'S NARRATIVES	3
SWGS 354 / ENGL 371 / SPAN 396	CHICANO/A LITERATURE	3

SWGS 370 / ENGL 370	AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE	3
SWGS 389 / ENGL 389	YOUTH STUDIES	3
SWGS 415 / LING 415	SOCIOLINGUISTICS	3
SWGS 466 / SPAN 456	LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S CULTURE	3

Global South

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ANTH 316	BLACK DECOLONIAL FEMINISMS IN THE AMERICAS	3
ASIA 381	SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORAS	3
FREN 337	SHAKESPEARE IN THE CARIBBEAN: POST/ COLONIAL READINGS	3
FREN 340	GENDER AROUND THE WORLD	3
FREN 414	SEX AND RACE IN THE FRENCH ATLANTIC	3
PJHC 371	POVERTY, JUSTICE, AND HUMAN CAPABILITIES	3
POLI 459	SEX, GENDER, AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA	3
SOCI 389	RACE, GENDER, CLASS IN FILM	3
SPAN 361	WOMEN AND GENDER IN SPANISH CULTURE	3
SWGS 247	SEX, RACE, AND THE CITY	3
SWGS 250 / POLI 250 / ASIA 251	SEX, MONEY, AND POWER AROUND THE WORLD	3
SWGS 315 / RELI 315 / ASIA 315	GENDER AND ISLAM	3
SWGS 384 / HIST 384 / ASIA 328	MODERN GIRL AND ASIA IN THE WORLD	3
SWGS 399 / ASIA 399 / MDEM 379	WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE	3
SWGS 449 / ANTH 449	CULTURES OF SEXUALITY	3

Sexuality

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ANTH 346	QUEER ARCHAEOLOGY	3
ANTH 399	ANTHROPOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION	3
HART 363	SENSORIAL QUEERNESS : QUEERING THE SENSORIAL	3
HART 364	GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN FILM	3
HIST 391	QUEER HISTORY	3
HUMA 134	WHAT IS LOVE? A BIG QUESTIONS COURSE WITH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATION	3
LALX 238	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4
LING 303	LANGUAGE, GENDER & SEXUALITY	3

RELI 393	MUTANTS AND MYSTICS: RACE, SEXUALITY, AND THE FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES	3
SWGS 238	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4
SWGS 247	SEX, RACE, AND THE CITY	3
SWGS 306 / HEAL 306	HUMAN SEXUALITY	3
SWGS 317	TRANSGENDER STUDIES	3
SWGS 333 / ANTH 311	MASCULINITIES	3
SWGS 364 / ENGL 354	QUEER LITERARY CULTURES	3
SWGS 385	SEXUAL DEBATES IN THE U.S.: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS OF SUPREME COURTS DECISIONS	3
SWGS 477	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4

Theory Code

Title	Credit Hours	
PHIL 267	PHILOSOPHY OF SEX AND LOVE	3
PHIL 470	ADVANCED TOPICS IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	3
SWGS 238	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4
SWGS 317	TRANSGENDER STUDIES	3
SWGS 345 / HIST 340	HISTORY OF FEMINISM	3
SWGS 380 / ENGL 382	FEMINIST THEORY	3

Department Approved Electives

Select up to 4 courses (12 credit hours) from the following (or select additional courses from the course lists above):

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ANTH 321	SOCIAL LIFE OF DNA	3
ANTH 346	QUEER ARCHAEOLOGY	3
ANTH 380	GLOBAL HEALTH JUSTICE: HEALTHCARE INEQUALITIES IN CONFLICTS	3
ANTH 381	MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY	3
ANTH 382	BODY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENHANCEMENT	3
ANTH 428	FEMINIST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES	3
ENGL 332	LITERATURE OF THE BRITISH ENLIGHTENMENT	3
FREN 370	WOMEN IN TALES OF THE FANTASTIC	3
FREN 460	WOMEN IN FICTION AND HISTORY: NOTIONS OF THE FEMININE SINCE THE FRENCH REVOLUTION	3
FWIS 119	THE BEAUTY OF THE BEAST: TELLING AND RE-TELLING THE TALE AS OLD AS TIME	3
HART 307	WOMEN IN ANCIENT ART	3
HART 356	SEX AND MONEY: THE SPECIES DIVIDE	3
HART 364	GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN FILM	3
HIST 391	QUEER HISTORY	3
LALX 238	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4

LING 303	LANGUAGE, GENDER & SEXUALITY	3
PHIL 267	PHILOSOPHY OF SEX AND LOVE	3
PHIL 275	FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY	3
POLI 339	GENDER AND POLITICS	3
POLI 459	SEX, GENDER, AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN LATIN AMERICA	3
POLI 461	WOMEN AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP	3
RELI 238	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4
RELI 393	MUTANTS AND MYSTICS: RACE, SEXUALITY, AND THE FUTURE OF THE HUMANITIES	3
SOCI 301	SOCIAL INEQUALITY	3
SOCI 307	INTERSECTIONALITY	3
SWGS 205 / LING 205	LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY	3
SWGS 238	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4
SWGS 273 / ENGL 273	MEDICINE AND MEDIA	3
SWGS 301 / ENGL 317 / MDEM 317	ARTHURIAN LITERATURE	3
SWGS 303	GENDER AND SCIENCE	3
SWGS 305 / ENGL 316 / MDEM 316	CHAUCER	3
SWGS 306 / HEAL 306	HUMAN SEXUALITY	3
SWGS 324 / SOCI 306	SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER	3
SWGS 325 / SOCI 334	SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY	3
SWGS 327 / ENGL 381	TOPICS IN WOMEN WRITERS	3
SWGS 331 / PSYC 331	PSYCHOLOGY OF GENDER	3
SWGS 332 / ANTH 325	SEX, SELF, AND SOCIETY IN ANCIENT GREECE	3
SWGS 333 / ANTH 311	MASCULINITIES	3
SWGS 336 / ANTH 308	THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE HISTORICAL IMAGINATION	3
SWGS 343 / ENGL 343	JANE AUSTEN'S WORLDS	3
SWGS 353 / ANTH 354	ILLNESS, DISABILITY, AND THE GENDERED BODY	3
SWGS 361 / GERM 338 / HUMA 373	NEW GERMAN FILM: HITLER'S CINEMATIC CHILDREN	3
SWGS 364 / ENGL 354	QUEER LITERARY CULTURES	3
SWGS 372 / ENGL 342	SURVEY OF VICTORIAN FICTION	3
SWGS 385	SEXUAL DEBATES IN THE U.S.: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS OF SUPREME COURTS DECISIONS	3

SWGS 390 / SPAN 390	HISPANIC CINEMA	3
SWGS 424 / FREN 424	WOMEN IN FRANCE	3
SWGS 434 / HART 434 / MDEM 434	SEEING SEX IN EUROPEAN ART, 1400-1700	3
SWGS 465 / SOCI 465	GENDER AND HEALTH	3
SWGS 477	SPECIAL TOPICS ¹	1-4
SWGS 495	INDEPENDENT STUDY	1-4

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ ENGL 397, LALX 238, and RELI 238 are Special Topics courses. Therefore, these courses only count toward the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality major when the topic is related to the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality. SWGS 238 and SWGS 477 only count toward a required field for the SWGS major when the topic is related to that field. For questions regarding a specific instance of ENGL 397, LALX 238, RELI 238, SWGS 238, or SWGS 477, consult the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS) Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Center's Director.

Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in [Majors, Minors, and Certificates](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/>), students may not major and minor in the same subject.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/>). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors](https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) (<https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/>) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the major.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS) Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Center's Director, (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.
- Courses taken at another university must be equivalent in required reading, writing, research and testing, as well as classroom hours,

of a Rice course. Regarding subject matter, however, there does not have to be an equivalent course in the Rice course offerings, unless the student requires distribution credit.

- Rice students planning to study at a foreign university must also obtain pre-approval from the Rice Study Abroad Office.
- Transfer credit received via the articulation of approved exam credit, such as advanced placement (AP) credit, international baccalaureate (IB) credit, or A-level credit will not be considered towards major requirements.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution credit eligibility is done initially as part of the [new course creation process](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/>). Additionally, as part of an annual roll call (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution credit eligibility is routinely reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean's Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-credit-eligible meet the criteria as set in the [General Announcements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet [graduation requirements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>) by completing coursework designated as distribution-credit-eligible at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (SWGS) are broad in theme and scope and prompt students to probe knowledge about how gender and sexuality are crucial components of political life, social life, and general well-being. They involve a broad, interdisciplinary spectrum of such knowledge and provide students with the tools for thinking critically about formations of gender and sexuality in diverse contexts. Current SWGS DI courses are 100- and 200-level introductions to the study of women and gender and to LGBT studies. (Courses that originate in other departments and fulfill SWGS requirements may or may not be distribution courses. Please check the course description.)

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality website: <https://cswgs.rice.edu/>

Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Senior Thesis

Students complete the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality senior thesis under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students should confirm their eligibility with the CSWGS Director of Undergraduate Studies (major advisor) in the spring of their junior year.

Requirements for admission to the program are:

- a major in SWGS
- a cumulative Rice GPA at the end of the junior year of at least 3.00
- a SWGS major GPA of at least 3.50
- approval of proposal by CSWGS Director of Undergraduate Studies

The process of preparing the thesis begins in the spring of the junior year, when the student works with the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS) Director of Undergraduate Studies and chooses a faculty mentor from the faculty affiliated with CSWGS. With guidance from those two faculty, the student produces a proposal. The proposal must be approved by the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS) Director of Undergraduate Studies by the last day of the exam period in the spring of the junior year.

In the fall of the senior year, the student enrolls in SWGS 498 to work with that instructor and also consults regularly with their faculty mentor. In the spring of the senior year, the student enrolls in SWGS 499 and continues to work closely with that instructor and their faculty mentor as they complete the thesis. The student presents their project in a public event at the end of the semester.

The length and content of the thesis are to be coordinated with the student's instructor and faculty mentor. Generally senior theses are 40-50 double-spaced pages in length. The bibliography and theoretical approach must demonstrate an informed engagement with feminist, gender, and sexuality studies.

It is useful for the student, instructor, and faculty mentor to develop a project timeline that includes deadlines for various components of the work. Students wishing to undertake a thesis combining SWGS with another discipline or department at Rice select one primary instructional home for the thesis (SWGS, or ANTH, ECON, HIST, PSYC, etc.) and work with an advisor in both CSWGS and that location to create a thesis that draws on both in terms of content, method, and theoretical orientation. The thesis may receive academic credit in only one instructional location.

Research, Practicum, and Seminar

The Engaged Research Practicum and Seminar courses (SWGS 494, SWGS 496, and SWGS 497) are open to non-majors. Some background in the study of women, gender or sexuality, as well as permission of the instructor is required.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality website: <https://cswgs.rice.edu/>.

See <https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life> (<https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life/>) for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this major.