Why Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati?

- Founded in 1974 as the Center for Women's Studies at the University of Cincinnati, our department is one of the oldest programs in the country.
- UC was one of the first universities to offer the MA in women's studies.
- UC was the first university to offer the joint MA/JD in women's, gender, and sexuality studies and law.
- In 2010, the department changed its name from Women's Studies to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

MA and MA/JD Graduates have gone to:

PhD programs, such as:
- Women's studies at Emory U, U of Maryland, UCLA, U of Washington, Ohio State
- Geography at Clark U
- Sociology at Emory U, Syracuse U, U of Kentucky, UC
- Communication at U of Georgia, U of Minnesota
- Philosophy at SUNY/Binghamton
- Creative writing at Middlesex U (UK)
- Urban and environmental policy at Tufts U
- American studies at SUNY/Buffalo, Washington State U, and Bowling Green State U
- History at Ohio State, U of Michigan, UC
- Anthropology at American U, Simon Fraser U
- History of consciousness at U of California at Santa Cruz
- Performance studies at Northwestern U

JD programs, such as:
- American U, CUNY School of Law, Georgetown U, McGill U, U of Michigan, UC
- And successful careers in such fields as politics, education, law, communications, social services, international development, human rights, the arts, fundraising and development, to name a few.

The MA

The Master of Arts program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies provides intensive academic training in feminist theory, women's and gender issues, and sexuality studies. The MA core curriculum focuses on foundational, intersectional, and transnational feminist theories. Students may also choose from a range of electives in such areas as literature, geography, history, sociology, politics, and art, as well as legal, development, cross-cultural, and sexuality studies. In addition, students may opt to concentrate on one of the program's areas of specializations: sexuality studies and transnational feminisms. The MA and MA/JD programs culminate in an original research or creative project supervised by a faculty committee.

"Reclaim is a student group on campus that focuses on addressing issues regarding sexual assault and gender based violence. As a Reclaim advocate and intern at the Women's Center, I had the privilege of working with some of the most inspirational and determined students on campus... I am so proud of the work I did with the WC. It completely changed and enhanced my graduate experience... It was in working with the WC and Reclaim, where I really learned how to theorize and why theory matters."
- Talia Tuesta, MA 2015

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"This degree has not only contributed to my intellectual life through a skill set of knowledge, theory, and praxis, but has personally challenged my core belief system... The WGSS MA program gave me an opportunity to evaluate my own life, and choose to think differently about our world. I am changed for it, and truly grateful."
- Mattie Griffin, MA 2015

A nationally recognized, cutting-edge program with a strong placement record.
A wide array of major assistantships, scholarships, and grants.
Significant teaching and internship opportunities.
Opportunities to give conference presentations and conduct research.
Opportunities to mentor undergraduates in the WGSS major and minor programs.
The MA/JD in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Law

UC was the first university in the U.S. to offer an MA/JD joint degree in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies and law, which enables students to complete both degrees in four years rather than five. The joint degree program is especially valuable to students interested in public-interest law and legal advocacy for women, women’s international human rights, sexual rights, and critical legal studies. The program provides opportunities for domestic violence law clinic work and externships both in the U.S. and abroad. The College of Law’s Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice houses the Freedom Center Journal, Domestic Violence and Civil Protection Order Clinic, and the MA/JD joint degree program.

MA/JD students also complete a culminating MA project, typically by the end of their third year in the MA/JD program, after spending their first year exclusively in the MA program and their second year exclusively in the law school. The JD is typically completed in the fourth year.

The Graduate Certificate

The certificate is a valuable credential for students enrolled in other graduate degree programs who plan to do research or teach in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies in addition to their own disciplines; it provides evidence of expertise in women’s and gender issues for those entering the workforce. Qualified post-baccalaureate, non-degree-seeking students may also apply to the program to gain a free-standing graduate certificate to enhance their professional credentials.

The Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)

The Department of WGSS is the academic home for the study of women, gender, and sexuality at the University of Cincinnati. Through interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community outreach, it seeks to create a more inclusive and transformative understanding of the various forces that shape our world. The department explores the intersections of various aspects of people’s identities, experiences, and lives, including nationality, race, class, gender, disability, and sexuality, and draws out their broader implications for cultural and societal change. Informed by feminist perspectives, it nurtures the development of leaders, scholars, and activists and builds scholarly community among core and affiliate faculty across the university. The department serves as a catalyst for curricular, institutional, societal, and global change.

The department has its own fully appointed faculty, with joint appointments in WGSS and other departments, and nearly 100 affiliate faculty members from colleges across the university. It also regularly hosts renowned speakers and activists.

Friends of Women’s Studies

One of the oldest and strongest community-based groups of its kind, Friends of WGSS supports the department by sponsoring a Friends GA, by hosting a get-acquainted potluck for students and faculty early in each academic year, and by fundraising through various activities (film nights, receptions, mini-conferences). Friends provides students with opportunities to meet and network with women in the city who are engaged in a wide variety of feminist activities.

The Taft Research Center

WGSS is a member of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center, which involves departments whose research falls under the category of humanities. Our MA students regularly apply for and receive funds for graduate enhancement, travel, and research; they also participate in Taft-sponsored programs and events.

The University

UC is a state-supported, urban, research university with a population of 43,600 students—one of the most diverse in the state of Ohio. The department participates in a wide range of campus activities, co-sponsoring speakers and events with the Women’s Center, the LGBTQ Center, the College of Law’s Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice, the Racial Awareness Program (RAPP), the Women’s Initiatives Network, the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program, and other academic and non-academic units.

Cincinnati

Cincinnati is a city with a rich and fascinating history, beautiful architecture and parks, and very affordable housing costs. It offers a varied cultural life, including every kind of music from classical to blues to hip-hop; the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; art museums and student MFA shows; art house films; experimental, commercial, and university theatre productions; city and neighborhood festivals; and a world-class zoo. Its geopolitical and social histories, including its unique regional border location and its history of race relations and resistance, provide a vibrant setting to study women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. Cincinnati is a place where your political work can make a difference, both on and off campus. The New York Times wrote about Cincinnati in its April 25, 2015, issue: “Today, national gay rights advocates hold up Cincinnati as a model.”

How and When to Apply

MA: The application and financial aid deadline is January 15. The GRE is required (as is the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE for most international students). The required graduate application is available online at www.grad.uc.edu.

Assistantships and other financial aid awards are made on a rolling basis beginning in February.

MA/JD: Joint degree applicants must apply to each program separately. The LSAT can substitute for the GRE for MA/JD applicants. Contact information for law school applicants is available online at www.law.uc.edu. MA/JD students are eligible to be considered for assistantships and other financial aid from the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and/or the College of Law.

Grad Certificate: Certificate application deadlines are rolling. The required application is available online at www.grad.uc.edu.

For further information, call 513-556-6776 or email wggsgrad@ucmail.edu or womens.studies@uc.edu.