

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, MA/SOCIAL WORK, MSW

Effective Spring 2026, admission to the Women's and Gender Studies, MA/Social Work, MSW coordinated program is suspended.

The College of Letters and Science and the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare located in the College of Community Engagement & Professions collaboratively offer a program designed to provide students with theoretical and practical exposure to evolving professional practice and the field of feminist research and scholarship. Prerequisite to the award of either degree in this program is the simultaneous award of its counterpart degree.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Effective Spring 2026, admission to the Women's and Gender Studies, MA/Social Work, MSW coordinated program is suspended.

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

The Women's and Gender Studies MA Program accepts fall admissions only. Applications received by January 15 will be given full consideration.

Admission

Students are admitted to both graduate programs separately, and admission requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) are consistent with those specified by the UWM Graduate School, the MA in Women's and Gender Studies (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/womens-gender-studies/womens-gender-studies-ma/>) program in the College of Letters and Science, and the MSW in Social Work (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/social-work/>) of the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.

Credit and Courses

The MA in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) normally has a minimum requirement of 30 credits from Women's and Gender Studies courses. For the coordinated WGS MA/MSW degree program, however, students can substitute 6 credits in Social Work courses for 6 credits of WGS courses. Similarly, the Social Work master's program will accept 6 credits of WGS course work to satisfy the 6 required elective credits for the MSW degree. Because the MSW degree has a distinction in the number of credits required depending on bachelor's degree type, the total number of credits required to complete the Coordinated WGS/MSW program will range from 52 credits (24 from WGS and 28 from MSW when holding a bachelor's in social work) to 76 credits (24 from WGS and 52 from MSW when a bachelor's degree is from another discipline and needing to complete the Foundation Curriculum in addition to the Advanced Curriculum).

Women's and Gender Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
WGS 700	Feminist Issues and Scholarship	3
WGS 701	Feminisms in Global Context	3
WGS 710	Advanced Feminist Theory	3
WGS 711	Feminist Epistemologies and Research Practices	3
WGS 740	Advanced Queer Theory	3
Select one G or U/G WGS course ¹		3
Electives		
Select 6 elective credits in WGS or WGS cross-listed courses (not SOC WRK), in consultation with the WGS Director of Graduate Studies. Of these electives, 3 credits may be thesis credits (WGS 990).		6
Total Credits		24

¹ Excluding WGS 497, WGS 700, WGS 990, and WGS 999.

Total WGS credits: 24 (maximum of 6 U/G cr; and maximum 3 cr of WGS 999)

Master of Social Work

Code	Title	Credits
Social Work Foundation Curriculum (required before the Advanced Curriculum for students without a bachelor's degree in social work)		
SOC WRK 604	Social Systems and Social Work Practice (U/G)	3
SOC WRK 662	Methods of Social Welfare Research (U/G)	3
SOC WRK 665	Cultural Diversity and Social Work (U/G)	3
SOC WRK 705	Individual Behavior and Social Welfare (G)	3
SOC WRK 708	Social Work Methods I: Individuals and Families (G)	3
SOC WRK 709	Social Work Methods II: Groups, Organizations and Communities (G)	3
SOC WRK 721	Field Instruction I (G)	3
SOC WRK 750	Social Welfare Policy Development and Implementation (G)	3
Social Work Advanced Practice Curriculum		
<i>Required Core Courses</i>		
SOC WRK 711	Direct Social Work Practice I (G)	3
SOC WRK 712	Advanced Practice and Leadership in Organizations and Communities	3
SOC WRK 795	Evaluation of Social Work Practice and Programs	3
SOC WRK 851	Social Issue and Policy Analysis: (Subtitled) (G)	3
<i>Required Field Placement Courses</i>		
SOC WRK 722	Field Instruction II	3
SOC WRK 821	Field Instruction III	3-4
SOC WRK 822	Field Instruction IV	3-4
<i>Electives</i>		

Select 6 credits from Women's and Gender Studies courses in consultation with faculty advisor

Remaining elective credits for MSW degree selected from Social Work graduate courses in consultation with MSW advisor	7
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Total Credits **52-54**

Minimum Total Credits for Coordinated Program: 52 (for those admitted to the MSW Social Work Advanced Curriculum - Advanced Standing).

For students without a social work baccalaureate or otherwise needing the Foundation Coursework, the total credits will sum to 76.

Additional Requirements

Time Limit

Students in the coordinated MA/MSW degree program must complete all degree requirements within seven years of the first enrollment semester as a degree student.

Women's and Gender Studies MA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Women's and Gender Studies MA program will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of feminist, women's, and gender issues in local, national, and/or global contexts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness of gender and other identity categories such as class, race, sexuality, age, or ability status.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of relevant perspectives within feminisms and feminist theory.
- Properly apply theoretical terms and concepts of feminist and gender analysis.
- Demonstrate mastery of relevant theoretical terms and concepts of feminist and gender analysis.
- Productively analyze complex material using gender as a framework.
- Write a well-structured, well-argued paper using relevant academic sources.

Social Work MSW Learning Outcomes

Students moving from the Professional Foundation Curriculum to the Advanced Curriculum within the Masters in Social Work (MSW) Program will be able to:

- Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior.
- Engage diversity and difference in practice.
- Advance human rights and social, economic and environmental justice.
- Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
- Engage in policy practice.
- Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
- Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
- Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
- Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.

Students graduating from the Masters in Social Work (MSW) Program will be able to, *at the level of an advanced practitioner*:

- Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior.
- Engage diversity and difference in practice.
- Advance human rights and social, economic and environmental justice.
- Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
- Engage in policy practice.
- Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
- Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
- Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
- Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.