

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ABOUT UNCG's MA IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

See also: <http://wgs.uncg.edu>

I PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM

❖ What will the Master's program prepare me for?

The Master of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies offers students preparation for careers both within and outside of the academy that will help address gender-related challenges that affect communities, families, the health-care delivery system, social service organizations and governments. MA graduates develop, assess, and implement programs to address the larger social needs, particularly as they are impacted by and even created by gender and ethnic differences.

Our program is a natural extension of UNCG's educational mission and history. It builds upon our successful post-baccalaureate certificate and will, we believe, become a national model in the field of Women's Studies.

The WGS master's is currently the only master's degree program in Women's Studies in the state of North Carolina and the only one available between Baltimore and Atlanta.

❖ What are the program concentrations?

We offer two tracks for students

- Thesis
- Non-Thesis

The Thesis track allows students to focus on an area of research in preparation either for pursuing doctoral degrees in Women's Studies or other professional degrees and programs or to relate to work they are pursuing in their careers.

The non-thesis track allows students to target their studies toward practical applications by requiring an internship with a focused seminar that can help target their studies to specific employment areas such as counseling, teaching, human service, and other non-profit efforts.

❖ What are the course offerings?

The degree requires 15 hours of required core cognate courses and 21 hours of targeted interdisciplinary electives for a total of 36 hours. Advisors are assigned to assist students in making choices that are aligned with their learning goals. Course offerings vary by semester in many of the departments and programs. Offerings for a particular semester can be located at this link

https://ssb.uncg.edu/prod/hwzkcoff.P_UncgSlctCrsOff

❖ **Will I be able to register for courses online?**

Yes. Once you are admitted you will be able to register online with an advising code. Before registering, students must consult with their assigned WGS MA advisor to design their plan of study. The Advisor will provide the code for registration.

❖ **Are there any prerequisites or course restrictions?**

Yes, a few.

WGS Core Courses: WGS core courses should be taken in sequence since they are designed to build knowledge and allow reflection on the interdisciplinary connections our three tracks offer. So, before students can register for Thesis or Internship, they should have taken 650, 651 plus other electives and obtained the permission of their advisor.

Internship (WGS 601): Students in the non-thesis track must have taken 15 credits in the program before registering for the Internship.

As a general rule, we do not offer the WGS internship during the summer except under special circumstances. For more information, see the online internship handbook at this link:

(the Handbook is being updated and will be coming soon)

Independent Study (WGS 600): Independent Study requires the permission of the instructor and a description of the intended project. The Graduate School requires the completion of ‘several other courses’ with a grade level of 3.0 or higher.

WGS requires 9 hours in the curriculum, or 6 hours if the student holds another graduate degree, with a grade level of 3.0 in order to register for WGS 600.

The Permission to Register for Independent Study form requires the signatures of the instructor, the Director of WGS or the MA Advisor and the Dean of the Graduate School.

No more than 6 hours of independent study credits may be applied toward your degree.

Independent Study may not be a substitute for existing courses.

Courses in other programs or departments: Some of the applied skills courses in the MBA program or graduate level courses in other departments may carry a ‘majors only’ restriction. Your advisor will complete a “Permission to Register”

form for you to take those courses, subject to permission of the cooperating program or department.

❖ **Who are the faculty?**

Our faculty represents a broad interdisciplinary commitment to Women's and Gender Studies. The Coordinating Council members are listed on this link:

(this information is being updated and the link will be coming soon)

II GRADUATION INFORMATION

❖ **What is required to complete the program?**

To finish the program in either the Gender and Health or Gender and Community Leadership concentrations, graduates will successfully complete 36 hours:

15 hours in the Core Curriculum

21 hours in targeted interdisciplinary electives

There are two additional graduation requirements to be aware of:

1. By the end of the first week of classes in the last semester before you plan to graduate, you must submit an application to graduate to the Graduate School.
2. There is a \$60 graduation fee (for MA) payable when you apply for graduation.

For additional information on Graduation, see this link:

<http://grs.uncg.edu/current/graduation-application/>

❖ **Is there a time limit for completing the degree?**

Yes. The University requires that your program, including thesis, must be completed within five academic years, beginning with the date the first course carrying degree-applicable graduate credit was begun.

❖ **How long should it take to complete the degree?**

With an average course load (6-9 hours a semester), it should take about two years to complete. Some non-core electives and professional skills courses should be available during summer session, although WGS core courses are not offered in the summer.

❖ **Can I apply courses in this program to a degree in another program?**

No. Credit earned in one Master's degree cannot be applied toward another degree

❖ **What are the policies on transfer credit?**

At the Master's level, graduate credits may transfer from other institutions, including UNCG's Division of Continual Learning. Courses will be evaluated for transfer credit. The conditions are:

No more than one-third of the minimum hours required for your degree can be transferred.

Residence or distance learning credits must have been taken at a recognized, accredited graduate school and not have been used to complete the requirements for a degree in order to transfer.

All transfer work must have been taken within a five-year time limit

Other requirements may apply based on individual cases.

❖ **Are there course level restrictions?**

Only courses on the 500 level or above will be counted toward a graduate degree. Additionally, at least half of your coursework must be at the 600 level or above.

For more detailed information on time limits and semester hours, see this page:

<http://grs.uncg.edu/current/graduation-information/>

III ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

❖ **What admissions criteria must I meet?**

Students will be admitted to the program on the basis of academic achievement without regard to undergraduate major. To be considered, students must meet the following criteria:

- Baccalaureate in any field. Prior course work in Women's Studies is recommended, but a Women's Studies degree is not required. Transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate work sent directly from the school. (These must be submitted electronically through UNCG's ApplyYourself program)
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (B) in your major. And/or a minimum of 3.00 in previous Graduate coursework
- GRE, MAT (Miller Analogy) or GMAT scores (within the last 5 years) (Do tests make you anxious? See below)
- Three letters of recommendation on institutional/organizational letterhead submitted online through the AY program.
- Personal Statement explaining motivation for pursuing the degree, your particular area(s) of interest, relevant coursework or experience/background

- Writing Sample reflecting your analytical and/or professional writing of 5-15 pages
 - Resume/CV if you are interested in a Graduate Assistantship or other WGS financial award
- ❖ **How much emphasis is placed on the various requirements, such as GRE or GMAT scores and the writing sample?**
We will look carefully at all of the materials you send as part of your application. While your GRE or GMAT scores will be considered, we will also pay close attention to your transcript, prior coursework, your personal statement and your writing sample.
- ❖ **What is required in the writing sample?**
You should submit a 5 – 15 page sample that reflects your analytic and/or professional writing skills. Examples of submissions include a research paper you wrote for an advanced course, a chapter of an honors thesis, a grant or project proposal you wrote for an organization you have worked for or similar materials.
- ❖ **What should be in the personal statement?**
You should submit a personal statement of no more than 2 pages, double-spaced. The personal statement must include the following: demonstrated proficiency in writing at the graduate level, an explanation of both academic and professional goals, a discussion of any prior professional and/or community-based experience related to women and/or gender, and an explanation of how previous course work related to women and/or gender shaped the desire to pursue further study.
- ❖ **Where Should I submit my writing sample and personal statement?**
UNCG Graduate School's online ApplyYourself program provides a convenient single location for submission of all application materials.
- ❖ **Must I take the GRE/MAT/GMAT if I've taken it before?**
If it has been more than 5 years since you last took the exam, you need to take it again.
- ❖ **When and where can I take the test?**
UNCG does not offer the GRE or GMAT on campus, but we do offer the Miller Analogy. Here is some information on how to sign up for entrance exams and how to contact the ETS or the local testing centers:
<http://csc.dept.uncg.edu/students/gradschooltests/>
- ❖ **Will I need to come to campus for an interview?**
No formal interview is required for our MA in WGS but you may email us to arrange an interview or visit.

- ❖ **Are there campus visitation tours?**
Yes, the Graduate School provides tours for prospective students and if contact us about your visit, we can make arrangements for you to visit some of our program faculty and staff.
<http://grs.uncg.edu/prospective/tour/>

IV CURRENT UNCG STUDENTS

- ❖ **Can current WGS post-Baccalaureate Certificate students apply?**
Yes, you can apply, but once in the MA program you cannot continue to take courses toward the Certificate. Your hours in the Certificate, if not counted toward a previous MA degree, will apply.

- ❖ **How do current Certificate students apply?**
You must reapply to the Graduate School and pay the fee for the MA program.

Since your letters of recommendation are on file, they can be used for the MA, as long as at least one is from an academic source.

You will need to submit a new personal statement that addresses the MA and the track you are planning to pursue. You will also need to submit a 5-15 page writing sample reflecting your analytical and/or professional writing.

GRE/GMAT scores taken within the last 5 years will be accepted. However if you took the MAT or if your GRE/GMAT scores are older than 5 years, you will need to submit new GRE/GMAT scores.

We require an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (B) in your major and/or a minimum of 3.00 in previous Graduate coursework.

- ❖ **If I am currently in another Master's program, can I also enroll in the Women's and Gender Studies MA?**
No. University policy does not allow you to register in two concurrent graduate degree programs. It is, however, possible to incorporate a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate within a Masters or Doctoral program.

Should you choose to change MA programs, depending on Advisor and WGS Director's discretion, you might be able to incorporate previous interdisciplinary interests and particular areas of research into the WGS thesis track.

VI GRADUATE SCHOOL INFORMATION

- ❖ **How do I apply for Graduate admission?**
You must complete a graduate application. Below are helpful links.

Prospective Graduate Student FAQ
<http://grs.uncg.edu/prospective/faq/>

Graduate School Overview
<http://grs.uncg.edu/prospective/>

❖ **When should I apply?**

For Fall admission, you must apply by February 1. WGS does not admit MA students in the spring.

❖ **Can I apply online?**

Yes – all Graduate Applications are online through UNCG’s Apply Yourself program.

<https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=uncgr-g>

❖ **How much will Graduate School cost?**

Tuition varies for in-state and out-of-state students, however UNCG is considered to have reasonable tuition costs. There are fees, and other requirements.

Information about tuition, fees and other costs along with links to more specific information can be found here:

<http://grs.uncg.edu/financial/estimated-cost/>

❖ **Is financial assistance available?**

Students wishing to apply for a Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate office assistantship may indicate this on their application. There are also some limited course scholarships available through the Sally and Alan Cone Scholarships. The first is the Course Scholarship that based on financial need, life and work experience, community service and/or leadership. The Women’s and Gender Studies Major Scholarship is for students who are currently enrolled. Finally there is a tuition scholarship for Graduate Students. These all require an essay of no more than 500 words stating clearly and compellingly the applicant’s goals, how a particular course or the concentration will enhance those goals.

(the link to WGS scholarship information is coming soon)

Additional financing suggestions around and off campus can be found on this link from the Graduate School.

<http://grs.uncg.edu/financial/>

VII CONTACTING WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

❖ **Can I talk directly with an Advisor?**

Yes, we encourage you to call! Our program advisor will be glad to help you with any questions you may have about the program, the tracks, the application process, courses, faculty or other information you might need.

For general information:

Beth Walker

336-334-4443

Beth.Walker@uncg.edu

❖ **Do you offer campus visits?**

It would be our pleasure to have you visit. We can arrange for you to meet our Program leadership faculty and staff, schedule time for you to talk with faculty in your area of interest, meet students in our Graduate Certificate program, and take a tour of the campus.

If you would like to schedule a visit, just call Beth Walker. We do ask that you **give us at least a week's notice** so that we can be sure to schedule meetings for you.

(revised 9/2012)