

PhD Program In Women's Studies – University of Maryland, College Park

Program Goals:

The Ph. D. program seeks to develop a new generation of interdisciplinary scholars and leaders whose original and innovative scholarship acknowledges, understands, and critically interrogates human differences such as those of gender, race, class, sexuality, nation, ability, ethnicity, and religion. We train our students to value interdisciplinary scholarship that contributes to a wide range of locations – these may include, but are not limited to, research, teaching and administration within tertiary institutions, community colleges and not for profit organizations.

Learning Outcome One

➤ Students will demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of a broad range of texts, concepts, and issues in the field of multicultural women's studies, including the intersectionality of categories of difference, the impact of relations of power, and past and present theories and practices designed to enhance social justice.

Benchmark Measure: General Examination

Measures and Criteria: A four-category rubric will be administered by members of the General Examination committee for each student taking the examination. 80% of students taking the general examination will achieve scores of “good” to “excellent” for each item.

Learning Outcome Two

➤ Students will be able to develop and coherently define their own interdisciplinary field of inquiry within women's and gender studies.

Benchmark Measure: Major Field Examination

Measures and Criteria: Members of a student's Major Field Exam committee will administer a four-category rubric at the time of the field exam. 85% of papers will receive scores of “good” to “excellent” for each item.

Learning Outcome Three:

➤ Students will demonstrate ability to make original contributions to knowledge and theory in the field of women's and gender studies

Benchmark Measure: Dissertation Defense

Measures and Criteria: Dissertation defenses administered individually to each student will be the occasion for all faculty committee members to fill out a four-category rubric. 90% of students will receive scores of “good” to “excellent” for each item.

Learning Outcome Four:

- Students will demonstrate their expertise in interdisciplinary practices by appropriately integrating multiple knowledges in their own research projects.

Benchmark Measure: Dissertation Defense

Measures and Criteria: Dissertation committee members will fill out a four-category rubric assessing outcome. 90% of students will receive average scores of “good” to “excellent” for each item.