

Carleton

Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies

507-222-4108

Hello Friend,

Congratulations! We are pleased to welcome you as you begin your college career, and we are excited that you're interested in the Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies program. Let us tell you a little more about it.

The [GWSS program](#) provides an interdisciplinary meeting ground for exploring questions about gender, women, and sexuality that are transforming knowledge in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. Our goal is to include gender and sexuality alongside class and race as central elements of social and cultural analysis.

While there are required courses for the GWSS major and minor, the benefit of the program is that it allows you space to customize your GWSS pathway.

Our required [gateway course](#) into both the GWSS major and minor is "Introduction to Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies." Once you learn how to map the field of gender, women's, and sexuality studies, you will advance to the "Foundations of LGBTQ Studies" course. This course provides an interdisciplinary examination of sexual desires, sexual orientations, and the concept of sexuality generally, with a particular focus on the construction of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender identities. If you decide to major in GWSS, additional upper-level courses in methods and theory will follow.

Every student majoring or minoring in GWSS rounds out the program with a capstone course that offers students the opportunity to study a topic in depth and to produce a substantial research paper. Past topics have included "Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Pop Culture" and "Transnational Feminist Activism." The nature of our interdisciplinary program allows you to earn GWSS elective credits in a variety of departments on campus. A few examples include the Cinema and Media Studies department's "Feminist and Queer Media," the English department's "Queer Literature," the SOAN department's "Anthropology of Gender," the History department's "Working with Gender in U.S. History," the Religion department's "The Sacred Body," the Biology department's "Human Reproduction and Sexuality," and the Theater department's "Art and (Un)Freedom."

Additional opportunities to earn up to 12 elective credits exist outside the classroom as well. Since 2016, [Women's and Gender Studies in Europe](#) has offered students a unique opportunity to explore feminist and queer theory in practice across Western and East Central Europe. Another off-campus studies program popular with GWSS students is [Globalization & Local Responses in India](#), which I personally lead.



Finally, all Carleton majors complete a self-directed, advisor-guided senior project known as senior comps. Examples of recent comps topics include anti-rape activism, identities of “at-risk” youth, identity negotiation among Somali Muslim women, gender norms in contemporary children’s bibles, and being lesbian in queer urban China.

While I hope this letter has answered some of your questions about our program, I hope it has also inspired new ones. Please email me at msehgal@carleton.edu if you would like more information. On behalf of the entire GWSS program, we look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meera Sehgal". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Meera Sehgal