

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

## For Penn Law Students

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/wstudies/

The Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies is designed to enrich students' traditional disciplinary training and broaden their perspectives. The Certificate provides law students with opportunities to think in an integrated fashion about gender and sexuality, and to learn from a variety of theoretical approaches such as feminist, critical race, and legal theory, cultural and sexuality studies, as well as traditional disciplinary methodologies.

# I. OVERALL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A core curriculum of 4 Gender, Culture, and Society (GSOC) Courses:
  - ➤ 1 feminist theory course
  - ➤ 3 courses offered by the Law School that focus on issues related to women, gender, and/or sexuality

3 of the requirements listed should also meet the requirements for the J.D. Thus in most cases, earning the Certificate will only increase the total number of courses a student must take by one. The feminist theory course requirement will most likely be satisfied outside of Penn Law in the School of Arts and Sciences. There is a graduate level Feminist Theory seminar offered every other year through GSOC. Please contact the Women's Studies Program office for a list of courses or visit us on the web at <a href="http://www.sas.upenn.edu/wstudies/">http://www.sas.upenn.edu/wstudies/</a>

B. **A paper**. The paper for the Graduate Certificate should be based on research on a current topic in the study of gender/sexuality and law and should demonstrate an understanding of relevant theoretical concerns. A student may have a paper written for a course that fulfills this requirement, or may need to expand an existing paper.

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#### II. PROCEDURES

## A. Application and Acceptance into the Program

#### A student must:

- 1. Write a ONE PAGE statement about why she/he wishes to obtain a Certificate. The statement should include a discussion of how the certificate program relates to the student's current scholarly interests. (This may include what work the student has already done in the area of gender/sexuality studies, and what undergraduate and extracurricular/practice work the student has done in this area—if applicable).
- 2. Submit the statement and the "Application for a Graduate Certificate" form to the Graduate Certificate Committee for approval (c/o the Women's Studies office). A student will be informed within a month of the status of her/his application.

#### **B.** Completion of the Requirements

- 1. Upon approval of the student's application, the student will select a principal faculty advisor.
- 2. In consultation with her/his advisor, the student will select and take the 4 courses for the certificate requirement.
- 3. The student's advisor is responsible for seeing that the student completes her/his coursework and writes an acceptable paper. A student is eligible to receive the Certificate when her/his advisor has signed the final approval form indicating that the requirements for the Certificate have been met.

### C. Final Approval

- 1. The student submits the signed "Graduate Certificate Approval" form to the Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate Committee for final approval. If students have followed the procedures, approval is typically granted. The student is also asked to submit a copy of the paper written for the Certificate, which will be kept on file at the Women's Studies Program Office.
- 2. After final approval of the Certificate work, a notation that the student has successfully completed the Certificate will be placed on the student's transcript, and the student will receive the Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate.

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