



Women's & Gender Studies Department

FAQS: ADVISING FOR WGS STUDENTS

When do I submit the Major/Minor Requirements form? You should complete this form (with your advisor) two semesters before you graduate (e.g., if you plan to graduate in spring 2006, you should submit the form in spring 2005). The form will be "evaluated" by the university and you will receive feedback on the coursework you need to complete in order to graduate as well as whether there are any loose ends (e.g., transfer credits, incompletes in courses, WEPT, etc.) that need attention.

Can I count WGS 350 and WGS 375 for both general education and the major? Yes. However, the course is worth only 3 units toward the total of 120 units required for graduation. For example, while WGS 350 counts toward both the major and GE; it still only amounts to 3 units of credit toward the 120 unit graduation requirement.

What is a disciplinary concentration? As part of the 44 unit requirement in WGS you must complete 15 units in any other major or minor on campus. We call these 15 units a disciplinary concentration. With careful planning, it is often possible to pursue a minor or double major in the field of your disciplinary concentration.

Are there any special issues to think about if I am a double major? Yes. WGS will allow you to "double count" your disciplinary concentration units with the requirements for a double major. However, be aware that you must have 24 units in each major that do not count for the other major. You are responsible for finding advising in both departments. WGS faculty can only advise you on the WGS major.

I finished all my requirements for the major and GE, but my graduation evaluation indicates that I am 6 units short. How can this be? You need to complete 120 units to receive a degree at SSU. The WGS major is 44 units and the GE requirements are between 48-51 units – a total of 92-95 units. This means that you will need to complete additional units (in a double major, a minor, or any other classes that interest you – perhaps prerequisites for graduate school) in order to achieve the 120 unit minimum.

When should I start my internship?

Typically students begin in their junior year, although you may begin at any time. You may take your 4 units in different semesters and different sites (e.g. 2 units in fall at the D.A.'s office and 2 units in spring at the homeless shelter).

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I need to take WGS 425 but it is not offered in the spring. What should I do? You will have to wait until the fall to take that course. WGS is a small department and some of our courses are offered only in the fall (WGS 425) or spring (WGS 485 and WGS 390). Pay close attention to this when planning your coursework.

I need someone to tell me what to take in the major and in general education. Who should I talk to? You have been assigned an advisor according to your last name.

Majors and Minors:

A-M Charlene Tung
N-Z Don Romesburg

Women's Health Minors: A-Z Charlene Tung

Faculty office hours change each semester and are available from the department office (Rachel Carson Hall 18 or by calling 664-2840) and on-line at www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies). WGS urges students to seek advising at least once during the semester. Students are strongly encouraged to have a "take charge" attitude about their advising. Faculty advisors offer advice for the major and other university requirements, but we cannot make you follow that advice. Faculty members are not with you as you add and drop classes throughout your SSU career. Only you can keep track of your progress toward graduation on a daily basis.

I turned in my graduation evaluation form and then I decided to take different courses than those listed on the form. Will this cause a problem? Yes, but this is a problem that you can easily solve. You'll need to complete an "addendum" that indicates the changes in your coursework. The chair of WGS will need to sign the form.

Where can I find more information about graduation requirements? You can talk to your WGS advisor, review your degree progress on-line, look over the campus catalog, learn about the WEPT or the general education requirements (<http://www.sonoma.edu/sas/advising/gepattern.shtml>).

Why do I have to check my Sonoma.edu e-mail on a regular basis? The university will communicate with you through this address. In addition, WGS maintains a listserv for announcements, internships and other school matters and you may be subscribed through your Sonoma.edu e-mail address.