



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)

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Internship: Overview

The internship involves an extensive apprenticeship at an approved organization under the guidance of the Director or a faculty member approved by the Director, hereafter the “Internship Director.” This option is designed to integrate professional work experience with scholarly research. Students should develop a sound understanding of the relationship between research and experience, activism and scholarship, thinking and practice. Selection of an internship is made by the student in consultation with the Director and must be confirmed by the agency where the student will work. The WGSS Director must approve the selection of the agency in order for the student to receive internship credit for the MA.

To complete the Internship, students must: (1) write a 10 page proposal, describing and justifying the subject of the Internship and the placement, which must be approved by the Internship Director; (2) write a 20-25 page research paper on the background and history of the kind or organization (e.g., a domestic violence advocacy group); the results of their internship, and the ways in which this work relates to the critical literature and theory of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies; and (3) procure an assessment of their work from the agency, usually a letter or email to the Internship Director that summarizes the intern’s work performance and accomplishments and which may take the form of a letter of recommendation.

Internship: Timeline

Semester 3

Week 2-3 – Submit revised Plan of Study. In consultation with the Internship Director selected by a student, submit names of organizations for the internship to the WGSS Director. The Internship Director will contact the organization and receive their approval for the student to carry out the internship.

Week 8 - Submit draft of the internship proposal to the Internship Director. The internship proposal must apply relevant scholarship to the goals of the internship and the specific organization. In this way it serves as a partial draft of the final report/research paper.

Week 10 – Final copy of internship proposal submitted to the Internship Director.

Semester 4

In accordance with the Graduate College’s timetable, the student must also meet the following deadlines in order to submit an Application for Graduation for the semester in which the student intends on graduating:

Week 1 – Register for 6 WST internship credits (WST 6941). *NOTE: This is a variable credit course, so be sure to specify the correct number of credits when you register.* Submit final revised Plan of Study.

Week 12 – Submit draft of Internship report. The goal of this report/research paper is to frame the internship as a practical application of the theory learned in the students' coursework. Students should thus put the experience of the internship in conversation with the data and critical literature of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Typical sections of the report might include background on the problem/issue, background on the organization of the internship, a report of the work performed during the internship, an evaluation or assessment of the issue or problem addressed during the internship, reflection on how the organization/work engages critical theory/literature.

Week 14 – Submit final report on Internship.