Emory was the first university to offer the Ph.D. in Women’s Studies, establishing its program in 1990. It remains the only Ph.D. program supported by a private institution. Our program emphasizes a wide interdisciplinary range of comparative feminist theories and empirical perspectives as well as providing grounding in traditional disciplines.

The Ph.D. program offers flexibility in shaping a student’s curriculum and generative mentorship from diverse faculty. Students train in feminist pedagogies and teach within the Department. All students admitted to the Ph.D. program receive full funding for five years. We also offer a graduate certificate in WGS for Ph.D. candidates from other programs at Emory.

**Program Features**
Our departmental strengths and areas of expertise are concentrated in the following four areas:

- Bodies, Sexualities, and Science
- Globalization and Development
- Race, Class, and Justice
- Visual Culture, Narrative, and Ethics

The Emory Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies supports a generous and pluralistic understanding of scholarly research on women and gender in relation to other aspects of identity, including race, ethnicity, religion, class, disability, nationality, and sexuality.
Our faculty members are active researchers in a number of core areas. Faculty research projects and areas of study include:

- Bioethics of health
- Citizenship, political dissent, and political discourse in the U.S.
- Ethical debates in queer and feminist theory
- Feminist disability studies
- Feminist and queer theories of embodiment
- Feminist Science Studies
- Gendered patterns of labor, migration, citizenship
- Histories of transatlantic slavery and emancipation
- International human rights regimes and post-conflict justice mechanisms
- Marginalized life narratives
- Political and empirical struggles around the body
- Politics and practices of representation in the U.S.
- Poverty and welfare debates in the U.S.
- Representations of the body and women
- Transnational communities and processes of immigrant incorporation in the U.S. South
- U.S. and transnational labor markets
- Violence under contemporary neo-liberalism

Students will also find opportunities for collaboration at other centers or entities at Emory. Among them are:

- The Scholarly Inquiry & Research at Emory (SIRE) program offers fellowships with Emory College's Office for Undergraduate Education.
- A number of other graduate programs at Emory offer Graduate Certificates—organized sequences of courses culminating in the award of a certificate, providing systematic interdisciplinary training. Some Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies students obtain certificates in English, Film Studies, Comparative Literature, Psychoanalytic Studies, or Human Rights.
Curriculum
Students are expected to complete a minimum of 60 hours (5 semesters) of graduate course work. The requirements of the program are as follows:

First Year:  
- Women’s Studies Proseminar (WGS 700)
- Feminist Theory (WGS 751R)
- Research Assistantship (Spring semester)

Second Year:  
- Methods requirement
- Teaching Women’s Studies (WGS 720)
- One or two semesters of Teaching Assistantship
- Choose an advisor and form examination committee

Third Year:  
- Research Design (WGS 710)
- Meet final course requirements
- Comprehensive exams (by December 1 of fourth year)
- Complete a foreign language requirement
- One or two semesters as Teaching Associate (teaching WGS 100)

Fourth Year:  
- Approval of prospectus (by March 1 of fourth year)
- Admission to candidacy
- Remaining teaching requirements

Students
The Ph.D. program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies typically admits 4 – 6 students per year. The average time to completion of degree is 7 years. In addition, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies averages 40 students from other departments enrolled in the certificate program at any given time. Completion of the certificate requires 4 courses, including Feminist Theory.

Many of the department’s Ph.D. students apply for and receive additional fellowships, including national awards such as grants from the Ford and Mellon Foundations. In addition, students are frequently awarded internal fellowships from such sources as the Writing Center, the Woodruff Library, the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Southern Studies, and the Dean’s Teaching Fellowship. The majority of our students accept faculty positions (more than 80%); others choose jobs in research, nonprofit agencies, and business.

Our students work on a wide range of research and writing, often with strong interdisciplinary components.

Some recent dissertation topics include:

- Intersex Before and After Gender
- Bipolar Memoir and the Revitalization of Storytelling in Mental Health Policies and Practices
- Feminist Critique of Naturalizing Discourses on Monogamy and Non-Monogamy
- The Role of Desire in Contraceptive Use
- Female Ethics and the Project of Democracy
- Sexual Violence and Social Justice in America
- The Role of Privacy in Domestic Violence Law and Activism in the U.S.
- The Female Nude in Modern Visual Culture
- Power, Gender, and Normalization in Personal Makeover Television Shows
- Freedom, Desire, and Historical Memory in Post-Liberation Era African American Literature
Placements in academic departments and programs include:
- Women's Studies, Syracuse University
- American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, University of Texas
- Popular Culture, Cinema and English, University of Toronto
- Women's Studies, University of Minnesota
- History & Women's Studies, Purdue University
- Women's Studies, Vanderbilt University
- Women and Gender, Smith College
- Feminist Science Studies, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Film Studies, Hofstra University
- Women's Studies, SUNY Stony Brook
- American Studies Research Programme, Kings College, London
- Philosophy, DePaul University
- English, University of Dayton
- English, University of Wisconsin

Placements in non-academic positions include:
- Executive Director, National Women's Studies Association
- President & Co-Owner, The WOMENTOR Group
- Research Scholar, UCLA Center for the Study of Women

Faculty
The department has 10 core faculty with women's studies expertise in literature, cultural studies, history, sociology, anthropology, political science, and psychology.

We also boast more than 50 associated faculty who work closely with our students as mentors and committee members. Graduate students can draw from associated faculty who represent a wide variety of academic areas, including Law, Public Health, Theology, Nursing, Education, Comparative Literature, The Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts, Film Studies, Religion, Anthropology, Art History, The Graduate Division of Religion, Philosophy, Spanish and Portuguese, and Psychology.

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