

▶ WGS SECONDARY FIELD CERTIFICATE

Harvard doctoral students may pursue a [Graduate Secondary Field](#) Certificate – the equivalent of a graduate minor – in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (*the Secondary Field appears on the student transcript but not on the diploma*).

▶ WGS SECONDARY FIELD ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Secondary Field in WGS is open to all students already enrolled in doctoral programs in Harvard's graduate and professional schools. Students will engage in coursework and other activities defined by the Committee on Degrees in the Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and must also meet all degree milestones and deadlines within their home PhD programs and at [Harvard Griffin GSAS](#).

▶ WGS SECONDARY FIELD APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply students should first submit a [plan of study form](#) along with a copy of their CV and make an appointment to meet with the WGS Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), Sarah Richardson. At this meeting the DGS will review the student's plan of study and discuss options for completing the Secondary Field requirements. WGS encourages students to declare their interest in the Secondary Field early in their doctoral program to ensure that they can fulfill all requirements in a timely manner.

▶ COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS APPROVAL & GRADUATION FILING

Upon satisfying the program requirements, Graduate Students will need to submit a [PhD Secondary Field Application Form](#) to the FAS Office of the Registrar by the same date they file the application for their degree. ***(There are no exceptions to this deadline. Students should consult the [Registrar's calendar](#) for deadlines and contact their own school's Registrar to determine if they are subject to different deadlines and/or requirements.)***

Students will fill out the [PhD Secondary Field Application Form](#), sign it, save it, and send it with the following to the WGS Director of Graduate Studies and the WGS Program Coordinator:

- 1 - the completed application form (indicating the course(s) for which they were TF);
- 2 - an updated copy of their CV;
- 3 - a copy (pdf) of the paper or dissertation chapter they are using to fulfill the requirement for an article-length paper suitable for publication.

After the WGS Director of Graduate Studies has reviewed, approved, and signed the form, we will return it to the student, and they'll need to obtain the signature of their own Department's Director of Graduate Studies prior to submitting the form to the Registrar's office. Once the form is signed by the DGS from both departments, students will submit one copy of the finalized form to the FAS Office of the Registrar, send a copy of the completed form back to us, and retain a copy for your own records.

Note: that the Application form MUST be sent to the Registrar by the degree filing date. (This is the same date when PhD students file their degree paperwork with the Registrar to graduate.)

The Registrar will not accept Application Forms after the deadline. For this reason, we strongly recommend that secondary fielders get their Application Forms approved by the DGS and submitted to the Registrar as soon as they've met all the requirements. The Registrar will accept these forms at any time so there is no need to wait for the final filing date before graduation.

Projected Registrar deadlines for the 2025-2026 academic year ([FAS Registrar Calendar](#)):

- * **For February 2026 graduates:** Monday, December 1, 2025
- * **For May 2026 graduates:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- * **For November 2026 graduates:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026

► WGS SECONDARY FIELD REQUIREMENTS:

- **COURSE 1** - The Graduate Proseminar (WGS 2000)
- **COURSE 2** - The WGS Theory Foundation course “WGS 1210” (or GCWS foundation course, or course substitute pre-approved by DGS)
- **COURSES 3 & 4** - Two additional graduate courses (or upper-level seminars) taught by members of the Committee on Degrees in the Studies of WGS (or other graduate courses in the field, as deemed appropriate by the WGS director of graduate studies in consultation with the student).
- **ARTICLE-LENGTH PAPER** - to demonstrate mastery in the field, students need to compose an article-length paper of publishable quality that uses WGS frameworks. (This can be a chapter of the dissertation.)
- **TEACHING** – Service as a salaried teaching fellow for one semester in a course offered by WGS faculty (or in another course pre-approved by the director of graduate studies).

COURSE REQUIREMENT NOTES:

- *All four graduate-level courses in the studies of WGS must be completed with a grade of B+ or above.
- *Students pursuing a Secondary Field in WGS receive preferential access to limited-enrollment courses.
- *Students may petition to have graduate courses from another department or program count toward the Secondary Field. Petition forms and instructions are available on the [WGS website Forms Page](#). (Contact the WGS DGS with questions regarding courses that may require prior approval.)
- *The [WGS website](#) has a list of faculty who teach WGS courses and a list of [pre-approved courses](#).
- *Courses offered by the inter-institutional Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies “GCWS” ([website](#)) may also be used to fulfill course requirements for the Secondary Field in studies of WGS.
- *Courses may count toward the Secondary Field and toward the course requirements for the PhD. For courses numbered below 2000 (primarily for undergraduates), graduate students must complete the designated graduate-level requirements.
- *Language courses taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis may not be used to fulfill Secondary Field requirements.
- *Generals reading courses may not be used to fulfill Secondary Field requirements.
- *Graduate students may not complete a Secondary Field in their own program and may only declare one Secondary Field.
- *Students are responsible for observing the Registrar’s deadlines for filing Secondary Field forms in order to receive institutional acknowledgment of their completion of a Secondary Field. Students should consult the [Registrar’s calendar](#) to determine the applicable deadlines.