



SCHOOL OF  
GRADUATE  
STUDIES

## Women's Studies Program



Southern Connecticut  
State University



It has been said that the circumstances of women offer an indication of the civility of a society. Southern Connecticut State University's Women's Studies Program explores the world locally and globally by examining the nature of women's status, circumstances, and objectives across academic disciplines, cultures, and historical periods. Students and faculty in the program are committed to positive change and a humane concern for all living things.

Southern has offered courses in women's studies since 1971, making it one of the oldest women's studies programs in the region. At this date, Southern is the only public university in New England offering a master's degree in women's studies. The program also offers several options for graduate certificates that can be taken independently or in conjunction with other graduate programs.

Southern's Women's Studies Program fosters a strong sense of community among its students and faculty, offering extracurricular programming such as the observance of 64 Days of Nonviolence and Women's History Month, and the annual Women's Studies conference with its keynote address, women's fair, and academic and artistic offerings.

Though students are free to proceed through the requirements at their own pace, all of the programs in Women's Studies encourage the cohort model in order to strengthen that sense of community among students and faculty. A master's degree can be completed in as few as two years or as many as six.

## Program Description

### ■ Master of Arts Degree

The Master of Arts degree in Women's Studies builds on a core of four courses (12 credits). These foundation courses examine feminist theories and practices, research methods, the history of feminist thought, and global women's issues. In addition, all students are required to complete at least three (and as many as six) credits of field experience that complement their professional or personal objectives. Remaining credits are tailored to each individual student's needs or goals: either an 18-credit thesis track that includes six credits for the thesis and 12 elective credits; a comprehensive exam and 18 credits of electives; or a six-credit special project and 18 credits of electives. The variety of elective courses available to students represents nearly every discipline in the university. With an adviser, students choose one area of concentration from a host department and are permitted no more than 12 elective credits from any one department.

### ■ Certificate Program

Students may enroll in the nine-credit graduate certificate program either independently or as an enhancement to a graduate degree in art, educational foundations, English, environmental education, history, nursing, psychology, social work, special education, or sociology. The nine credits include the core course in feminist theories and practices, as well as two electives. Students who are seeking this certificate in conjunction with a master's degree should select their electives from a department other than their degree program.

### ■ The On-Ground/Online Advanced Graduate Certificate

The on-ground/online advanced graduate certificate requires 12 credits, beginning with a two-week, three-credit summer residency on the campus, during which students take a course in Women's Studies Foundations and build relationships with each other and the faculty. The remaining nine credits can be taken online during the academic year in a variety of disciplines.



In addition, this program may be taken as an independent interdisciplinary certificate or as an elective option for those in other graduate degree programs.



### Admission Requirements

Admission into any of the Women's Studies Programs requires application to both the program and the Southern School of Graduate Studies. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher (on a 4.0 scale).

In addition to the required forms and transcripts, the application includes two confidential letters of recommendation, a 500-word personal essay on the role of women's studies in a candidate's personal or professional goals, and another writing sample such as a newspaper article, a Web-based essay, professional material, or an academic paper.

### How to Apply

It is best to contact the Graduate Program Coordinator to begin the process of application to the Women's Studies Program.

The School of Graduate Studies application is available on the Web site ([www.SouthernCT.edu/grad](http://www.SouthernCT.edu/grad)) or can be forwarded upon request. Request that official transcripts from all previously attended undergraduate and graduate programs be sent to the School of Graduate Studies. Complete the application and enclose a \$50 check made payable to SCSU.

Mail to:

Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
Southern Connecticut State University  
501 Crescent Street, EN B110  
New Haven, CT 06515-1355

Two letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the writers to the Women's Studies Program. In addition, have an official transcript sent to the Women's Studies Program. A program application (available online or by request), the writing sample, and the personal essay should also be sent directly to the Women's Studies Graduate Coordinator.



Accepted applicants will receive a letter from the School of Graduate Studies. Both the School of Graduate Studies and the Women's Studies Program have rolling admission policies. Students who initiate the process in the spring semester may elect to begin the cohort classes in the fall.

### Faculty

The faculty of the Women's Studies Program is the faculty of the university. As an interdisciplinary program, Women's Studies draws its talent from nearly every branch of learning on campus, including the arts, sciences, languages, social sciences, health and human services, business, communication, and education. Faculty members from these departments bring a uniquely feminist perspective to their chosen fields and in turn, broaden the realm of feminist study with their own expertise. Nearly all of them have terminal degrees and many have practical, clinical,



or field experience as well. All of them have a personal and academic interest in the circumstances of women and in feminist perspectives.

### Careers

As an interdisciplinary program, Women's Studies attracts a wide variety of students with an equally wide variety of personal and professional goals. Some come directly from undergraduate studies seeking to focus their education more directly on women's issues. A number of others come to the program having worked in fields such as social work, nursing, or teaching in which they hope to specialize in women's issues. Still others come from

completely unrelated fields in which they have a sense of dissatisfaction. These students are looking to pursue a passion, or at least to bring a more humanitarian perspective to the work they already do. In any case, the program helps to foster skills that are valuable in all walks of life and all variety of employment, namely scholarly inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving, interpersonal skills, and cooperative leadership skills.

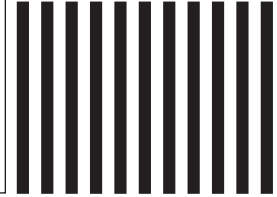


### Contact Information

Virginia Metaxas, Ph.D.  
Graduate Program Coordinator  
(203) 392-5607  
metaxasv1@southernct.edu  
Graduate Studies Office  
Engleman Hall, Room B110  
501 Crescent Street  
New Haven, CT 06515-1355  
(203) 392-5240 or 1-800-448-0661  
gradinfo@southernct.edu  
www.SouthernCT.edu/grad



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## Graduate Admissions Information

For more information about the Women's Studies Program, please complete this card and return it to us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Bachelor's Degree (College, Year Awarded) \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Major \_\_\_\_\_

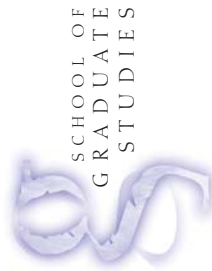
Check as many as apply.  
Please send:

Application materials for the Women's Studies Program

The SCSU Graduate Catalog

The schedule of courses for the up-coming semester

Other \_\_\_\_\_



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