**Gender & Women’s Studies PhD Program**

**Individualized Concentration**

**Description**

Students have the option to design an individualized concentration if they cannot find a pre-specified concentration that aligns with their interests and career aspirations. Individualized concentrators must successfully demonstrate that their proposed plan of study cannot reasonably be completed within an established concentration. Students are required to work with their GWS faculty advisor to design the right combination and depth of coursework that meets their specific career goals. Overall, an individualized concentration should consist of 15 credits of graduate work.

An established concentration may also be tailored, with approval from the faculty advisor, to a student’s specific interests by replacing a required course with one not on the list of courses that defines the concentration.

**Core Faculty**

Any faculty member in Gender & Women’s Studies may serve as an advisor for a student pursuing the Individualized Concentration.

**Students should note that:**

- At least two of the courses must be at the 700 level or above.
- Two advanced GWS graduate electives may double count for the concentration.
- The student’s GWS faculty advisor must approve the proposal.

**Students who wish to pursue an individualized concentration should complete the following steps:**

1. Consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss your proposal.
2. Submit an individualized concentration proposal. Proposals must be made in advance and no later than May of the first year. Proposals should include a statement of objectives, rationale, and a list of courses to be taken to constitute the concentration.
3. Documentation of approval by the GWS faculty advisor is required.
4. The proposal must be submitted to the Graduate Committee for final approval.