



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)

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First Year Review

All students will meet with the First Year Review Committee after completing 18 credit hours. The committee is comprised of the WGSS Director and the core faculty and/or faculty affiliates who elect to serve on the committee. Students will work with the Director and Center staff to schedule this meeting at the end of the semester in which they complete 18 credits. In order to provide the committee with adequate time to review your performance in the program, please provide a PDF copy of your portfolio (see below) to the Program Coordinator to distribute to the Committee at least two weeks prior to the scheduled first year review meeting.

The First Year Review portfolio should include:

- a copy of your **unofficial transcript** (available through myFAU),
- and **two essays** that you produced during your first year of coursework. These writing samples demonstrate your intellectual growth within the program and should therefore be representative of your strongest classwork.

At the First Year Review meeting, the committee will evaluate your progress by discussing:

- first-year grades within the MA program and how they indicate strengths and areas of expertise
- writing samples and how they reflect your intellectual skill set for a particular degree track
- recommendations for your Plan of Study in terms of coursework
- approval for a specific track within the Masters program: the exam option, the internship, or the thesis.

These degree tracks are all **equally valued** as avenues for further graduate study and research as well as careers in the nonprofit, corporate, and governmental sectors. Please review the graduate handbook for the details of each track's requirements.

All degree-seeking full-time graduate students should have an **approved Plan of Study** on file with the Graduate College by the end of the second semester of their first year in the program.

All full-time and part-time students must have an approved Plan of Study on file with the Graduate College prior to the term in which they intend to graduate. **Graduate Teaching Assistants must have a Plan of Study on file to continue receiving the graduate tuition waiver.** For more information, please go to: <https://www.fau.edu/graduate/degree-completion/plan-of-study>. In order to continue as Graduate Teaching Assistants to receive tuition waivers and stipends, students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.