

# General

## Program Name

Gender & Women's Studies

## Primary Contact Name

Katie O'Brien

## Primary Contact Email Address

obrien7@arizona.edu

## Plan Code

GWSBA

## Last Admit Term

Spring 2026

## Career

Undergraduate

## Terminal Degree

No

## Research Master's

No

## Professional Master's

No

## Stackable

No

## Associated Plans for Stacking

-

## Accelerated Master's Program

No

## Associated Plans for AMP

-

# Disestablishment Details

## Justification for Disestablishment

The Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) BA degree program will be discontinued to address concerns about the low number of majors. It will become a new emphasis entitled "Gender, Difference, and Power" within the redesigned Global Studies BA to go into effect Fall 2026. (We anticipate that the redesigned Global Studies BA will be approved by Curricular Affairs in Spring 2026.) The new emphasis will ensure the vitality of GWS faculty and course offerings. The GWS minor will continue. Note: Since Summer 2024, the department of Gender and Women's Studies has been housed within the School of Global Studies.

## Teach Out Plan

Detailed plan how you will handle current students, if any

## Introduction:

The Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) BA degree program, which is now housed in the School of Global Studies, will be discontinued to address concerns about the low number of majors. It will become

a new emphasis entitled “Gender, Difference, and Power” within the redesigned Global Studies BA that will go into effect Fall 2026. The new emphasis will ensure the vitality of GWS faculty and course offerings. The GWS minor will continue.

#### Program Closure Timeline:

The last admit term for the major is Spring 2026. The redesigned Global Studies major will launch in Fall 2026. All current GWS majors will have the option to switch to the Global Studies major with a “Gender, Difference, and Power” emphasis or complete their GWS major. The Gender and Women’s Studies BA degree will remain active so that students in the program can finish. After 8 years, Curricular Affairs will change the status of the BA to “inactive.”

#### Student Support:

Advisors have been notified of the disestablishment and will work with students on an individual basis during the transition. Global Studies academic advisor Megan Denney will send an Email to GWS majors in August 2026 to make them aware of the option to switch to a Global Studies major. She will meet with students to offer support. The GWS BA disestablishment should have no effect on student scholarships or financial aid.

Note: As of Spring 2026, there are 10 students in Gender and Women’s Studies major. All are main campus students.

#### Curriculum Transition:

Most GWS-prefix courses will continue to be offered. GWS 498 Senior Capstone, however, will not be offered after Spring 2026. Students who elect to switch to the Global Studies: Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis and those who continue as GWS majors will take GLS 498 Senior Capstone. Advisors may substitute GWS 499 independent study for GLS 498 on a case-by-case basis for GWS majors. GWS 240: Gender in a Transnational World will be added to Global Studies Core II curriculum. All other GWS electives will either still be offered as part of the Global Studies: Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis or advisors will find appropriate substitutions. A new course list for the Global Studies: Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis was created as part of the Global Studies BA Substantial Change Request form submitted to Curricular Affairs in December 2025.

#### Faculty and Staff Transition:

GWS faculty will continue teaching courses in the Global Studies: Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis and GWS minor. Some GWS faculty already teach Global Studies Core I courses: GLS 250 Dimensions of Globalization: States, Societies, and Institutions and GLS 251 Dimensions of Globalization: Language, Literature, and Culture. Some may create and teach new Global Studies Core II courses in the future. GWS faculty will also be incorporated into the teaching rotation for GLS 498 Senior Capstone.

Some service responsibilities may shift. One GWS faculty member will continue to serve on the School

of Global Studies Undergraduate Studies Committee. However, beginning in Fall 2026, GWS will no longer have a Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) service position. (There will be one DUS at the School of Global Studies level.) One GWS faculty member will serve as “curricular lead” for the emphasis. This person will work with the GWS program director and academic affairs coordinator to update and follow 2-year curricular plans and faculty teaching assignments, schedule GWS emphasis courses each semester, and manage any new course adds and modifications in the new emphasis.

The discontinuation of the Gender and Women’s Studies BA degree will not affect Global Studies staff.

#### Communication Plan:

Megan Denney, Global Studies academic advisor, will send an Email to GWS majors in August 2026 to make them aware of the option to switch to a Global Studies major with a “Gender, Difference, and Power” emphasis or continue with the GWS major.

Email script: “The University of Arizona is excited to launch a new Global Studies major with a Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis starting in the Fall 2026 term. The Gender and Women’s Studies major will no longer be accepting new students. As a current Gender and Women’s Studies major, I wanted to reach out to let you know your options. You may continue your Gender and Women’s Studies degree or you may switch to the new Global Studies major with Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis. [Add link to emphasis web page.] Please let me know which option you would like to take. I am happy to meet with you to discuss your options and plan starting Fall 2026.”

The GWS BA degree web pages will remain up and available as long as there are active, enrolled students in the major. The GWS BA degree web pages will remain up until the final student graduates from the major. However, in August 2026, the following message will be added to the website: “No new students for the GWS BA degree are being admitted as of Fall 2026. This degree is now being offered as Global Studies: Gender, Difference, Power emphasis. [LINK to Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis web page].”

As soon as the reconfigured Global Studies major is approved, we will update the Global Studies web page to include information about the Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis. The following message will be included on the web page: “Available starting August 2026.”

Compliance and Reporting: N/A

#### Timeline of Teach-Out Events

--Spring 2026 (End of May) - No longer admit students to GWS major. If a student wants to declare over summer, advisors will recommend that they wait until the new Global Studies: Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis starts accepting students in Fall 2026.

--Spring 2026 (February-April) - Work with SBS marketing to write descriptions and other content for each new emphasis, to be shared on relevant University of Arizona web pages and marketing materials.

--Spring 2026 (May)- As soon as the new Global Studies BA major is approved by Curricular Affairs, update the School of Global Studies website to include a description and courses for the Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis. Include message on emphasis web page: "Available August 2026 and after"

--Fall 2026 (August) - Add message to GWS BA degree website. "No new students are being admitted for the Gender and Women’s Studies BA degree. This degree is now being offered as Global Studies: Gender, Difference, and Power. [LINK]."

--Fall 2026 (August) - Megan Denney, Global Studies advisor, will notify GWS majors of the new Global Studies major with Gender, Difference, and Power emphasis via Email.

--Fall 2026 - Advisor will move GWS students to the Global Studies major as needed.

**Catalog Display Notifications**

-  
-

[ABOR Request-to-Disestablish-GWS \(1\).docx](#)

## Campus and Location Offerings

**Campuses**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>Sub Plan Required</b>
University of Arizona - Main	Yes
<b>Locations</b>	
-	

## Emphases/Subplans

<b>CHL - Chicana and Latina Studies Emphasis</b>
<hr/>
<b>Name</b>
CHL
<hr/>

**GENGWS - General**

---

**Name**

GENGWS

---

**QTSS - Queer, Trans and Sexuality Studies Emphasis**

---

**Name**

QTSS

---

**SQS - Sexualities and Queer Studies Emphasis**

---

**Name**

SQS

---

# Subplan Campus & Locations

Subplan Campuses

-

## Dependencies