

**Guidelines for Part Time Candidates
M. A. Degree in Women's Studies
San Diego State University**

In order to accommodate students whose work and/or domestic obligations make part-time pursuit of the MA degree desirable, the Women's Studies Department may admit a limited number of highly-qualified applicants (no more than three per year) who will pursue their degrees on a part-time basis.

Part-time students are expected to acquire the MA within four years, proceeding at approximately half the pace of full-time students, who generally finish their studies in 2 years. **Students should plan to take no fewer than six courses in the first two years of pursuing the degree, and preferably four courses in the first year.** Progress toward the degree will be evaluated each year by the Graduate Advisor and the committee chair.

Applicants for the part-time option should be aware of the following considerations:

- Only full-time students are eligible for graduate assistantships.
- A course load of 6 or more units may be necessary to receive and to retain financial aid (it is the student's responsibility to check with Financial Aid office about the particular provisions of each grant).
- Out-of-state and international students are required to enroll in 10 units of coursework each semester to receive non-resident tuition waivers.
- Students who are accepted within the part-time track are likely, over the long term, to pay higher fees for their degrees, due to the fee structure of the university (3 units cost as much as 6 units each semester).

Students formally enrolled in the part-time track will be assigned a faculty mentor, who will oversee, with the Graduate Advisor, course selection and progress toward the degree. The Department will also offer structured opportunities, through the Feminist Colloquia, workshops, and other department events, for full and part-time students to develop a sense of community.

The following template is designed to serve as a guide to help part-time students move through the program in a logical sequence. Students may be able to satisfy program requirements more quickly, depending upon the number of courses in which they enroll in each semester. The Graduate Advisor and Department Chair may authorize a change in this program, as needs arise, in accordance with departmental guidelines.

First year	Fall:	1-2 courses; WMNST 601 required; WMNST 590 Feminist Thought recommended if previous experience of feminist theory is limited
	Spring:	1-2 courses, WMNST 602 required
Second year	Fall:	1-2 courses at the 600 level
	Spring:	1-2 courses at the 600 level
Third year	Fall:	One 500 or 600-level course. Form Committee for thesis, project or exam. Work on thesis proposal or bibliographies for exam
	Spring:	One 500 or 600-level course and 797 (Research); Thesis option: submit thesis proposal Satisfy language requirement by this time, perhaps over a summer
Fourth year	Fall:	Thesis option: WMNST 799A Exam option: 1 600-level course (or 500-level if 600-level requirement has been satisfied)
	Spring:	Thesis option: WMNST 799 B. Complete and defend thesis Exam option: WMNST 798. Take exams within a six-week period, give presentation