2026-2027

Women, Gender, and Health Interdisciplinary Concentration

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Why Women, Gender, and Health?

- This approach requires the study of the health of people of all genders and gender identities throughout the life course, with gender, gender inequities, and biology understood as important and interacting determinants of well-being and disease.
- Also included are: the study of gender and gender inequities in relation to individuals' treatment by, and participation in, health and medical care systems; the physical, economic, and social conditions in which they live; and their ability to promote the health of their families, their communities, and themselves.
- Inherent in this definition is recognition of diversity and inequities among people of all genders in relation to racialized group, ethnicity, nationality, class, sexual orientation, and age, and that the protection of human rights is fundamental to health.

About WGH

The Working Group on Women, Gender, and Health (WGH) was founded in 1996, and in 2002, the school wide faculty approved the interdisciplinary concentration on WGH. The Working Group, comprised of faculty, staff, fellows, and students, meets monthly, and all are invited to attend. We take a pedagogical approach to planning events and teaching courses. The Working Group encourages students to become involved by participating in decisions for WGH and meeting others who share interests.

The Women, Gender, and Health Interdisciplinary Concentration creates an opportunity for students to engage with fellow students, staff, faculty, and speakers on topics related to gender and health

To join our mailing list for meetings, events, and outside activities relevant to the field of women, gender, and health, scan below:

Events

WGH hosts and co-sponsors regular events, including in-person, hybrid, and virtual. Events happen monthly and generally feature a speaker/facilitator who introduces a gender-related health topic of interest, followed by a discussion applying a critical gender analysis. WGH also hosts monthly Working Group meetings.

Conference Stipends

WGH's conference stipends are open to all HSPH students to support attendance at conferences that have a gender analysis and health focus, whether or not the student is presenting. While priority is given to students who are presenting, a limited number of stipends are available for attendees. Awardees are expected to share key takeaways at a WGH Working Group meeting.

Students may receive up to one or two stipends over the course of their enrollment at Chan depending on the duration of their degree. Each stipend provides funding of **up to** US$750 (domestic) or US$1,000 (international) to support travel, accommodation, registration, and incidental costs. Stipends are competitive, with funding levels dependent on the number of applicants. Please visit our website for full details and application materials. This year's applications are due on October 5, 2026 at 11:59 PM and on February 26, 2027 at 11:59 PM. Please check our website for more information.

Concentration

All HSPH students are invited to complete the 10-credit WGH Concentration (details on next page) to gain proficiency in intersectional gender analysis for public health research, programs, and action. Fulfilling the concentration is distinct from, and in addition to, fulfilling degree and home department requirements.

Key

†May count up to 2.5 credits towards the Women's Health and/or Gender Analysis component. If WGH 300 is taken with a non-WGH faculty member, approval must be granted before courses begin.

EH: Environmental Health
EPI: Epidemiology
GHP: Global Health and Population
HLS: Harvard Law School
HPM: Health Policy and Management
SBS: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Note: Some course offerings may change. Check the Registrar's website before finalizing schedule. MPH students may need approval from the MPH program to complete all WGH requirements.

Concentration Requirements

1. 5 credits in any of the WGH core courses
2. Another 2.5 credits of WGH core courses OR gender analysis courses
3. 2.5 credits in any other courses listed (WGH core, gender analysis, or women's health content)

Students who complete concentration requirements receive a letter attesting to completion.

Note that the list of courses below is not comprehensive. Additional courses and independent studies with a gender analysis focus or women's health component (taken at Chan or at other Schools permitting cross-registration for HSPH students, e.g., other Harvard Schools and MIT) may also be used to fulfill the above requirements, pending approval. Any questions regarding course/credits acceptance for concentration completion should be directed to wgh@hsph.harvard.edu. **If in doubt, we encourage students to reach out!**

Core Courses

WGH 211	Gender and Health: Introductory Perspectives	Fall 1, TuTh | 2.5 credits
WGH 201	Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice	Fall 1, MW | 2.5 credits
WGH 230	Building the Future of Transgender and Nonbinary Health: From Evidence to Action	Fall 2, TuTh | 2.5 credits
WGH 250	Embodying Gender: Public Health, Biology, & the Body Politic	Winter | 2.5 credits
WGH 210	Women, Gender, and Health: Critical Issues in Mental Health	Spring 1, MW | 2.5 credits
WGH 220	Sexual Health & Well-being Across Populations & Contexts	Spring 1, F | 2.5 credits
WGH 202	Identities and Health in Context: Bridging Evidence and Action	Spring 2, M,W | 2.5 credits
WGH 207	Advanced Topics in Women, Gender, and Health	Spring 2, F | 1.25 credits
WGH 300	Independent Study†	Fall/Spring | credit varies

Gender Analysis Courses

SBS 506	An Intro to History, Politics, & Public Health: Theories of Disease Distribution & Health Inequities	Fall 1, Fri | 2.5 credits
SBS 507	Advanced Seminar on History, Politics, & Public Health: Theories of Disease Distribution & Health Inequities	Fall 2, Fri | 2.5 credits
SBS 208	Adolescent Health	Fall 1, TuTh | 2.5 credits
EH 525	Environmental Justice: Concepts and Practice	Spring 1, MW | 2.5 credits
WOMGEN 1283	Love's Labor Found: Uncovering Histories of Emotional Labor	Spring, Th | 5 credits
HLS 2242	Title IX: Sports, Sex and Equality on Campus	Spring, MTu | 3.75 credits
HLS 2467	Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, and the Law	Fall, T | 2.5 credits
HLS 2098	Gender Violence, Law, and Social Justice	Spring, WTh | 3.75 credits
HLS 2540	Reproductive Rights and Justice	Spring, M | 3.75 credits
BETH 718	Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Bioethics	Fall, Th | 2.5 credits

Women's Health Content Courses

EH 241	Occupational Safety and Injury Prevention	Fall, Th | 2.5 credits
EPI 213	Epidemiology of Cancer	Spring 1, TuTh | 2.5 credits
EPI 223	Cardiovascular Epidemiology I	Spring 2, MW | 2.5 credits
EPI 224	Cancer Prevention	Fall 2, MW | 2.5 credits
EPI 269	Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology I	Fall 2, TuTh | 2.5 credits
HPM 213	Public Health Law	Spring 2, Th | 2.5 credits
SBS 201	Society and Health	Fall 1, MW | 2.5 credits
SBS 208	Adolescent Health	Fall 1, TuTh | 2.5 credits
SBS 219	High Risk-Behavior: Epidemiology/Prevention Strategies	Spring 2, TuTh | 2.5 credits
SBS 222	Social Services for Children, Adolescents, and Families	Spring 1, TuTh | 2.5 credits
SBS 236	Social Epidemiology	Spring 1, TuTh | 2.5 credits
SBS 237	Grief,Loss, and Death: Population in Mental Health Perspectives	Spring 2, MW | 2.5 credits
SBS 246	Maternal & Child Health: Programs and Policies	Fall 2, MW | 2.5 credits
SBS 360	Maternal Child Health/Children, Youth, and Families Seminar	Fa/Sp, Tues | 1.25 credits

WGH Faculty

Ariel Beccia, Instructor, EPI
S. Bryn Austin, Professor, SBS
Elizabeth Boskey, Instructor, SBS
Brittany Charlton, Associate Professor, EPI
Evelynn Hammonds, Professor, FAS & SBS
Tamarra James-Todd, Associate Professor, EH
Elizabeth Janiak, Assistant Professor, SBS
Kristin Javaras, Instructor, EPI
Sabra L. Katz-Wise, Associate Professor, SBS
Karestan Koenen, Professor, EPI
Nancy Krieger, Professor, SBS (WGH Chair)
Sari Reisner, Adjunct Associate Professor, EPI