

## Master in Women's Studies - Minor in Faith-Based Gender Equality and Empowerment

### HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

Credit Hours: 69 (including 15 credit hours for minor)



### Program Description

The Master in Women's Studies at HBI University is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of gender issues, feminist theory, social justice advocacy, and policy-making. This program integrates historical, sociological, and political perspectives to prepare graduates for careers in gender advocacy, nonprofit leadership, education, and public policy.

The Minor in Faith-Based Gender Equality and Empowerment offers a specialized focus on the intersection of faith, gender equity, and empowerment within religious communities. Students will explore biblical perspectives on gender justice, faith-based advocacy for women's rights, and the role of women in leadership within religious and secular institutions.

This 69-credit hour program includes 30 credit hours of foundational women's studies courses, 24 credit hours of core advocacy and policy training, 15 credit hours in Faith-Based Gender Equality and Empowerment, elective coursework, a supervised practicum, and a research-based master's thesis or capstone project.

### Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in women's studies, sociology, political science, theology, or a related field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty or gender advocacy professionals
- Statement of purpose outlining career goals in gender studies and faith-based empowerment
- Writing sample (research on gender studies, advocacy work, or faith-based initiatives)
- Interview with faculty committee (if required)

## Practicum Requirement

Students must complete a 300-hour supervised practicum in women's advocacy organizations, faith-based nonprofits, social justice initiatives, or government agencies focused on gender equality. Practicum placements include Christian women's leadership programs, interfaith gender justice initiatives, and nonprofit organizations that empower women through faith-based advocacy.

## Master's Thesis / Capstone Project

Students are required to complete either a research-based master's thesis on faith-based gender justice, women's leadership in religious institutions, or biblical perspectives on equality or develop a capstone project implementing a faith-based empowerment initiative for women.

## Program Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Analyze historical and contemporary gender issues through a faith-based lens.
- Advocate for gender justice and equality within faith communities and secular organizations.
- Develop and implement faith-based programs for women's empowerment.
- Influence public policy on gender rights through faith-driven advocacy.
- Examine the role of religious institutions in shaping gender norms and policies.

## Career Outcomes & Potential Salary

- Gender Policy Analyst – \$60,000 - \$130,000
- Women's Rights Advocate – \$55,000 - \$120,000
- Faith-Based Nonprofit Director – \$65,000 - \$135,000
- Christian Women's Ministry Leader – \$50,000 - \$110,000
- Public Speaker & Consultant on Faith-Based Gender Issues – \$75,000 - \$145,000

## Advocacy and Professional Development

Students are encouraged to join organizations such as:

- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- Faith & Feminism Network
- United Nations Women's Advocacy Program
- Christian Women in Leadership

Participation in gender equality conferences, interfaith leadership summits, and women's rights advocacy workshops is highly recommended.

## Course Breakdown (Total: 69 Credit Hours)

### A. Foundational Women's Studies Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
WS-101	Gender & Society: Historical & Cultural Perspectives	3
WS-102	Feminist Theories & Theological Perspectives	3

WS-103	Women's Leadership & Political Engagement	3
WS-104	Gender, Religion, & Power Structures	3
WS-105	Social Movements & Gender Justice	3
WS-106	Sexual Ethics & Faith-Based Perspectives	3
WS-107	Public Policy & Gender Equality	3
WS-108	Research Methods in Women's Studies	3
WS-109	Faith-Based Responses to Gender-Based Violence	3
WS-110	Intersectionality & Faith: Race, Gender, and Religion	3

### **B. Core Advocacy and Policy Training (24 Credit Hours)**

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
WS-201	Women's Economic Empowerment & Faith-Based Initiatives	3
WS-202	Gender & Media Representation	3
WS-203	Christian Perspectives on Social Justice & Gender	3
WS-204	Human Rights, Law, & Faith-Based Gender Advocacy	3
WS-205	Women's Health & Faith-Based Wellness Programs	3
WS-206	Crisis Intervention & Support for Women in Ministry	3
WS-207	Leadership Development for Women in Faith Communities	3
WS-208	Supervised Women's Studies Practicum	3

### **C. Faith-Based Gender Equality and Empowerment Minor (15 Credit Hours)**

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
FBGE-301	Biblical Perspectives on Women's Rights	3
FBGE-302	Christian Feminism & Theological Reflections	3
FBGE-303	Faith-Based Leadership Training for Women	3

FBGE-304	Gender Justice in Church & Society	3
FBGE-305	Advocacy Strategies for Faith-Based Gender Equality	3

D. Electives (9 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ELEC-601	Women in Interfaith Leadership	3
ELEC-602	Counseling & Spiritual Healing for Women	3
ELEC-603	Faith-Based Media & Women's Empowerment Campaigns	3