Sexuality Studies

Sexuality studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry devoted to the analysis of human sexuality. The program at Ohio State explores multiple contexts of human sexuality—historical, literary, sociological, legal, health, educational, biological and psychological—and pays particular attention to practices of normalization in different cultures and times through which some sexual behaviors, expressions or identities have been esteemed and others devalued. It also investigates the ways in which sexuality is shaped by other social differences such as race, gender, class, dis/ability, religion, nationality and ethnicity.

Students who pursue the major in sexuality studies will graduate with extensive understanding of and sensitivity to some of the most vexing and difficult issues of our contemporary global world related to the subject of sexuality. Sexuality studies scholars from many departments across several colleges, including the College of Arts and Sciences, work together to construct an interdisciplinary exploration of human sexuality.

Pursuing Sexuality Studies at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in sexuality studies within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students interested in sexuality studies should consult with an Arts and Sciences advisor and with one of the program’s directors as soon as possible.

Sexuality Studies Requirements
The major in sexuality studies is comprised of at least 30 credit hours:
- a 6-hour core cluster consisting of Comparative Studies 2214 and one LGBTQ-focused course (a required diversity component)
- 15 hours of sexuality studies electives, all of which can be chosen from a list of approved sexuality courses in various disciplines
- 9 credit hours in a focus area chosen in consultation with one of the program’s directors or selected from the following list: Adolescent Sexuality, Counseling, Education, Health, History, Intersecting Identities, LGBTQ, Sociology or Women.

The major is an excellent opportunity to explore interdisciplinary themes and is especially accommodating for students interested in a double major or minor. Popular double majors for the sexuality studies major are psychology; women’s, gender and sexuality studies; sociology; human development and family science; social work; and English. A senior thesis or internship is highly recommended as a way to enable students to explore a subject of interest or to become closely acquainted with one of the many possible careers in the field.

The interdisciplinary sexuality studies major at Ohio State is one of the first of its kind in the United States.

The focus area provides students with a unique opportunity to craft a coherent and integrated concentration within the major. Courses are taught by internationally renowned faculty.

An interdisciplinary minor and graduate specialization in sexuality studies are also offered.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage for graduate school and/or in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Programs
Ohio State’s Scholars programs provide students opportunities to live and learn with students with similar interests and incorporate specialized workshops, programming, mentoring and advising. Students interested in sexuality studies may apply to either the Humanities Scholars or Arts Scholars Programs. Qualified students also may seek to complete a senior Honors thesis, in which they pursue an area of scholarship under the close supervision of a faculty member.

For more information, check these websites:

Sexuality Studies: sexualitystudies.osu.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Career Prospects in Sexuality Studies

Typically, graduates with a BA in Sexuality Studies will pursue a career related to the field, but some may choose to pursue graduate or professional education in the field or a related area. Graduate education may be easier to pursue for students who double major in sexuality studies and a related field, such as psychology, sociology or social work. A variety of career options are possible, including education, counseling, health services, social services, criminology and politically oriented work (e.g., for a GLBT or reproductive rights group).

More information about careers for arts and sciences majors is available at Ohio State's career services website: asccareerservices.osu.edu.

About Ohio State

The Ohio State University is recognized throughout the nation and the world for its innovative programs, exceptional faculty and cutting-edge facilities. In fact, Ohio State is consistently ranked among the country’s best public institutions for overall academic reputation. Because Ohio State is a major teaching and research university, our students receive excellent preparation for entry into top graduate/professional programs and the job market. Offering over 175 majors and more than 12,000 courses, Ohio State allows students to tailor their education to their interests through double majors, minors and personalized study programs.

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes students may take to pursue a major in sexuality studies with a focus area in health. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of many possible paths to a degree in Sexuality Studies. Find out more at sexualitystudies.osu.edu.

Freshman Year
Survey course 1
Introduction to Sexuality Studies 3
Introduction to Psychology (GE) 3
Introduction to Sociology (GE) 3
GE first writing course 3
GE math & logical analysis course 3-5
GE foreign language (2 courses) 8
GE literature course 3
GE open options course 3
Total Hours 30-32

Sophomore Year
Introduction to Queer Studies 3
Sex and Love in American Society 3
Psychology of Sexuality 3
GE natural science courses 7
GE 2nd writing course 3
GE foreign language course 4
GE data analysis course 3
minor/elective courses 4
Total Hours 30

Junior Year
AIDS: Facts and Issues 3
Human Sexuality in Context 3
Gender, Sexuality and Science 3
GE natural science course 3
GE historical study course 3
GE open options course 3
minor/elective courses 12
Total Hours 30

Senior Year
Sociology of Sexuality 3
Same-Sex Sexuality in a Global Context 3
Internship 3
GE culture & ideas course 3
GE visual & performing arts course 3
minor/elective courses 14-16
Total Hours 29-31

Revised 2014. All information is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the sexuality studies major, visit sexualitystudies.osu.edu.

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