Formation . . . is the process through which the intellectual and social practices of a discipline are gradually internalized by novice practitioners. Becoming a mathematician (or historian or neuroscientist) requires knowing the subject matter of the field at a very deep level; content knowledge is essential. It also requires learning to "think like a mathematician" (or historian or neuroscientist). That is, subject matter mastery is necessary but is not in itself sufficient to the formation of scholars. Learning to present oneself as a member of a discipline, to communicate with colleagues, and to apply ethical standards of conduct is part and parcel of formation. Creativity, responsibility, and leadership are also critical areas for attention in programs that aim for excellence.

George E. Walker et. al., The Formation of Scholars

Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies
Texas Woman’s University
Woodcock Hall 307
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www.twu.edu/ws Updated August 2021
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the doctoral program in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies (WGS) at Texas Woman’s University! As one of only a handful of doctoral programs in WGS and related fields in the United States, we’re honored to have the opportunity to work with you to further the development of our academic field. We have compiled this handbook to assist you in progressing successfully through the doctoral degree; it describes program requirements, areas of study, course offerings, professional development, and MWGS policies; and it offers information about financial aid, graduate assistantships, and faculty members. This handbook does not cover every university regulation governing graduate education at Texas Woman’s University and thus should be treated as a supplement to the TWU Graduate Catalog. In the case of discrepancies between the two, the Graduate Catalog should always take precedence. The Graduate Catalog is the final authority, and students are ultimately responsible for obtaining correct information. We encourage students to frequently check the Graduate School Web site (http://www.twu.edu/gradschool/), which contains helpful information as well as up-to-date forms. In fall 2021 we implemented a new curriculum; students entering prior to this semester should consult the 2020-21 handbook for details on the previous curriculum, if this is their preferred plan.

This Multicultural WGS Doctoral Program Handbook is a work in progress! We welcome your suggestions as we work to create a useful handbook and a successful doctoral program. We also note that various items might be revised in future years, as we all learn from our experiences.

Texas Woman’s University: Texas Woman’s University (TWU) is the largest public university primarily for women in the United States and one of the most diverse institutions of higher education in the nation. TWU has been a leader in the field of WGS since 1998, when the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted approval for the University to offer the M.A. degree in Women’s Studies. This graduate program was the first degree program in the field established by a public institution in the State of Texas. We offer the only Ph.D. in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies in the South Central region of the United States. Texas Woman’s University has a longstanding commitment to Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies, with many Texas firsts: the first freestanding Women’s Studies program, the first university to offer full-time faculty positions specifically in Women’s Studies, the first tenured faculty members in Women’s Studies, and the first Department of Women’s Studies.

The doctoral degree is designed to build on campus-wide expertise, including existing strengths at TWU in such fields as Dance, Nursing, Psychology, Rhetoric, Sociology, Government, Health Studies, and Education. Existing library resources are extensive, reflecting TWU’s longstanding commitment to women’s education and the University’s history as a leading educational institution primarily for women.
What is Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies @ TWU? We define the field of women’s & gender studies (WGS) as a multicultural, multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary field of study that promotes understanding of how gender is constructed and functions in social, cultural, historical, political, and institutional contexts. (We define “multicultural” broadly, to include ability, gender, nationality, ‘race’/ethnicity, region, religion, sexuality, and other systems of difference.) Building on and expanding scholarship in a variety of academic disciplines, the field of WGS pursues the following goals:

➢ To enhance understanding of the diversity of people’s lives particularly as they are impacted by age, class, dis/ability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, race, religion, sexuality
➢ To construct theories and methods for engagement in social, cultural, and intellectual critique on behalf of social justice;
➢ To advance feminist/womanist scholarship by investigating and expanding existing modes of knowledge and power;
➢ To analyze local and global systems of inequality while identifying strategies for social change; and
➢ To develop leaders who can engage effectively with global communities, communicate with diverse audiences, build coalitions, and negotiate initiatives for social change.

Why “Multicultural”? In December 2015, in order to underscore our commitment to nuanced, relational investigations of difference, we changed our name and degree programs from “Women’s Studies” to “Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies.” We believe that this new name more accurately reflects the versions of WGS we practice and teach. We acknowledge that many radical and progressive scholars have rejected the word “multicultural” because of the ways it has been co-opted and used to support existing social conditions; rather than examine racism and other power issues, commodified (corporate) multiculturalisms ignore systemic issues by offering facile celebrations of diversity that encourage individuals simply to “tolerate” difference and thus do not challenge the unjust status-quo. MWGS rejects these commodified multiculturalisms and defines multiculturalism as a potentially radical tool for intellectual and social transformation. We believe that multiculturalism—when historicized and defined broadly to include dis/ability, economic status, ethnicity/race, gender, nationality, region, religion, sexuality, worldviews, and other systems of difference—offers unique opportunities to enact social change and produce new knowledge.

Doctoral Studies @ TWU: The doctoral degree in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies at Texas Woman's University prepares students to revitalize contemporary life by creating new forms of knowledge and praxis through transdisciplinary, transformative dialogues in diverse disciplines and fields. Doctoral degree recipients will be grounded in a rigorous graduate education and equipped with effective communication and research skills, holistic-critical thinking skills, and transformative teaching techniques. As part of the program’s unique transdisciplinary focus, students will obtain a deep understanding of scholarly production, research methodologies, and pedagogies in various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. They will use this knowledge to create new dialogues among knowledge fields inside and outside the academy. Graduates will be prepared to serve as professors of women's and gender studies and related disciplines and as leaders in nongovernmental, social service, and research agencies that address social justice issues.
Doctoral Program Educational Objectives: The Ph.D. degree is forward-looking and aspires to assist in shaping WGS for the twenty-first century, while also contributing to the increased emphasis on interdisciplinary studies in higher education. The hallmarks of the Ph.D. program in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies at TWU are:

- Transdisciplinarity (i.e., relational exploration, integration, and transformation of diverse disciplinary methodologies and theories)
- Multicultural-feminist scholarship
- Critical-holistic social theories
- Global perspectives on social inequalities
- Rigorous scholarship in the service of social change

Thus, our educational objectives are to prepare graduates who:

1. Demonstrate the ability to engage in critical-holistic analysis of well-defined problems and theoretical issues related to the field of WGS;
2. Demonstrate exemplary research skills and command of the scholarship in WGS, multicultural-feminist theories, and related fields;
3. Transcend traditional academic boundaries by integrating diverse disciplinary perspectives into their research and teaching;
4. Produce innovative transdisciplinary scholarship that makes groundbreaking contributions to society and to the fields of WGS, Multicultural Studies, and feminist/womanist scholarship;
5. Assume leadership positions within Texas, the United States, and international academic settings as well as in other policy-making, research, governmental, and non-governmental organizations that address women’s issues and social inequalities;
6. Contribute to future developments in WGS and related academic fields by attaining and succeeding in faculty positions;
7. Develop innovative strategies to address the needs of diverse communities;
8. Develop scholarship and produce publications in the service of social change; and
9. Design and enact relational, innovative teaching strategies that address the needs of diverse learners.
Faculty members in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies at TWU are deeply committed to providing students with individualized academic advising and mentoring. In addition to the Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies core faculty, approximately thirty faculty from over fifteen departments throughout the university are formally affiliated with us. For a list of affiliated faculty, see Appendix 1.

Faculty with Full-time Appointments in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies

**Dr. Agatha Beins**, Associate Professor, Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University. Office: WH 307L; Phone: 940.898.2117  
**Research Interests:** Histories of Feminism and Women’s and Gender Studies; Social Movement Activism; Print and Material Cultures; Underground Press and Zine Cultures; Cultural Studies; Art and Activism; Poetry and Poetic Forms; Feminist Pedagogies; Feminist/Womanist Theories and Epistemologies; and Food Studies  
**Graduate Courses:** Foundations for Scholarly Inquiry in Women’s Studies; Feminist/Womanist Theories; Feminist Pedagogies; History of U.S. Feminisms; The Politics of Publication and Writing; The Cultures of Food and Foods of Culture; Art, Activism, and Social Justice

**Dr. AnaLouise Keating**, Professor. Ph.D. in English, University of Illinois, Chicago. Office: WH 307K; Phone: (940) 898-2129; Email: AKeating@twu.edu  
**Research Interests:** Multicultural Womanist/Feminist Theorizing; Contemporary U.S. Women Writers of Colors; Speculative Realism; Critical Race Feminisms; Queer Theories; Gloria Anzaldúa; Womanist Spiritual Activism; Transdisciplinarity; Transformation Studies; Indigenous & Womanist Epistemologies  
**Graduate Courses:** New Directions in Feminist/Womanist Theories; Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies Disciplinary/Interdisciplinary Knowledges; The Politics of Publications and Writing; U.S. Women of Colors; Feminist/Womanist Epistemologies; Feminist/Womanist Theories; Transgressive Identities: Queer Theories and Critical ‘Race’ Theories; Spiritual Activism; and Gloria Anzaldúa: Politics, Poetics, and Prose

**Dr. Danielle Taylor Phillips-Cunningham**, Associate Professor and Program Director, Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University. Office: WH 307F; Phone: (940) 898-2746; Email: DPhillips3@twu.edu  
**Research Interests:** Critical Race Feminisms; Globalization and Transnationalism; Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century U.S. Women's History; U.S. Labor and Migration History; Diversity Issues in Higher Education; Black Feminist Thought  
**Graduate Courses:** U.S. Women of Colors; Contemporary Feminist Theories; Black Feminist Thought; Transnational Feminisms; Women at Work: Race, Migrations, and Labors
THE PH.D. DEGREE PLAN: AN OVERVIEW

The doctoral degree in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies is a flexible, highly individualized degree consisting of core courses and a variety of guided elective options. The specific degree plan for each student will vary, depending upon their background training, transdisciplinary concentration, research tools, dissertation topic, and career goals. While each student’s degree plan will vary, all students will share several milestones:

- Coursework
- Qualifying Examination (Portfolio)
- Dissertation Prospectus
- Dissertation Research and Writing
- Final Oral Presentation & Examination

Although these features are the typical components of many doctoral programs, we have worked to shape them in ways designed to successfully facilitate your growth as a scholar, practitioner, and innovator in the transdisciplinary field of Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies. We hope that these milestones will assist you in developing the knowledge, creativity, and other skills you will need to succeed in this field. We feel privileged to be one of only a very few doctoral programs in Women’s & Gender Studies or related fields in the United States, and we aspire to create a forward-looking doctoral degree.
PH.D. COURSEWORK

The curriculum for the Ph.D. consists of a minimum of 72 graduate semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students entering from the baccalaureate degree can earn a master’s degree along the way. Students entering with a master’s degree can transfer in up to 30 hours (with MWGS approval). The proposed degree consists of core courses (18 hours), dissertation (12 hours), WS electives (12 hours), and a Transdisciplinary Concentration (30 hours).

- 18 credit hours of core courses (nine three-credit-hour seminars in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies)
- 12 credit hours of MWGS electives
- 30 credit hours of a Transdisciplinary Concentration
- 12 credit hours for the dissertation

Core Courses: The following courses are required of all students:
WS 5023 Foundations for Scholarly Inquiry in Women’s & Gender Studies
WS 5463 U.S. Women of Colors
WS 5843 Feminist/Womanist Theories
WS 6103 New Directions in Feminist/Womanist Theories
   (Topic will vary and may be repeated for credit)
WS 6303, Transdisciplinary Feminist Research Methods
WS 6403, The Politics of Publications and Writing
WS 6983, Dissertation (6 credit hours)
WS 6993, Dissertation (6 credit hours)

Transdisciplinary Concentration:
This concentration is designed to enhance the transdisciplinary nature of our doctoral degree, and to assist students in developing additional sets of innovative knowledges and skills that will strengthen their research and professional experience. The transdisciplinary concentration will vary, depending upon whether students enter with a bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree:

- Students entering with a master’s degree can transfer in up to 30 hours from their degree, with graduate faculty approval. These 30 hours fulfill their Transdisciplinary Concentration.
- Students entering with a bachelor’s degree will have the opportunity to take additional courses in MWGS and other related fields that constellate into one of these recommended concentrations: Multicultural Studies, English/Rhetoric, Educational Leadership, Sociology, Nonprofit Work. (Students can also propose an alternative concentration, which must be approved by the graduate faculty.) The specific courses selected should complement or enhance knowledge in the student’s anticipated area of research for the dissertation.

1 Throughout this document, “Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies Graduate Faculty” can be defined as the Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies core faculty.
Research Methods Requirement (“Research Tools”): The doctoral degree is granted in recognition of the ability to undertake independent and original research. Therefore, in addition to the other requirements for the degree, doctoral students are required to demonstrate competence in scholarly inquiry and the use of research methods related to their research interests in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies. At TWU, these research methods courses are known as “Research Tools;” each “research tool” consists of six credit hours of coursework, and all TWU doctoral students are required to complete two research tools. One of the two research tools, Transdisciplinary Research Methods in WGS, is included in the required core courses: Transdisciplinary Feminist Research Methods (WS 6303) and The Politics of Publications and Writing (WS 6403). The second research tool will vary, depending upon each student’s research and professional goals. Students will develop competence in another research concentration by selecting one of the following research options in consultation with the graduate faculty and to complement their areas of specialization (including their dissertation topic). Here are some possible options:

They will select courses from the remaining options for the second tool.

- Research Methods (qualitative and/or quantitative)
- Information Retrieval
- Pedagogy
- Foreign Language
- American Sign Language
- Rhetorical Criticism & Discourse Analysis

Many courses in other departments (at TWU and at UNT) can count for this research tool; work with your advisor to select courses that best meet your needs.
Curriculum Summary

**Required Core Courses** (18 hours)
- WS 5023 Foundations for Scholarly Inquiry in Women's & Gender Studies
- WS 5463 U.S. Women of Colors
- WS 5843 Feminist/Womanist Theories
- WS 6103 New Directions in Feminist/Womanist Theories  
  (Topic varies and may be repeated for credit)
- WS 6303 Transdisciplinary Feminist Research Methods
- WS 6403 The Politics of Publications and Writing

**Required Dissertation Hours** (12 Hours)
- WS 6983 Dissertation (6 credit hours)
- WS 6993 Dissertation (6 credit hours)

**MWGS Electives** (12 hours, selected from below)
- WS 5043, Art, Activism, and Social Justice
- WS 5093, Law, Gender, and Sexuality
- WS 5193, Rights, Race, and Social Justice
- WS 5253, Transgressive Identities: Queer Theories/Critical "Race" Theories
- WS 5263, Feminism and Religion
- WS 5283, Ecofeminist Theorizing, Spirituality, and Activism
- WS 5293, Gloria Anzaldúa Seminar: Theories, Politics, and Transformation
- WS 5353, Feminist/Womanist Pedagogies
- WS 5363, Feminist/Womanist Epistemologies
- WS 5373, Black Feminist Thought
- WS 5383, Women at Work: Race, Migration, and Labors
- WS 5773, Qualitative Research Methods
- WS 5853, Spiritual Activism: Social Justice Theories for Holistic Transformation
- WS 5863, The Politics of Writing
- WS 5903, Special Topics
- WS 5933, Internship in Women's Studies

**Transdisciplinary Concentration** (30 hours)
The specific courses will vary for each student.

**Research Tools (Methods)** 12 hours
Students select one of the following options in addition to the required courses in transdisciplinary Research Methods (WS 6303 and WS 6403):
- Research Methods (qualitative and/or quantitative)
- Information Retrieval
- Pedagogy
- Foreign Language
- American Sign Language
- Rhetorical Criticism & Discourse Analysis
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION: DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

For the student, the exam (by whatever name) is the bridge or transition between the coursework and dissertation-research stages, or, to put it differently, between knowledge-absorption and knowledge-creation. For faculty, the exam is a perch from which to scrutinize the student and the program. At the time of the qualifying exam one can look both forward and backward, asking "Did you learn what we tried to teach you?" and "Are you ready for what comes next?" At its best, the exam allows careful judgments about whether students have a sufficiently broad understanding of the field of which they will be a steward, and if they are prepared to drill deeply and become specialists.

George E. Walker et. al., The Formation of Scholars

The qualifying examination consists of a digital portfolio compiled during the student’s doctoral course work. The portfolio represents the student’s progress as an emerging scholar in the transdisciplinary field of WGS. Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies has elected to use the portfolio rather than traditional written exams because we believe that this approach gives students greater responsibility for their own assessment: The portfolio enables students to chart their progress through the program, self-reflect on their academic and intellectual development, and situate themselves within the transdisciplinary field of WGS. Studies indicate that, in addition to allowing students to become more accountable for their own development, the portfolio enables students to move more quickly through the doctoral degree.¹ For information on how the portfolio will be evaluated, please see the Portfolio Rubric, located in Appendix 3.

Students can (and should) begin developing their portfolio during their first year of doctoral work; generally, the portfolio must be submitted within nine months of completing course work (but it can be submitted earlier—at any point after the research tools have been completed). Students must be enrolled in at least one course (which could be an independent study) during the semester they submit their portfolio. While most of the portfolio must be completed without faculty feedback, students should seek feedback from their dissertation chairs on their Literature Review and Dissertation Proposal. Chairs can offer feedback on up to two drafts of the proposal; they will comment primarily on content (extent of research, topic argument and scope, method[s]) and writing style (noting errors of grammar, style, punctuation, etc.). As per TWU rules, students must be signed up for coursework or independent study in order to receive feedback. We also encourage students to seek feedback from their peers and from the Write Site. In some instances, we encourage students to consider hiring a reputable editor to assist with writing-related concerns. The portfolio is used to determine each student’s preparedness to move on to candidacy; if portions of the portfolio indicate that a student is not sufficiently prepared, the student will be expected to complete additional work (which could include revising portions of the portfolio). This additional work will be evaluated by the graduate faculty; it must demonstrate significant improvement, in order for the student remain in the program and advance to candidacy.

¹See for instance Cyr and Muth; Walker et. al.
Submission Deadline: There are two deadlines each fall and spring semester: Typically, these deadlines are: No later than 4 p.m. on the Monday of week three and week ten during the fall or spring semester. We encourage students to submit their portfolios by the first deadline in order to ensure that they advance to candidacy in a timely fashion and thus apply for dissertation fellowships (which often require that applicants have advanced to candidacy). Late portfolios will not be accepted; if you do not submit your portfolio by the 4 p.m. week ten deadline, you will need to submit it the following semester. Incomplete portfolios will not be accepted: If your essays do not meet the minimum word count specified and/or in other ways have not followed the directions, faculty will not read the portfolio, and you must re-submit for the next deadline.

Electronic Portfolio Format: The portfolio will be submitted online through Google Sites. (Through their TWU Gmail accounts, students have access to Google Apps for Education, which includes Google Sites.) You will find instructions for creating the digital portfolio on the doctoral program Blackboard site. The portfolio is structured according to the following sections and must include the materials listed below. As you develop your portfolio, you should look carefully at the Portfolio Rubric and prepare your materials in ways that effectively address the listed criteria.

1. Table of Contents
2. Current Curriculum Vitae
3. Degree Plan
4. Field Essay
   A 5600- to 8400- word essay exploring the field of Women’s & Gender Studies (WGS). The essay should indicate historical knowledge of the field, a thorough understanding of WGS as a transdisciplinary field, substantial knowledge of scholarship on the field. The essay should also articulate your views of the field and your aspirations for the field, including a brief discussion on how you hope to contribute to and possibly shape the field. You are not writing an autobiography but rather demonstrating your understanding of the field and reflecting on the ways you hope to engage with this field. (Students will draft a version of this essay as part of their coursework in WS 6203.)
5. Feminist/Womanist Theories Project

This project represents the portfolio’s most focused opportunity to demonstrate a deep familiarity with both classic and recent literature in womanist and feminist theories, and also with the theories’ epistemological implications. Drawing on extensive research in feminist/womanist theories, you will complete the following:

1. **Syllabus**: A thoughtful, detailed syllabus for a graduate-level feminist/womanist theories course. Think of this course as a required feminist/womanist theories course—not as a topic-focused course nor as a course that includes your personal favorite authors or projects; this course is required for graduate students pursuing an M.A., a graduate certificate, or a minor in WGS. It will be the only graduate-level theories course that some of the students who enroll in it will take, and it should introduce students to the range of feminist/womanist theories, giving them solid foundational knowledge. What are the texts/authors/theories that you would want to be sure graduate students are familiar with? What types of activities would you include to facilitate students’ learning of feminist/womanist theories?

2. **Essay**: A 4200- to 4600-word essay about feminist/womanist theories that demonstrates your understanding of feminist and womanist theories by summarizing, contextualizing, and explaining your syllabus. As part of this essay, you should explain the philosophical, pedagogical, and political reasons for your text selections and text omissions—keeping in mind the course context (described above). You should also carefully explain how you have structured the course. Please remember that the faculty uses this portion of the portfolio to assess your understanding of feminist/womanist theories.

6. Tentative Dissertation Proposal with Literature Review

A 7200 to 9000-word critical literature review and a preliminary discussion of the student's anticipated dissertation topic and research methods. (This word count includes references and notes.)

OPTIONAL Professional Development. This section is optional. Materials that can be included, if you choose:

- Statement of Teaching Philosophy
- Statement of Research
- Representative syllabi (no more than one for each course taught)
- Brief narrative (approximately 250 words describing the syllabi)
- Publications in peer-review journals
- Statement of research interests (approximately 500 words)
- Representative grant proposals
• Non-peer reviewed articles or reports
• Conference papers
• Descriptions of service-related work

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated by the Core Graduate Faculty in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies, according to the Portfolio Rubric. (See Appendix 3). Approximately two to three weeks after submitting their portfolio, students will receive a written evaluation and will meet with their dissertation director to discuss the next steps.

Admission to Candidacy: After successfully passing the Portfolio Qualifying Examination, students advance to candidacy and may sign up for dissertation hours in order to complete their prospectus and dissertation. Students may also identify themselves, in their signature line, as “Ph.D. Candidate, Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies.”
DISSERTATION

The denouement of the doctorate, the dissertation, is not only a piece of original research intended to set its writer apart from all who preceded her. It is also a celebration of the scores of scholars on whose shoulders any piece of individual scholarship rests. Even as the candidate writes the dissertation—the contribution to knowledge, the evidence of scholarly innovation and invention—the text is peppered with footnotes and references, citations and bibliographies, acknowledgments and attributions. Each of these bears witness to every scholar’s debt to her predecessors in scholarship. References and footnotes also acknowledge the work of contemporaries who live in the same professional and disciplinary community as the candidate, or in a closely neighboring field of study. George E. Walker et. al., *The Formation of Scholars*

The dissertation represents the culmination of students’ doctoral work. It is a formal, fully-researched project that develops and demonstrates the student’s ability to conduct a systematic inquiry into a well-defined research area of special interest and to effectively articulate this inquiry and its value. As a significant contribution to the field of Women’s & Gender Studies, the dissertation must present and defend a coherent argument, based on the critical analysis and interpretation of data or sources such as historical documents, literary texts, qualitative research, quantitative research, archival material, and/or philosophical writings. The dissertation might take a variety of forms, depending upon the student’s topic and career goals as well as the Graduate School Guidelines. (For instance, the dissertation can take the traditional five-chapter written format; be composed of an introduction, several inter-related articles, and a conclusion; include an online component; include multiple genres; etc.) Both the prospectus and the dissertation must follow specific guidelines established by the Graduate School; this work is carried out under the guidance of the dissertation committee chair and other members of the student’s dissertation committee. For additional information concerning our expectations for a successful dissertation, see the rubric in Appendix 4.

We recommend that students begin topic selection early in their doctoral program. Ideally, those students entering the program with a master’s degree will start formulating their research topic during their first year of course work so that they can select research tools and courses to enhance their dissertation research and writing. As students select their topic and develop their research, they should keep in mind that the dissertation is one project, not an entire lifework (Grady and Hoffman 2), although it might lead to future research and could result in publication and/or other forms of knowledge sharing. The Graduate School has prepared a *Guide to the Preparation and Processing of Dissertations, Theses, and Professional Papers*, which can be accessed on the Graduate School Website. Instructions in this *Guide* must be followed; in the case of discrepancies between the Graduate School’s *Guide* and the MWGS *Handbook*, the Graduate School’s rules and instructions take precedence. Prior to finalizing the dissertation format, students should meet with the Senior Graduate Services Analyst, who assists with formatting issues.
**Dissertation Chair and Graduate Committee:** Before the qualifying examination (the digital portfolio), students choose an appropriate dissertation committee chair or co-chairs, also known as the dissertation advisor(s). The chair must be a member of the MWGS core faculty, unless circumstances warrant a co-chair from another department. The dissertation chair guides the student in selecting at least two other committee members, developing a degree plan if one has not already been developed, and completing the dissertation. The dissertation committee will consist of a minimum of three TWU faculty members. It is possible to also include a fourth member from outside the university. This member must be selected in consultation with the dissertation chair and approved by the Graduate School. Typically, the student works most closely with their dissertation chair, submitting prospectus and chapter drafts for feedback. The dissertation committee members interact with the dissertation manuscript at two points, reading and commenting on (1) a completed, polished version of the prospectus and (2) the dissertation. (Based on the dissertation topic and faculty expertise, there can be exceptions.) Students should allow approximately two weeks, to receive feedback on chapter drafts from their dissertation chair and committee members.

**Prospectus & Oral Exam:** Prior to beginning work on the dissertation, students will complete and have approved by their committee a formal prospectus. Typically, this prospectus will be a revised version of the Preliminary Dissertation Proposal and Literature Review, submitted as part of the portfolio during the qualifying examinations. The dissertation prospectus offers students an opportunity to summarize their ideas, position themselves in dialogue with the existing scholarship on the topic, determine the research method(s) to be used, and formulate an early version of the primary argument(s) they anticipate making. In addition to carefully articulating the problem or question to be examined and the key argument(s), the prospectus should indicate how the proposed dissertation will contribute to the field of WGS (and possibly to other academic fields as well). These contributions can occur in several ways, including (but not limited to) the following:

1. Expanding on existing research by focusing on overlooked information, theories, or other types of perspectives.
2. Developing a new area of research on an existing topic or area.
3. Demonstrating the limitations in a current line of research and proposing possible directions for revision.
4. Bringing several perspectives into dialogue synergistically and applying this synergistic perspective to a social issue and/or scholarly argument.

The prospectus should include the following: Tentative title; introduction; statement of purpose or central argument(s); review of related literature; discussion of research method(s) and why they are most appropriate for the dissertation; tentative chapter organization; tentative timeline for completing the dissertation; conclusion; references. The student will work with the dissertation chair to revise the prospectus as necessary before distributing it to the dissertation committee. The prospectus does not need to be lengthy.
**Oral Exam:** Approximately two to three weeks after the prospectus has been submitted, the student will participate in a one- to two-hour oral discussion over the prospectus and plans for the dissertation with their dissertation committee members.

**Dissertation Hours:** Twelve hours of dissertation work are included in the 72 hours required for the doctoral degree. While working on the prospectus, students will enroll in three credit hours (per semester) of WS 6983 under the direction of the Chair of their Graduate Committee and will receive a “PR” (in process) until the prospectus is completed, approved by the dissertation committee, and submitted to the Graduate School. Students will receive a CR (credit received) for six hours of WS 6983 at the end of the semester that their dissertation committee has signed off on the prospectus. After submitting the prospectus, students enroll in WS 6993 (Dissertation) for three credit hours per semester. They must enroll in WS 6993 each semester during which they consult with their advisor about the project. Until the dissertation is completed, defended, and approved by the Graduate School, the grade of PR is assigned to indicate progress on a dissertation. Students then receive “CR” for six hours of WS 6993. As per University rules, only an officially registered student may hold conferences with faculty concerning the preparation of a dissertation. This rule applies both to the student in residence and to the student not in residence who is receiving aid or criticism through conferences or correspondence. This rule does not apply to preliminary conferences held before the dissertation subject has been selected. Registration for dissertation in one term is good for that term only and does not extend to the next term. Students may submit material to the IRB during a semester when not registered for dissertation hours; however, they may not consult with their dissertation chair about IRB feedback if not registered for dissertation hours.

*Please note:* Students accepting Federal Financial Aid may only take WS 6983 and WS 6993 twice (according to rules not written by those who actually supervise dissertations). Therefore, when repeating 6983 or 6993 for the third or more times, students will need to send verification to the Financial Aid Office signed by their research advisor that they are making progress toward completion. The form is available under “Forms” on the Graduate School homepage.

**Final Examination & Formal Presentation:** In accordance with TWU Graduate School policy, Ph.D. students are required to pass a final oral defense of their dissertation given by their dissertation committee. When the committee has approved the candidate’s dissertation and all other requirements for the degree have been met, the student meets for a final examination with the committee. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the committee members and arrange a suitable time for the defense. The final examination is oral and includes a formal presentation (fifteen to twenty minutes) and a discussion of the dissertation and the research on which it is based. Formal notice of satisfactory completion of the final examination must be filed in the Graduate School by the date specified for each session in the Graduate School’s “Calendar of Deadlines.” In final form, the dissertation must be approved by the student’s committee, the Chair of the Department, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

Once defended and approved by the dissertation committee, the student should submit the certification that the final examination has been passed along with the finalized dissertation,
abstract, and signature page to the department Chair for approval.

To submit a dissertation to the Graduate School, follow the Graduate School’s guidelines. See the Graduate Catalog and the *Guide to the Preparation and Processing of Dissertations, Theses, and Professional Papers* for information. It is the student’s responsibility to adhere to all Graduate School specifications for formatting and submitting the dissertation. Early in the dissertation process, students should contact the Senior Graduate Services Analyst in the Graduate School. This individual can assist dissertators in formatting the dissertation accurately, and you should make an appointment with him/her to review your dissertation.

The dissertation is carefully read by the **Graduate Reader**, who approves the final document for grammatical, spelling, citations, and other writing and documentation errors. Dissertations that have not been properly formatted, edited, and/or proofread will be returned to the student for correction. (In a worst case scenario, this process can delay graduation.) We strongly encourage students to hire a professional editor to assist with proofreading, documentation, style, etc.

**Final Semester Responsibilities and Deadlines:** Prior to the semester of expected graduation, the student should consult the Calendar of Deadlines distributed by the Graduate School. *It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and to meet all deadlines listed there.* Individual packets containing the Calendar of Deadlines and the necessary forms to be completed by graduating students are available in the Graduate School.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Obtaining the doctorate in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies (or any other academic field) requires more than taking coursework, completing a qualifying exam, writing and revising a dissertation, and completing the final oral examination. It also requires becoming conversant with the academic scholarly community and developing the professional skills that will enable students to succeed in their professional lives. In this section, we describe Ph.D. program requirements and recommendations designed to assist students in developing their professional identities.

**Annual Review, Pre-Candidacy:** Studies show that an annual review facilitates doctoral students’ timely completion of their course of study and assists with professionalization. Therefore, each year students are required to submit an Annual Progress Report, which includes an updated CV. This report will be due on or near April 1; the specific date will be announced via email. An electronic copy of the Review should be submitted to the Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies Office. The Annual Progress Report will be evaluated by the MWGS Graduate Faculty, who will make recommendations to the doctoral program director, who will prepare a letter for each student. In the semester that they submit their portfolio, students do not need to turn in an Annual Progress Report. (See Appendix 5.)

**Annual Review, Ph.D. Candidates:** Students who have advanced to candidacy will submit a
modified annual review to their dissertation chair(s). This review will include: (1) a current CV; (2) a brief summary (250 words or less) of the current state of the dissertation.

**Mentoring:** Mentoring is an important part of the doctoral experience, and we encourage students to develop several mentoring relationships during their doctoral years. Mentoring in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies is based on reciprocity and respect. Mentoring takes multiple forms, including advising mentors, teaching mentors, research mentors, and peer mentors. We encourage you to develop intellectual communities and support groups. (For suggestions on how to develop a peer writing group, see Page-Adams et al, “Establishing a Group to Encourage Writing for Publication among Doctoral Students.”)

**Intellectual Growth:** While the classroom is an important site for intellectual development, it is not, on its own, sufficient. Students should expand their knowledge of WGS and related disciplines by attending conferences, guest lectures, and job talks; joining academic listservs and professional organizations; and reading extensively beyond their coursework.

**Service:** Committee work can be an important part of academic life. There are many opportunities for service on MWGS and university committees, as well as opportunities to advise student groups and mentor other students. Please let the doctoral program director know of your interest.

**Self-Care:** The intensity of doctoral work can be challenging for students. Please be sure to take time for your emotional, spiritual, and physical health. Exercise. Drink plenty of water. Spend time with family and friends.

**Recommended Timetable for Professional Academic Development:**

1 The following timetable represents one possibility, among others, for some of the activities you might want to become involved in as you enhance your scholarly identity. These recommendations are based on our experience and research in the field; they are, however, only suggestions and should be taken contextually. Use your own best judgment. We welcome your recommendations!

**Year One**

- Join the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) and/or a professional organization relevant to your (inter)disciplinary concentration
- Subscribe to WMST-L (the Women’s Studies Listserv; subscription information can be found under “ELECTRONIC RESOURCES,” below.)
- Begin to think about career options
- Begin reading *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and InsideHigherEd.com
- Begin reading relevant WGS journals (*Feminist Formations, Frontiers*, etc.)

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1 These recommendations were influenced by Walker et. al. *Formation of Scholars,* and the University of Kansas Department of History “Professionalization Grid: Extracurricular Activities.”

2 Many of these activities, like membership in a professional organization and reading the literature, should be sustained throughout your graduate work (and beyond).
● Participate in the MWGS graduate student organization
● Begin attending lectures, seminars, workshops, job talks at TWU
● Attend an academic conference
● Read key texts in womanist/feminist theories
● Read key texts in your additional field(s)
● Begin to acquire a library of important books in your field(s)
● Join or initiate a peer-support group
● Update your C.V.
● Become acquainted with TWU affiliated faculty and work to establish working relationships with them, as appropriate. S*)
● Join a MWGS committee
● Begin thinking about your dissertation topic
● Participate in the TWU Student Creative Arts & Research Symposium (held in April of each year)

**Year Two (or Three, if entering the doctoral program directly from the bachelor's degree)**

● Select a dissertation topic (if you have not already done so)
● Complete the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training
● Join an additional professional association
● Contribute significantly to a graduate student organization
● Network with established scholars and graduate students in your area
● Advise a student group and/or participate on a university-wide committee
● Deliver a guest lecture in a course
● Mentor undergraduate or first-year graduate students
● Participate in the TWU Student Creative Arts & Research Symposium (held in April of each year)

**Year Three (or Four, if entering the doctoral program directly from the bachelor's degree)**

● Apply for external dissertation research grants
● Join a dissertation writing support/discussion group
● Look at job ads in your academic and/or nonacademic fields
● Present a paper at a regional or national conference
● Begin to develop your teaching profile--a variety of courses and classroom settings
● Submit a research article to a refereed journal (if you have not done so already)
● Begin developing a list of future research projects

**Year Four (or Five, if entering the doctoral program directly from the bachelor's degree)**

● Give a presentation to a public audience
● Read job ads closely
● Solicit letters of recommendation for professional positions
● Submit another research article to a refereed journal
● Publish a book review, encyclopedia article, abstract, or translation
● Present a paper at a national academic conference
• Prepare job application materials: cover letter, teaching portfolio, dissertation abstract, revised C.V.
• Apply for jobs and for post-doctoral fellowships
• Practice mock interviews
• Continue to network with established scholars and fellow students
• Present another paper at a major conference
• Begin developing a list of future research projects
• Mentor more junior graduate students
• Take a position on a dept. or university committee
• Acquire a professional wardrobe
The doctorate is both transformation and impediment; it preserves what is enduring, but can also paralyze—barring categories and freezing traditions into empty rituals.

George E. Walker et. al., The Formation of Scholars

This section contains information about various policies designed to assist students in successful completion of their degree. These policies are subject to change; students should consult the most recent version of the Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies Doctoral Graduate Handbook and the Graduate School webpage.

Advisor: On entering the Ph.D. program, students are advised by the Ph.D. advisor, who assists them in formulating an initial program of study and guides them during the first year or two. Until selecting a dissertation committee chair, students must contact their advisor before registering each semester. After selecting a dissertation committee chair, students should contact the chair before registering. (The dissertation chair must be a member of the MWGS core faculty.)

Grade Requirements: No course with a grade below B is accepted toward a doctoral degree at Texas Woman’s University. The doctoral student is expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0. When a student’s cumulative grade point average on graduate-level work falls below 3.0 during any one semester or full summer session of ten weeks, or when a student receives a grade of D, F, or WF, the student is placed on academic probation and notified of this status. Earning a grade of D, F, WF, or failure to restore the cumulative average to B (3.0) or above during the next enrollment results in dismissal from the Graduate School. The grade record at TWU cannot be improved by attendance at another university. Students who have been suspended may reapply to the TWU Graduate School when 10 years have elapsed after the suspension. If a doctoral student earns grades below B in program courses, continuation in the degree program is reviewed by the student’s advisory committee. A student is not allowed to continue in the doctoral program if there are two failing grades (F or WF) in the doctoral program.

Course Load: Until students advance to candidacy, a full-time load is considered 9 credit hours per long semester; a full-time load for those with a full graduate assistantship is considered 6 credit hours. To complete their degree in a timely fashion, students should consider taking 9 credit hours per semester if possible; however, we understand that it can sometimes (or often) be optimal for students to take 6 credit hours in some semesters. Although students are allowed to take 12 credit hours per long semester, we do not recommend it. In no case should students take more than 12 credit hours per long semester or 6 hours per summer term unless permission is granted by the Director of Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies and the Dean of the Graduate School. All students are expected to maintain at least a “B” average. All courses in the program must be graduate-level (numbered 5000 or higher).

Transfer Credits: Transfer credits are determined on an individual basis using guidelines in the TWU Graduate Catalog and a careful review of the student’s transcripts. Courses taken through
the Federation of North Texas Area Universities are not considered to be transfer credits; nor are those courses that the student brought with them, as part of the master’s degree.

**Graduate Courses at the University of North Texas:** In consultation with their advisor, students may register for appropriate graduate courses (5000-level or above) at the University of North Texas through the Federation of North Texas Area Universities. Information on how to register can be found on this page: https://www.twu.edu/federation/

**Degree Plan:** The Degree Plan is an internal document that TWU requires of all graduate students for the University’s auditing purposes. Students should fill out and complete the Degree Plan in consultation with their advisor and submit it prior to advancement to candidacy. Ideally, students will complete the Degree Plan no later than the spring of their second year. For instructions on how to complete the Degree Plan, please see our Canvas site where you’ll find a sample degree plan and useful instructions to assist you as you complete your Degree Plan.

**Student Rights & Responsibilities:** If any student wishes to discuss their courses, including classroom environments or other students’ behaviors, they should make an appointment to speak with the faculty member who is teaching the specific course prior to speaking with the program director. If they talk with the faculty member and are not satisfied with the response, they may speak with the program director. MWGS faculty members will not read or listen to anonymous allegations against another student. All students are encouraged to review the TWU Student Handbook, available in the Student Life Office on paper or online here: http://www.twu.edu/student-life-office/student-handbook.asp. This handbook contains information about TWU’s policies and procedures related to student rights and responsibilities.

**Code Three (Reduced Tuition):** Under provisions of the Texas Higher Education Code Section 54.051(e), *Texas Residents* (or an Academic Common Market Student) are eligible for a one-time reduced tuition rate when enrolling for professional paper, thesis, or dissertation only, provided that those hours are the final credits required for the degree. When you are ready to enroll for what you believe will be your final enrollment of dissertation hours, complete the appropriate form (found on the Graduate School Website), have your dissertation chair sign it, and submit it to the Graduate School by their deadline.

**8-Year Rule:** All requirements toward a doctoral degree, not counting the completed master’s degree, must be completed within a period of eight consecutive calendar years from the date doctoral credit is first earned. (This rule went into effect Fall 2018.)

**99-Credit Hour Rule:** The Texas Legislature has amended the state’s Education Code to limit funding of doctoral credits for any student at any institution to 99 hours. TWU doctoral students are charged at the out-of-state tuition rate for any doctoral work in excess of 99 semester hours. All semester hours listed as I, NG, PR, W, WF, and X on the transcript are included in the total doctoral hours.
LIBRARY RESOURCES

Texas Woman’s University Woman’s Collection: The Woman’s Collection in the Blagg-Huey Library includes materials for research about women and women’s issues in the U.S. It contains over 42,000 books, 100 current periodical subscriptions, 3000 cubic feet of manuscript collections, 19,000 photographs, major women’s manuscript and book collections and periodicals on microform, and a women’s periodical collection. The Woman's Collection manages the TWU Archives, a small rare book Texana Collection, and an extensive Cookbook Collection. It also sponsors and co-sponsors exhibits and lectures throughout the year. See the TWU library brochure for more information and stop by the Woman’s Collection office for a tour (Blagg-Huey Library, Level II, Room 203).

University Libraries: Students have access to the Blagg-Huey library collections, as well as the Dallas Parkland and Presbyterian sites and The Texas Medical Library at the Houston Center. also have checking privileges at each member library of the statewide TexShare Program. Instant telecommunication and daily courier service are used to locate and deliver journal articles, books, and films throughout Texas libraries. TWU’s libraries are also connected with major academic and research libraries throughout the world for interlibrary borrowing and lending.

InterLibrary Loan: is designed to help you acquire research materials unavailable in the TWU libraries. Requests can be made online.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Canvas: Canvas is a software program used by TWU to enhance traditional courses and to offer online instruction. MWGS has a site on Canvas that can be used for graduate students in the Program to communicate electronically with each other by posting messages and sending emails.

Please update your email address in Canvas to reflect the email address where you check messages. To change your email address, click on the “Personal Information” link under “Tools” on the left side of the Blackboard screen.

WMST-L: During their first year of study, doctoral students in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies should join WMST-L, an international electronic forum (listserv) for researchers and teachers in Women’s and Gender Studies. WMST-L publishes announcements about conferences, jobs, and publications. It also provides a forum for exchanging information about the academic field of Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies. WMST-L has over four thousand subscribers in forty-seven countries. Anyone with computer access can subscribe to WMST-L, which is free. To subscribe, send the following command via e-mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UMD.EDU:

Subscribe WMST-L Your Name
For example, Subscribe WMST-L Jane Smith
You will receive a message back asking you to confirm your subscription. You should REPLY to the message and type the word OK in the body of your message.

Once you have subscribed, you will receive daily electronic mail sent to all subscribers to WMST-L. You may also send messages to other subscribers.

For more information about WMST-L, including how to receive a daily digest version for those who prefer to receive fewer individual messages, see http://www.umbc.edu/wmst/wmst-L_index.html.

FINANCIAL AID

University Scholarships: There are numerous University Scholarships available at TWU. For application information please contact the Office of Financial Aid (http://www.twu.edu/finaid). Additional information is available on the web and in the Graduate Catalog.

The American Association of University Women: AAUW offers many fellowships and grants, as well as links to other opportunities. Additional information can be found on their web site (http://www.aauw.org).

National Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies Association Awards and Scholarships: The NWSA offers several awards and scholarships, including a travel funds to offset travel to the annual conference, a Graduate Scholarship Award, a Graduate Scholarship in Lesbian Studies, a scholarship in Jewish Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies, and Women of Color Caucus Awards. For guidelines and application forms, see http://www.nwsa.org.

Tuition and Fees: A detailed list of tuition and fees can be found in the Graduate Catalog and on the TWU Bursar’s Web site. Non-resident or international students receiving competitive scholarships awarded by Texas Woman’s University in the amount of $1,000 or more may pay the in-state tuition rate. Non-residents who hold at least half-time (.5) appointments as graduate assistants may also pay the in-state tuition if they meet the requirements stated in the Graduate Catalog. To qualify for in-state tuition rates, a special form needs to be completed and submitted for approval; this form will be initiated by the Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies Program. If students have financial aid and/or scholarships, they should be aware of any stipulations and details or rules.

Graduate Assistantships: Full-time doctoral students in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies will be eligible for graduate assistantships in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies; assistantships may be renewed for five years; renewals are based on prior performance, program needs, and available funds. Additional positions may be available in other programs and departments at TWU. For more information regarding position descriptions and remuneration, please see the Graduate School Web site.

Academic Common Market: Fourteen southern states participate in the Academic Common Market, allowing qualified non-resident students to enroll at in-state tuition rates in graduate programs that are not available in their home states. More information on these programs can be found in the Graduate Catalog.
Grants and Loans: Please contact the Office of Financial Aid (940) 898-3050 for information on state and federal grants and loans. Additional information can also be found in the Graduate Catalog and the Financial Aid web site (http://www.twu.edu/finaid).

Professional Development Travel Assistance Funds: Funds are available each year on a competitive basis to assist students traveling to conferences to present research.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Office of Student Life: (http://www.twu.edu/student-life/) provides information on all aspects of student life at Texas Woman’s University. Their Web site contains links to the following:

University Housing: http://www.twu.edu/housing/

The Center for Student Development: They have information concerning community service opportunities, commuter services, Greek life, leadership programs, the United Students Association, student organizations at TWU, and a calendar of events.

TWU Counseling Center: the campus agency designated to provide psychological services to students. They offer individual counseling, group counseling, career counseling, crisis counseling, couples counseling, workshops and training seminars, and self-help materials. Counseling services are free to students. For more information, see http://www.twu.edu/counseling/.

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Outreach: sponsors diversity education programs and cultural activities. The office administers the C.O.L.O.R.S, Mentor and Advisor Program for incoming freshmen/transfer students, OIS Resources, and student organizations. For more information, see http://www.twu.edu/diversity-inclusion-outreach/.

Student Health Services: provides basic health services to TWU students. For more information, see http://www.twu.edu/student-health-services/.

TWU Fitness and Recreation: Includes the Jones Hall Fitness Center and the Pioneer Hall Fitness Center. With a current id, students have access to an indoor pool, indoor track, two weight room facilities, and the following services: massage therapy, nutrition counseling, personal training, campus recreation, swimming, and fitness classes. For more information see: http://www.twu.edu/fitandrec/.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Denton and the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex -- Denton is located approximately 35 miles north of the Metroplex and provides easy access to all that it has to offer. The following sites may be useful in getting around both Denton and the Metroplex. They include information about employment, local schools, apartment and housing locators, entertainment, dining, utilities, health professionals, and many other useful links.
The most complete Web site about living in Denton. http://www.cityofdenton.com

www.star-telegram.com    The Fort Worth Star Telegram  www.dallasnews.com
The Dallas Morning News

www.dentonrc.com    The Denton Record-Chronicle

Apartment Complexes/Apartment Locators: Denton has more than 150 apartment complexes. The University of North Texas and Texas Woman’s University produce an apartment guide to Denton that can be obtained at TWU outside the Student Union. There are also apartment guides for Dallas and Fort Worth that can be viewed on the Internet. The commute from Lewisville to TWU is about 25 minutes. The commute from Dallas or Fort Worth is approximately 60 minutes (depending on traffic).

Student Organizations: Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies students are active in a variety of organizations, both on campus and in the community. More information, see www.twu.edu/student-organizations/.
Appendix 1: Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies Affiliate Faculty Members

The following faculty members, who contribute to Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies through their research, teaching, and/or service, are available to assist graduate students in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies:

Dr. Gina Anderson, Teacher Education
Dr. William R. Benner, English, Speech, and Foreign Languages
Dr. Linda Brock, Family Sciences
Dr. Gretchen Busl, English, Speech, and Foreign Languages
Dr. Patrick Bynane, Drama
Dr. Rosemary Candelario, Dance
Dr. Sandra Cesario, College of Nursing
Dr. Kathy DeOrnellas, School Psychology Specialist Program
Dr. Brian Fehler, English, Speech, and Foreign Languages
Dr. Rebecca R. Fredrickson, Teacher Education
Dr. Jessica Gullion, Sociology and Social Work
Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Sociology and Social Work, Provost
Dr. Dundee Lackey, English, Speech, and Foreign Languages
Dr. Katherine Landdeck, History and Government
Dr. Debra Mollen, Psychology & Philosophy
Dr. Kimberly Parker, Health Studies
Dr. Barbara Presnall, History and Government
Dr. Linda Rubin, Psychology and Philosophy
Dr. Mahmoud Sadri, Sociology and Social Work
Dr. Sally Stabb, Psychology and Philosophy
Dr. Abigail Tilton, Social Work, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Genevieve West, English, Speech, and Foreign Languages
Dr. Jim Williams, Sociology
Dr. Philip Yang, Sociology
Appendix 2: Core Course Descriptions

**WS 5023, Foundations for Scholarly Inquiry in Women's & Gender Studies:** Historical origins and development of Women's and Gender Studies within higher education, including critiques and contributions by women of color; relationships between theorizing and activism; the challenges of multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinarity; and emerging issues. Emphasis on development of research, writing, and communication skills. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

**WS 5463, U.S. Women of Colors:** Histories, theories, cultures, consciousness, and lives of U.S. women of colors from a variety of perspectives; issues related to conflict, agency, survival, resistance, intervention, and transformation. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Three seminar hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

**WS 5843, Feminist/Womanist Theories:** Exploration of feminist/womanist critical inquiry, focusing on particular theoretical issues, historical writings, and/or disciplinary contexts within the diverse body of scholarship of feminist/womanist theories. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Three seminar hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

**WS 6103, New Directions in Feminist/Womanist Theories:** Recent controversies, significant research questions, and new directions in feminist/womanist theorizing. Investigation of recent interventions in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies and feminist/womanist theories and theorizing. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours. (May be repeated for credit when content varies.)

**WS 6303, Transdisciplinary Feminist Research Methods:** Relational exploration of feminist, womanist, and multicultural research methods from a variety of disciplines including those in the social sciences and humanities, focusing especially on Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies’ impact on research methods in a variety of academic disciplines. Overview of research tools and techniques, including qualitative, quantitative, historical, and literary research methods. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

**WS 6403, The Politics of Publications and Writing:** Issues related to academic writing and publishing, especially focusing on the fields of Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies and multicultural-feminist scholarship. Submission of at least one article to a peer-review journal and one abstract for a conference presentation. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

**WS 6911, Individual Study:** Individual study of topics in womanist/feminist theory, scholarship, or student's interests and needs. Credit: One hour. (May be repeated for credit when topic varies.)

**WS 6912, Individual Study:** Individual study of topics in womanist/feminist theory, scholarship, or student's interests and needs. Credit: Two hours. (May be repeated for credit when topic varies.)

**WS 6983, Dissertation:** Prerequisite: Successful completion of qualify examinations. Credit: Three hours. Must be repeated once for a total of six hours. May be repeated for additional credit.

**WS 6993, Dissertation:** Credit: Three hours. Must be repeated once for additional credit.
## Appendix 3: Rubric for Portfolio

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<th>Outstanding (7-6)</th>
<th>Very Good (5-4)</th>
<th>Acceptable (3-2)</th>
<th>Poor (1-0)</th>
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<td>Displays appropriate experience in all areas (education, work history, professional associations/activities, service)</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a thoughtful, comprehensive understanding of Multicultural Women’s &amp; Gender Studies as an academic field</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Demonstrates a complex awareness of Multicultural Women’s &amp; Gender Studies’ transdisciplinary contributions to knowledge formation and pedagogy</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Offers a thoughtful, holistic self-presentation of her/his relationship to the field</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 Theory and Theorizing</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrates a deep understanding of feminist/womanist theory</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connects theory with social-justice practice</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is well understood and effectively communicated</td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrates awareness of transdisciplinary implications</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shows comprehension of strengths and limitations</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<td>Is well understood and effectively communicated</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Table cells" /></td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3 Literature Review
- Makes clear the research topic
- Is comprehensive and up-to-date
- Shows a command of the literature
- Contextualizes the problem
- Includes a discussion of the literature that is selective, synthetic, analytical, and thematic

4 Writing Skills
- Appropriate tone
- Precise and rich language
- Careful and logical organization
- No errors in grammar or format

Student’s Name: _________________________  Reviewer’s Name: _____________  Date: _____________

This rubric benefitted from Barbara Lovitts’ “How to Grade a Dissertation”
### Appendix 4: Rubric for Dissertation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Outstanding (7-6)</th>
<th>Very Good (5-4)</th>
<th>Acceptable (3-2)</th>
<th>Poor (1-0)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Includes a problem statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Makes clear the research question to be addressed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Describes the motivation for the study</td>
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<td>• Describes the context in which the question arises</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Summarizes the dissertation’s findings/interpretations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Discusses the importance of findings/interpretations for the field</td>
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<tr>
<td>• For social-justice work</td>
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<td>• Provides effective overview for readers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 Literature Review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Is thorough and up to date</td>
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<td>• Shows a command of the literature</td>
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<td>• Contextualizes the problem</td>
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<td>• Includes a discussion of the literature that is synthetic, analytical,</td>
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<tr>
<td>and thematic</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Demonstrates dissertation’s contribution to existing scholarship</td>
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<td><strong>3 Theory/Approach: The theory/approach applied and/or developed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Is appropriate to address questions posed</td>
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<td>• Is clearly articulated and demonstrates solid understanding</td>
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<td>• Is transdisciplinary (draws on and integrates theories, frameworks,</td>
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<tr>
<td>approaches from multiple disciplines)</td>
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<td>• Is discussed with an awareness of limitations and strengths</td>
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<td><strong>4 Methods: The methods applied or developed are:</strong></td>
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<td>• Articulated clearly</td>
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<td>• Described &amp; justified in detail, including discussion made</td>
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<td>regarding methods of research</td>
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<td>• Suitable for question addressed and the theory/approach used.</td>
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<td>o Discussed in context of both advantages and disadvantages of choices</td>
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<td>o Discussed in context of both advantages and disadvantages of choices</td>
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<td>o Discussed in context of challenges confronted and how</td>
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<td>such challenges were met</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Results or Analysis</td>
<td>Outstanding (7-6)</td>
<td>Very Good (5-4)</td>
<td>Acceptable (3-2)</td>
<td>Poor (1-0)</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>The analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Relies on relevant evidence that is interpreted appropriately</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Aligns with the question and addresses the theory employed</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Shows depth in interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Amount &amp; quality of data/information/textual materials is sufficient, well-presented, intelligently interpreted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clearly expresses insights gained from the study</td>
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<tr>
<th>6 Discussion or Conclusion</th>
<th>Outstanding (7-6)</th>
<th>Very Good (5-4)</th>
<th>Acceptable (3-2)</th>
<th>Poor (1-0)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Summarizes the findings/interpretations with insight, creativity, and depth</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provides perspective on findings/interpretations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Refers back to the introduction to address context and general questions posed with findings/interpretations of study</td>
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<td>• Ties everything together, including social-justice implications</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Discusses the study’s strengths and weaknesses</td>
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<td>• Discusses implications and applications for WGS and other disciplines</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Discusses future directions for research</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 Writing Skills</th>
<th>Outstanding (7-6)</th>
<th>Very Good (5-4)</th>
<th>Acceptable (3-2)</th>
<th>Poor (1-0)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Appropriate tone</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Precise and rich language</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Appropriate syntax, structure, and language</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Careful and logical organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No errors in grammar or format</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No typos</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Student's Name: ___________________________   Reviewer's Name: ___________________________   Date: ____________

Comments: This rubric was adapted from Barbara Lovitts’ “How to Grade a Dissertation.” Revised December 2013.
Appendix 5: Annual Progress Report

(For Students Entering the Program Fall 2021 & Later)
MWGS; Texas Woman’s University

We’re committed to your success and want to be sure that you are making effective progress each year. This annual review offers an opportunity for self-reflection and additional mentoring. Please fill out the form and email it, along with your updated CV/resume), to Ms. Jillian Morales (jmorales1@twu.edu) by the announced due date. (April 1, 2022, 4 pm)

Date Submitted: ________________________________

NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________

Phone: _________________________________________
Email: _________________________________________

ACADEMIC PLAN & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

| Major Professional Goals Upon Program Completion: |
| Transdisciplinary Concentration: |
| Research Tools Option: |
| Dissertation Chair (if selected): |
| Tentative Dissertation Topic/Area of Study: |
| Year Entered the Phd Program: | Expected Graduating Year: |
## CORE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE COURSES</th>
<th>Year &amp; Semester</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WS 5023, Foundations for Scholarly Inquiry in Women's &amp; Gender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR: Comparable course:</td>
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<td>WS 5463, US Women of Colors</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR: Comparable course:</td>
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<tr>
<td>WS 5463, US Women of Colors</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR: Comparable course:</td>
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<tr>
<td>WS 6103, New Directions in Feminist/Womanist Theories</td>
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<td>WS 6303, Transdisciplinary Feminist Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparable course:</td>
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<tr>
<td>WS 6403, The Politics of Publications and Writing</td>
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</table>

## MWGS ELECTIVE COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MWGS ELECTIVE COURSES</th>
<th>Year &amp; Semester</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</table>
RESEARCH TOOLS
(Each “tool” is composed of two courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool Description</th>
<th>Year &amp; Semester</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WS 6303, Transdisciplinary Feminist Research Methods OR Comparable course:</td>
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<tr>
<td>WS 6403, The Politics of Publications and Writing</td>
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</table>

PROGRAM BENCHMARKS
Please indicate your target dates for completion of the program milestones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Milestone</th>
<th>Target Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coursework Completed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Examinations (Portfolio) Submitted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Prospectus Complete</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Research and Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation/ “Defense”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (NOTE: The following items will vary depending upon your aspirations.)

PROFESSIONAL GOALS: Explain in 2-3 sentence your post-graduation goals.

MEMBERSHIP. Please list the professional and/or community organizations you belong to and indicate when you joined. If you haven’t yet joined any organizations, please list two to five that overlap with your interests and what you wish to pursue after completing this degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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</table>
**SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE.** Indicate any scholarships, awards, or other honors, presentations (academic or community), or published papers during this school year. If you haven’t yet had the opportunity to share your research/scholarship, please list two to five forums (conferences, community events, publications, etc.) that overlap with your interests and which you might engage with after completing this degree. You could also include grants or fellowships that you’d like to apply for in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MWGS, University, Professional, and/or Community Service Work You Performed</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Your Role</th>
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</table>

**SERVICE.** Indicate any program, department, university, professional organization, and/or community service work you’ve performed this school year. Indicate the dates of duration and your role. If you haven’t had the opportunity to serve in a “professional” capacity, please list two to five venues (university, professional organization, etc.) that overlap with your interests and which you might pursue after completing this degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MWGS, University, Professional, and/or Community Service Work You Performed</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Your Role</th>
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Appendix 6: Letters of Recommendation

Faculty in Multicultural Women’s & Gender Studies are pleased to provide letters of recommendation for students seeking employment, fellowships, etc. Students will use Interfolio, a highly respected third party dossier and portfolio service, to collect and distribute their letters of recommendation. Interfolio gives students more control over their application process, enabling them to:

• Collect and deliver a wide variety of professional documents
• Ensure that documents arrive prior to deadlines
• Request and store confidential letters of recommendation for future use
• Deliver materials to any destination, online or through the mail
• Customize the documents in each delivery
• Send out last-minute applications without asking for new letters of recommendation
• Track delivery progress

For information on how to set up an account, see interfolio.com.

Here are some suggestions for you, as you prepare your letters of recommendation:

• In order to help that your letters of recommendation are completed by the deadlines, you should contact your recommender at least four weeks prior to the date when you expect them to submit their letter.

• When you contact potential recommenders to ask them to write letters on your behalf, ask them whether they feel they know you well enough and are able to write a supportive letter of recommendation for you. If you sense hesitation, you may wish to consider asking another professor. It would be expected for you to request a letter from your dissertation director(s).

• It is recommended that you waive your right to see the letter, since such letters are usually considered to have more credibility.

You should provide the following information to your recommenders, so that they can write detailed and supportive letters:

• A reminder of the contact you have had with the recommender. Give the recommender a list of the courses you may have taken with them as well as the grades you received in the courses.

• Any specific items which you hope your recommender will mention. (For instance, if your recommender served as your faculty mentor, observed your teaching, praised a particular course paper, etc.)

• Your application letter and any accompanying materials.

• Your resume or curriculum vitae, listing your educational background, honors and awards, and work experience.

• Your graduate transcript.

Here are some additional tips for requesting letters of recommendation:

• [http://www.csulb.edu/~psy301/lettersrec.html](http://www.csulb.edu/~psy301/lettersrec.html)
References
Lovitts, Barbara E. “How to Grade a Dissertation.” Academe 91.6 (2005): 18-23.