Program Highlights

The HSX program is only the second accredited PhD program of its kind in the United States. Comprehensive coursework in critical sexuality studies prepares students with the knowledge necessary to succeed in this expanding field. Students are encouraged to blend their professional interests with their unique positionality to produce knowledge grounded in experience and backed by careful scholarship. We aim to develop future leaders in critical sexuality studies by preparing students in research, theory, methodology, advocacy, and applied practice—this is interdisciplinary training toward transdisciplinary, solution-based problem solving on issues of sexuality.

Admissions

415.575.6154 admissions@ciis.edu
For information on application requirements and procedures, or to complete an online application, please visit www.csi.edu/admissions.

Financial Aid

415.575.6122 financialaid@ciis.edu
For information about our financial aid programs, including federal student loans, private loans, grants, and scholarships, please visit www.csi.edu/financialaid.

About CIIS

California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) is an internationally recognized leader in integral education. CIIS has an enrollment of more than 1,500 students pursuing degrees in a variety of academic programs in its schools of Consciousness and Transformation, Professional Psychology and Health, Undergraduate Studies, and American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM). In addition, CIIS hosts a vibrant art exhibition program through The Arts at CIIS and offers a dynamic array of events through its Public Programs division, including workshops, lectures, and certificate programs. The University provides affordable mental health and acupuncture services to the San Francisco Bay Area through its eight award-winning clinics. CIIS is accredited by the Western Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) and Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM).

Program Description

Our Human Sexuality PhD program is rigorous, research-based training drawing on the interdisciplinary field of critical sexuality studies.

The PhD in Human Sexuality supports a diverse group of professionals studying critical sexuality studies drawing on a wide range of fields and disciplines to examine desire, intimacy, sex, sexuality, identity, gender, culture, reproduction, and the body through the lens of power and stigma. Two years of coursework, two comprehensive examinations, and a research-based dissertation prepare students with critical knowledge of sexuality applied through research, advocacy, and professional skills building. Students engage in a wide range of topics in this dynamic field from a holistic and intersectional perspective. The program’s interdisciplinary approach integrates research, theory, and methods drawn from women’s studies, sexuality and gender studies, biology, anthropology, psychology, sociology, queer theory, postcolonial studies, ethnic studies, critical theory, critical race theory, linguistics, policy studies, and the humanities.

Our mission is to create thought leaders in critical sexuality studies who draw upon an ethical praxis and a critical framework. We foster the scholar-practitioner model challenging students to create new knowledge while engaging real-world solutions on sexuality and gender issues.

FORMAT

This hybrid model offers online coursework plus three face-to-face academic residencies held during long weekends at the CIIS campus in San Francisco. The program consists of 2 years of coursework, 2 comprehensive examinations, and a research-based dissertation (5-6 year estimated completion). Select courses integrate the core knowledge areas of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT) and the American Counseling Association (ACA). For more information, please visit ciis.edu/hsx.
The field of sexuality is an interdisciplinary discipline, and this interdisciplinary nature permeates the Human Sexuality program. Remarkable innovation occurs when we share diverse perspectives and work together to resolve competing theories, paradigms, and controversies. By focusing critical analysis with the epistemological study of sexuality, the human sexuality program is a unique space to be inspired from and with.

I love teaching in the Human Sexuality PhD program because it allows me to continue learning and growing with my students as we pursue critical questions that explore how experiences of gender and sexuality shape, and are shaped by, broader sociocultural and historical conditions. I cherish the conversations that emerge from my students’ diverse perspectives and backgrounds and the passion they bring to resolving themselves and the world around them.

Our doctoral program uniquely focuses on critical sexuality studies. We follow the scholar-practitioner model, meaning we apply analyses of sexuality and gender to the real-world problems of human, race, and class, and interrogate power exchanges across multiple levels of power and knowing. Taught together, the efforts in holistic programs that are rigorous in expectation as it is in impact. Our students are engaged in important, game-changing research, teaching, and advocacy in many areas across the U.S. and internationally.

I am filled with excitement and anticipation of beginning the PhD program in human sexuality at CIIS. I know that the next four years will be the most challenging years of my life, but I also imagine that they will be the most fulfilling and life-changing. I love the PhD program in human sexuality at CIIS, and I know that the faculty brings to the curriculum and the experience of the PhD program to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate their students into human rights leaders, whether it be exploring new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.

This program has challenged me in ways that I did not expect. I must admit that it has made me a better scholar, community leader, and sex educator. The Human Sexuality PhD program has allowed me the freedom to explore new concepts and ways of thinking. I am proud to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate our students into human rights activists, whether it be supporting new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.

### Course of Study/Curriculum

The program entails 12 courses including required courses and electives indicated with *.

All applicants must have achieved a master’s degree from an accredited institution in the US or its equivalent. Courses aligned with AASECT Certification are indicated with §.

Below is a sample full-time course of study including comprehensive examinations and dissertation process, which students may complete in 3.5 years (course offerings may change).

#### 1st Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course of Study/Curriculum</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Human Sexuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Function and Practices*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Theory and Intersexuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems and Professional Issues in Sexuality§</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Therapy/Professional Skills§</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2nd Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course of Study/Curriculum</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Sexualities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology I and II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual, Gender, and Reproductive Rights</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Queer Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Education and Learning Theory§</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3rd Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course of Study/Curriculum</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Comprehensive Exams</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td>Free based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>Free based</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### After graduation, alumni work in a wide variety of leadership positions. This work includes:

1. Research important trends and social phenomena regarding sexuality and gender
2. Enhance current practice in clinical practice; sex therapy; sexuality education, advocacy, and public health
3. Apply best practices for conducting research, developing sexual health programs, and working with clients
4. Teach, author books and articles, advise media, and lead presentations on gender and sexuality topics
5. Collaborate with NGOs, companies, governmental agencies and research institutes to build capacity in the field
6. Advocate for sexual and gender rights with organizations and communities, domestically and globally
7. Write policy briefs and advise on gender and sexuality matters

After graduation, alumni work in a wide variety of leadership positions. This work includes:

- Research important trends and social phenomena regarding sexuality and gender
- Enhance current practice in clinical practice; sex therapy; sexuality education, advocacy, and public health
- Apply best practices for conducting research, developing sexual health programs, and working with clients
- Teach, author books and articles, advise media, and lead presentations on gender and sexuality topics
- Collaborate with NGOs, companies, governmental agencies and research institutes to build capacity in the field
- Advocate for sexual and gender rights with organizations and communities, domestically and globally
- Write policy briefs and advise on gender and sexuality matters

### Students

- **MICHELLE MARZULLO, PHD** (Chair/Core Faculty)
  - I love teaching in the Human Sexuality PhD program because it allows me to continue learning and growing with my students as we pursue critical questions that explore how experiences of gender and sexuality shape, and are shaped by, broader sociocultural and historical conditions. I cherish the conversations that emerge from my students’ diverse perspectives and backgrounds and the passion they bring to resolving themselves and the world around them.
- **JANNA DICKENSON, PHD** (Assistant Professor, Core Faculty)
  - Our doctoral program uniquely focuses on critical sexuality studies. We follow the scholar-practitioner model, meaning we apply analyses of sexuality and gender to the real-world problems of human, race, and class, and interrogate power exchanges across multiple levels of power and knowing. Taught together, the efforts in holistic programs that are rigorous in expectation as it is in impact. Our students are engaged in important, game-changing research, teaching, and advocacy in many areas across the U.S. and internationally.
- **ERICKA BURNS** (PhD Student)
  - I am filled with excitement and anticipation of beginning the PhD program in human sexuality at CIIS. I know that the next four years will be the most challenging years of my life, but I also imagine that they will be the most fulfilling and life-changing. I love the PhD program at CIIS, and I know that the faculty brings to the curriculum and the experience of the PhD program to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate our students into human rights leaders, whether it be exploring new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.
- **ELLIOTT KRONENFELD, MS, MM, CST** (PhD Student)
  - This program has challenged me in ways that I did not expect. I must admit that it has made me a better scholar, community leader, and sex educator. The Human Sexuality PhD program has allowed me the freedom to explore new concepts and ways of thinking. I am proud to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate our students into human rights activists, whether it be exploring new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.

### Faculty

- **MICHELLE MARZULLO, PHD** (Chair/Core Faculty)
  - I love teaching in the Human Sexuality PhD program because it allows me to continue learning and growing with my students as we pursue critical questions that explore how experiences of gender and sexuality shape, and are shaped by, broader sociocultural and historical conditions. I cherish the conversations that emerge from my students’ diverse perspectives and backgrounds and the passion they bring to resolving themselves and the world around them.
- **JANNA DICKENSON, PHD** (Assistant Professor, Core Faculty)
  - Our doctoral program uniquely focuses on critical sexuality studies. We follow the scholar-practitioner model, meaning we apply analyses of sexuality and gender to the real-world problems of human, race, and class, and interrogate power exchanges across multiple levels of power and knowing. Taught together, the efforts in holistic programs that are rigorous in expectation as it is in impact. Our students are engaged in important, game-changing research, teaching, and advocacy in many areas across the U.S. and internationally.
- **ERICKA BURNS** (PhD Student)
  - I am filled with excitement and anticipation of beginning the PhD program in human sexuality at CIIS. I know that the next four years will be the most challenging years of my life, but I also imagine that they will be the most fulfilling and life-changing. I love the PhD program at CIIS, and I know that the faculty brings to the curriculum and the experience of the PhD program to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate our students into human rights leaders, whether it be exploring new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.
- **ELLIOTT KRONENFELD, MS, MM, CST** (PhD Student)
  - This program has challenged me in ways that I did not expect. I must admit that it has made me a better scholar, community leader, and sex educator. The Human Sexuality PhD program has allowed me the freedom to explore new concepts and ways of thinking. I am proud to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate our students into human rights activists, whether it be exploring new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.

### Students

- **MICHELLE MARZULLO, PHD** (Chair/Core Faculty)
  - I love teaching in the Human Sexuality PhD program because it allows me to continue learning and growing with my students as we pursue critical questions that explore how experiences of gender and sexuality shape, and are shaped by, broader sociocultural and historical conditions. I cherish the conversations that emerge from my students’ diverse perspectives and backgrounds and the passion they bring to resolving themselves and the world around them.
- **JANNA DICKENSON, PHD** (Assistant Professor, Core Faculty)
  - Our doctoral program uniquely focuses on critical sexuality studies. We follow the scholar-practitioner model, meaning we apply analyses of sexuality and gender to the real-world problems of human, race, and class, and interrogate power exchanges across multiple levels of power and knowing. Taught together, the efforts in holistic programs that are rigorous in expectation as it is in impact. Our students are engaged in important, game-changing research, teaching, and advocacy in many areas across the U.S. and internationally.
- **ERICKA BURNS** (PhD Student)
  - I am filled with excitement and anticipation of beginning the PhD program in human sexuality at CIIS. I know that the next four years will be the most challenging years of my life, but I also imagine that they will be the most fulfilling and life-changing. I love the PhD program at CIIS, and I know that the faculty brings to the curriculum and the experience of the PhD program to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate our students into human rights leaders, whether it be exploring new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.
- **ELLIOTT KRONENFELD, MS, MM, CST** (PhD Student)
  - This program has challenged me in ways that I did not expect. I must admit that it has made me a better scholar, community leader, and sex educator. The Human Sexuality PhD program has allowed me the freedom to explore new concepts and ways of thinking. I am proud to be a part of a program that aims to cultivate our students into human rights activists, whether it be exploring new education policies or supporting reproductive justice efforts.