Program Highlights

The MA in Women, Gender, Spirituality, and Social Justice holds diversity as a crucial component to our understanding of integral education. Our students and faculty are committed to unlearning oppression; building alliances; and decolonizing our minds, bodies, and spirits. The diversity of students in our classes promotes an embodied understanding of disparate worldviews and epistemologies. It supports a lively exchange of information in which many points of view are represented and discussed, and it facilitates students’ ability to take leadership on critical social justice issues.

Admissions
415.575.6154
admissions@ciis.edu

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

Financial Aid
415.575.6112
financialaid@ciis.edu

For information about our financial aid programs, including federal student loans, private loans, grants, and student employment, please visit www.ciis.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 1,300 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).

Women, Gender, Spirituality, and Social Justice
MA in Women, Gender, Spirituality, and Social Justice
School of Consciousness and Transformation

The MA in Women, Gender, Spirituality, and Social Justice (WGS) is a transdisciplinary program that prepares graduates to be changemakers who are guided by a sense of meaning, purpose, and vision. We are unique among academic programs that study women and gender in that we take seriously the realm of spirit. Our program honors the spiritual impulse to redress the suppression of the Sacred Feminine and the oppression of women. We bring current scholarship emerging from the fields of women/gender studies, ethics studies, and related fields into dialogue with scholarship that addresses religion, spirituality, ecology, and healing. Graduates will develop skills that will enable them to either continue on in doctoral work or craft careers in the nonprofit sector, higher education, or socially conscious entrepreneurship.

Teaching Philosophy

Our program focuses on education as a site of liberatory practice, where faculty and students cocreate knowledge that can further both women’s liberation and transformative movements. We emphasize the integration of traditional academic knowledge with knowledge derived from embodied experiences, including experiences considered sacred or spiritual.

Format
Courses are delivered in flexible formats that include weekend, evening, and online learning. We offer a self-paced learning option for students living outside of the Bay Area who complete the MA by taking a combination of online and face-to-face courses. Semi-distance students must complete a minimum of 19 units face-to-face.

For more information, please visit ciis.edu/wgs

www.ciis.edu/wgs
Faculty

ANNETTE WILLIAMS, PHD
Chair

The most powerful and transformative movements for social justice and decolonization have had spiritual foundations. Mainstream scholarship has not acknowledged the extent to which feminist activism has been informed by women’s spiritual yearnings—our drive to connect to something larger than ourselves, to recover female divinities, and to integrate Earth-based wisdom into our lives. Our program offers a unique space where students can unite their spiritual aspirations with their passion for justice and collective transformation.

Students/Alumni

ANNETTE WILLIAMS, PHD
Chair

The evolving field of women’s spirituality emerged, in part, from the lived experience that political and cultural institutions dominated by chauvinism, intolerance, bigotry, and a dominator model of social organization foster injustice. As a transformative counterpoint, models, theories, and practices that embody social justice and compassion are needed. Our students undertake the work to expand and deepen ours, to build bridges from self to others, to theorize using lenses capable of incorporating multiple perspectives and realities, and to share contributions with community.

ALKA ARORA, PHD
Core Faculty

After graduation, our alumni work in a wide variety of positions, such as:

1. Professors, student affairs professionals, and administrators in academia
2. Leaders and advocates in community-based and nonprofit organizations
3. Healers, workshop facilitators, and artists in private practice
4. Writers and researchers focused on women’s spiritual histories or contemporary feminist issues
5. Educators and activists who bridge spirituality and social justice

Course of Study/Curriculum

The MA curriculum consists of 36 units of coursework (the equivalent of four semesters of full-time study). The following is a sample course of study, consisting of required foundational courses (4 units), electives focused on students’ individualized concentrations (6 units), general electives (7 units), and the Integrative Seminar (3 units). Please note that elective curricula vary annually.

1st Semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Loveweaves: Goddesses, Foremothers, and Activists</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Conscious Alighyans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundational Elements of Academic Writing and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orisha Indigenous Philosophy (Experiential)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberated Spirituality: Gender, Buddhism, and Social Justice</td>
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2nd Semester

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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical and Liberatory Methods of Inquiry</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Womennista, Feminists, and Decolonial Worldviews</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to the Art of Dreaming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Activism and Transformative Social Change</td>
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3rd Semester

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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Animal/Dress Spiritual, Ecological, and Philosophical Perspectives</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirit, Compassion, and Community Activism</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacred Women of the African Diaspora</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Study (based on student’s area of interest)</td>
<td>3</td>
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4th Semester

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<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Women Philosophers, Mystics, and Wisdom Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disembodied Philosophy and Activism</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consciousness: Trauma Movement and Bodywork</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Integrative Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Clarity, Passion, Inspiration

ERI GUJARDO JOHNSON
Core Faculty

WGS is an academic program unlike any other. It is a fusion of radical feminist transformation needed in these times. The brilliance of this program is the way it creates sacred space for learning, the embodied and creative teaching styles of our professors, and the centering of diverse women and femininities, visions and epistemologies. I have found my spiritual, healing, and social justice connections in this program, while also growing myself and my real path.

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GABY ESENSTEN
Core Faculty

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