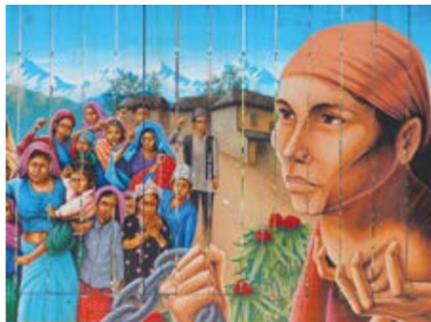


## Program Highlights



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](http://www.ciis.edu/admissions).



### Financial Aid

415.575.6122  
finaid@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](http://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 1,500 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).

 **California Institute of Integral Studies**

[www.ciis.edu](http://www.ciis.edu)  
1453 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

For more information, please visit [ciis.edu/wgs](http://ciis.edu/wgs)

## Program Description

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,

ethnic 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 praxis, where faculty and students cocreate knowledge that can further both women's liberation and transformative movements. We emphasize integration of traditional academic knowledge with knowledge derived from embodied experiences, including experiences considered sacred or spiritual.



## Women, Gender, Spirituality, and Social Justice

### MA in Women, Gender, Spirituality, and Social Justice

School of Consciousness and Transformation

 **California Institute of Integral Studies**

[www.ciis.edu/wgs](http://www.ciis.edu/wgs)

### FORMAT

Courses are delivered in flexible formats that include weekday, weekend, evening, and online learning. We offer a semi-distance 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.

### AVAILABLE



## Faculty



**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 praxis that embody social justice and compassion are needed. Our students undertake the work to expand and deepen vision, to build bridges from self to other, to theorize using lenses capable of incorporating multiple perspectives and realities, and to share contributions with community. ”

“ 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. ”



**ALKA ARORA, PhD**  
Core Faculty



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

- [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 (14 units); electives focused on students’ individualized concentrations (12 units); general electives (7 units); and the Integrative Seminar (3 units). Please note that elective curricula vary annually.

1st Semester	Units
Sacred Lineages: Goddesses, Foremothers, and Activists	3
Building Conscious Allyship	1
Foundational Elements of Academic Writing and Research	1
Orisha Indigenous Philosophy (Experiential)	1
Liberation Dharma: Gender, Buddhism, and Social Justice	3
2nd Semester	Units
Critical and Liberatory Methods of Inquiry	2
Womanist, Feminist, and Decolonial Worldviews	3
Introduction to the Art of Dreaming	1
Spiritual Activism and Transformative Social Change	2
3rd Semester	Units
Animal Ethics: Spiritual, Ecological, and Philosophical Perspectives	2
Spirit, Compassion, and Community Activism	1
Sacred Women of the African Diaspora	3
Independent Study (based on student’s area of interest)	3
4th Semester	Units
Women Philosophers, Mystics, and Wisdom Teachers	3
Ecofeminist Philosophy and Activism	3
Coming Alive! Rosen Movement and Bodywork	1
MA Integrative Seminar	3

## Students/Alumni



**ERI GUAJARDO JOHNSON**  
MA Student

“ Clarity. Passion. Inspiration. Depth. I am walking out of the master’s program feeling empowered, grounded, and my heart aflame. I could never have imagined that academic classwork would be so transformational. If you are a seeker of spiritual and social justice revolution, this is the place for you—a place to cultivate and reclaim courage, community, knowledge, and voice. ”

“ WGS is an academic program unlike any other. It is a cocoon of radical feminist transformation so needed in these times. The brilliance of this program is in the way it creates sacred space for learning, the embodied and creative teaching styles of our professors, and the centering of BIPOC women and femmes voices and experiences. I have found my spiritual, healing, and social justice communities in this program, while also finding myself and my soul path. ”



**GABY ESENSTEN**  
MA Student