

College: CLAS

Department: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Degree: B.A./B.S.

Introduction

The Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offers an interdisciplinary program designed to foster students' personal and intellectual development and to prepare them for socially responsible citizenship as well as a broad range of careers. Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies advisers work closely with each student to craft a course of study appropriate to the student's academic interests and post-graduate goals.

An expanding field of scholarship, women, gender, and sexuality studies is on the cutting edge of educational and intellectual innovation. Courses offered through many different disciplines explore how gender has shaped social, economic, and political institutions, culture, and language. Through these analyses, we envision what the world looks like once women's experience is fully included in our thinking. The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies core curriculum encourages students to develop critical thinking skills and an appreciation for the range of theoretical frameworks and methodologies present in contemporary feminist scholarship. Courses incorporate the diversity of women's experience with attention to race, class, and sexual orientation as well as gender. Core courses also encourage students' active participation through discussion, informal as well as formal writing, and collaborative learning in the classroom.

Experiential learning plays an important role in a student's progress through the women, gender, and sexuality studies curriculum. The program's extensive and long-established ties with organizations in the metro area provide wide-ranging opportunities for students to apply their classroom knowledge in a community setting. Many students discover a life's vocation through these experiences, and all develop new skills. Guidelines for women, gender, and sexuality studies internships, practica, and independent study are flexible in order to meet individual needs. A degree in Women's Studies provides the foundation for life-long learning as well as background and experience for careers in teaching, counseling and social work, business, law, health sciences, public administration, public relations, and research.

Women, gender, and sexuality studies students participate in planning the program's educational, cultural, and social events and advise the faculty on matters of curriculum and educational policy. The program also maintains a resource library open to all students.

Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze gender within a matrix of intersecting systems of power and oppression.

Students will demonstrate engagement in collaborative learning .

Students will demonstrate familiarity with feminist theory and methodologies, and be able to apply both to creating knowledge about women, gender , difference, power, and social change.

Students will demonstrate knowledge about the social/ historical construction of gender, difference and power (e.g. racism, classism, heterosexism, body-based oppression).

Students will demonstrate knowledge of different forms of social change and social justice activism.

Students will demonstrate the ability to learn in community settings and make connections between classroom learning and practicum experience.