

Women's Studies

Program: Women's and Gender Studies

Degree: Women's Studies (B.A., B.S.)

Women's Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is a cross-disciplinary program in which students may elect a minor or a major. Women's Studies provides an opportunity for students to examine women's roles, contributions, and status in social and cultural context and to investigate a variety of disciplines from feminist perspectives. Women's Studies creates an understanding that interrelated factors —e.g., race, ethnicity, class, age, disability, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation — inform knowledge of women's history, culture, and social roles. Women's Studies seeks to improve critical thinking and to provide students with the intellectual means to question prevailing assumptions. It encourages students to explore the contexts and ideological origins of knowledge and to examine the relationship between knowledge and power in society. It promotes social responsibility by examining the connections between personal experience and political activity, and validates student contributions and voices. Women's Studies graduates are skilled in critical thinking, research methods, and effective communication. Because they have developed a thorough understanding of gender, race, and class, they can understand and work effectively with employers, colleagues, and clients to analyze and address complex social problems. Women's Studies graduates acquire strong backgrounds for careers in such areas as counseling, education, human resources, public policy, politics, business, or law. The program includes core courses in Women's Studies and cross-listed courses in anthropology, art history, classical studies, economics, English, history, health and human performance, political science, psychology, religion, sociology, speech communication, and world languages and cultures. An undergraduate major requires 33 credits of core and cross-listed courses. Women's Studies majors must satisfy the following requirements:

1. 21 credits selected from women's studies core courses (W S).

A. Required core courses:

W S 201	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
W S 301	International Perspectives on Women and Gender	3
W S 401	Feminist Theories	3
W S 402	Feminist Research in Action	3
W S 499	Senior Thesis	3
or W S 491	Senior Internship	

B. The remaining 6 credits should be chosen from the Women's Studies core courses:

W S 203	Introduction to Lesbian Studies	3
W S 205	Introduction to Queer Studies	3
W S 302	Issues in Women's Health and Reproduction	3
W S 320	Ecofeminism	3
W S 350	Women of Color in the U.S	3
W S 425	Intersections of Race, Class and Gender	3
W S 435	Women and Development	3
W S 450	Topics in Women's Studies (may be taken more than once)	3

2. 12 credits selected from W S cross-listed courses or W S core courses.

Women's Studies majors are encouraged to declare either a minor or a second major in a different program or department.

Communication Proficiency requirement:

The Women's Studies major requires an average grade of C- or better in ENGL 150 and ENGL 250 (or ENGL 250H) and W S 201.

Minor

Undergraduate students may minor in Women's Studies by taking 15 semester hours of Women's Studies classes, including:

W S 201	Introduction to Women's Studies	3
W S 301	International Perspectives on Women and Gender	3
one 400 level core Women's Studies course		
6 additional credits of core or cross-listed courses		6

Any student can declare a major or minor in Women's Studies or choose to co-major in another program. Students interested in a minor or major in Women's Studies should contact the Director of the program.

Graduate Study

The graduate minor in Women's Studies is designed to provide students with knowledge of theories and methods within a variety of approaches in feminist scholarship. The program seeks to integrate and synthesize knowledge from many disciplines and to offer students opportunities for systematic study of gender and women's experiences and perspectives in all knowledge fields. Students will be prepared to take leadership roles in supporting gender equity and diversity in their careers in education, social service work, business, law, public policy, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and research.

The graduate minor requires 12 credits for students enrolled in a master's or a doctoral degree program. Students are required to take either W S 501 Contemporary Feminist Theories or W S 502 Advanced Seminar in Feminist Research Methods; taking both is strongly recommended. Students will also take two or three electives selected from the list of core and cross-listed Women's Studies courses approved for graduate study. At least one member of the Women's Studies faculty will serve on the program of study for doctoral students. A list of eligible faculty members may be obtained from the Director of the Women's Studies program.