

What can I do with a major in...

Women's and Gender Studies

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Women's and Gender Studies major focuses on gender and the experiences of women as central categories of scholarly inquiry. This interdisciplinary program emphasizes diverse perspectives on both the construction and the experience of femininity and masculinity in society, including the complex interactions of gender, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and race. The program also explores gender dynamics, strategies and organizational skills needed to address gender inequalities, women's struggles, achievements, and contributions in past and present societies and across cultures, the courses and consequences of women's subordination, gender based assumptions and biases and their consequences, social change agents and sensitivity to social concerns and viewpoints. Students learn to appreciate the breadth of human experience and the challenges that all people face as gendered beings.

CAREERS for WOMEN'S and GENDER STUDIES MAJORS

Human Rights Advocacy WGST graduates have been active in the campaign for equality and justice around the world through their work with international rights organizations that monitor the treatment and the advancement of women and other groups that face discrimination.

Law/Politics As the general public becomes more aware of challenges such as sexual harassment, discrimination, and domestic violence, attorneys who build a reputation for handling sensitive cases can build strong specialty practices. Lobbying for these issues, working in public policy, with special interest advocacy groups or in related program administration are all areas open to WGST students.

Non-profit Work WGST graduates bring a commitment to social justice and strong understanding of local, national, and international issues to non-profit work.

Teaching/Education A WGST graduate brings a clear understanding of gender issues to the classroom, can offer non-sexist teaching models, and can help young people deal with the range of issues that they face as they develop into adults.

Health Care WGST graduates understand the deeply politicized nature of women's health issues around the world and work to educate women and their governments about their special medical needs and newest treatments available to them.

Clergy A number of religious denominations are eager to have women engaged with their spiritual communities as priests, ministers, rabbis, and other clerical offices. WGST majors create inclusive, sensitive congregations.

Social Work Social workers with a WGST degree bring their understanding of the history and development of women's and men's roles in society to their work with the disadvantaged. This knowledge can help them teach their clients about the opportunities available to them and connect their clients with the most effective and appropriate resources in their communities.

Government Work Federal, state, and local governments are eager to hire employees who understand the diverse world in which we live. WGST majors are particularly suited for such work.

Company Archivist or Historian Many companies, communities, and nonprofit organizations rely on archivists to accurately document the actions and the legacies of their institutions. WGST majors help to ensure that women's participation in those organizations are not overlooked or understated.

Writer or Journalist WGST majors use their research and writing skills to bring to the issues that face women and other underserved groups to the forefront of American society.

Artist or Musician Many creative professionals use their WGST degrees to inspire powerful songs or works of art. Women have made a consistent impact in the arts throughout history, and today's generation of creators must work even harder to keep that tradition alive.

Anti Domestic Violence Advocate WGST majors understand the unique set of challenges that abused women face. They can use their knowledge to help victims of violence find safe living arrangements and help navigate the court system. They can also educate the public about the scope of domestic violence in this country.

Business Owner/Entrepreneur/Sales/Consulting WGST majors can channel their fiercely independent spirit into careers as entrepreneurs. By understanding the needs and wants of women, they can create companies that solve problems for customers in unique ways.

Legislative Aide As politicians work to court women's votes, many elected officials have recruited WGST majors to their research teams. By viewing current laws and proposed legislation through the filter of women's history, these specialists can help their representatives to really understand the impact of law on women in their districts.

Public Relations/Advertising/Marketing Women make most of the buying decisions in America. WGST graduates not only bring strong communication skills to their jobs, but they also provide insight into how women and men make consumer choices.

Human Resources/Training and Development Support the professional growth and development of employees in any organization through the lens of understanding gender dynamics in the workplace and by providing guidance/tools through which both men and women can successfully navigate interpersonal/work relationships.

The job titles and hiring institutions that follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to WGST majors; however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Community Service Agency Worker	Public Opinion Interviewer	Patient Advocate
Social Service Administrator	Lobbyist	Market Research Analyst
Youth Counselor	Membership Coordinator	Consumer Survey Supervisor
Teen Center Director	Convention Organizer	Staffing Specialist
Career Counselor	Fund-Raiser/Development Associate	Benefits Coordinator
Women's Rights Advocate	Probation/Parole Officer	Editorial Assistant
Battered Women's Center Director	Correctional Caseworker	Community Organizer
Rape Crisis Program Director	Investigative Assistant	Policy Researcher
Planned Parenthood Clinic Coordinator	Customs/Immigration Officer	Program Administrator
Sexual Assault/Abuse Educator	Police Officer	Fundraiser
Child Support Case Officer	CIA/FBI Agent	Grant Writer
Congressional/Legislative Aide	Public Affairs Officer	Social Media Coordinator
Campaign Staffer	Civil Rights Investigator	Administrative Assistant
Press Secretary	Admissions Counselor	Teacher
	Internship Program Coordinator	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EXPLORE...

1. National Women's Studies Association: <http://www.nwsa.org>
2. Idealist. Org
3. <http://www.careerwomen.com/index2.html>
4. <http://www.msu.edu/%7Ewmsjrdy/wsmjrl1.htm>
5. American Business Women's Association: <http://www.abwa.org/>
6. Feminist Majority Association Career Center: <http://www.feminist.org/911/jobs/911jobs.asp>
7. Women's Studies Employment Database: <http://www.mith2.umd.edu/WomensStudies/Employment>
8. UC Berkley Department of Women's Studies: <http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/WomenStud.stm>
9. Yahoo: Listing of Women's Organization:
http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Cultures_and_Groups/Women/Organizations/Careers
10. The Forum of Executive Women: www.foew.com
11. Athena International: www.athenafoundation.org
12. Women Executive Leadership: www.womenexecutiveleadership.com
13. Catalyst: www.catalyst.org

