



What can I do with a Major in... Women's & Gender Studies

What is Women's and Gender Studies at U of L?

Women's and Gender Studies is the interdisciplinary examination of women and gender across cultures and epochs. Women's and Gender Studies addresses significant omissions in traditional scholarship by examining the history, contributions and accomplishments of women, and by studying the ways gender has structured intellectual and social life. Women's and Gender Studies calls attention to how issues of gender intersect with other structures of power such as race, class, and sexualities.

Degrees in Women's and Gender Studies at U of L:

Women's & Gender Studies Bachelor of Arts

Women's & Gender Studies Bachelor of Science

Undergraduate Minors in Women's & Gender Studies

Master of Arts in Women's & Gender Studies

Dual degree: Master of Arts in Women's & Gender Studies and Master of Science in Social Work

M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

Graduate Certificate in WGS

Occupational Overview

As an interdisciplinary degree program, Women's & Gender Studies prepares its students for a wide range of career opportunities in numerous fields. Allowing students to select courses from a variety of disciplines in the arts and sciences, including history, biology, political science, philosophy, and English, WGS majors are offered a rich environment within which to develop skills in critical thinking and communication that are required by employers and post-graduate schools. The WGS major requires students to read, write and think critically about such issues as domestic violence, gender and the media, gender and health care, employment discrimination, gender/race and poverty, among others. In short, the WGS major prepares students to be citizens of the world: equipped to think critically about the major issues of the day; able to perform well in a multitude of jobs requiring skills in reading, writing, and oral communication; and prepared to go on to graduate or professional training in a chosen field.



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Career Opportunities in Women's and Gender Studies:

Students who have graduated with degrees in women's & gender studies nationwide report a variety of post-graduation occupations. The following list was compiled based on an article by Amber E. Kinser ("What Can You DO with a Women's Studies Major?"), published in *Women's Studies Program Administrator's Handbook*, by the National Women's Studies Association (2006). Below are some of the occupations listed in Kinser's article:

Politics/Law/Policy

Democratic Counsel to the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Staff attorney, Battered Women's Justice Project
Legal Assistant
Paralegal
Policy Analyst

Education

Fourth grade teacher

Social Services/Human Rights

Director of HIV Services at a community healthcare center
Director of a women's center
Director of a city's Housing and Neighborhood Development office
Program Director for a non-profit organization
Assistant director of a university alumni association
Battered Women's Center Administrator
Development Director at a non-profit environmental organization
Homeless Shelter Coordinator
Community Educator & Trainer for Abused Women's Advocacy
Counselor for Domestic Violence Shelter
Crisis Advocate, Harriet Tubman Center
Advocacy for Women & Children
AIDS Project worker
Social Worker

Media/Arts

Assistant features editor at *Elle*
Arts fundraising
Author
Graphic Designer
Journalist



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Medical Fields

Medical Clinic Administrator
Mental Health professional

Business/Technology

Business Systems Analyst
Small business owner
Vice President of an Interactive Media Services company
Web design and web development
Computer Information Systems Specialist

Many students graduating with undergraduate degrees in women's & gender studies also choose to go on to graduate or professional training (as the job list indicates). Graduates of the UofL Women's & Gender Studies Department have gone on to law school, medical school, and graduate studies in both the humanities and social sciences.

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Education: Teaching - Research - Administration – Two- and four-year colleges and universities – University research institutes – Women's Resources Centers

Suggested Strategy: As an undergraduate obtain a research assistant position. Concentrate on maintaining a high GPA and developing relationships with professors to prepare for graduate school applications. An M.A./M.S. will be required for community college positions, while a Ph.D. is required for university/college faculty or research positions.

Research/Preservation: Exhibit preparation coordinator – Librarian – Conservator - Researcher

Suggested Strategy: As an undergraduate obtain internship or volunteer positions to gain related experience. Prepare for and obtain a graduate degree in library science for librarianship. Obtain a position assisting faculty with their research.

Government: Women's issues coordinator – Public information coordinator – Census/survey work (Bureau of Labor Statistics has a women's division!) – Peace Corps volunteer – Women's health, education, finance, domestic violence – WHO

Suggested Strategy: Get involved in campus organizations to develop leadership abilities and interpersonal skills. Develop statistical, analytical and computer skills and investigate research methodologies for census positions. Gain related experience in your area of interest through internships, volunteer, or part-time employment. Research governmental application procedures. A graduate degree may be required for higher level positions.

Health & Human Services: Women's issues advocate – Social worker – Women's health advocate – Non-governmental agency worker – Youth counselor – Volunteer services coordinator – Community planning specialist – Women's programming – Health care practitioner specializing in women's/girl's health

Suggested Strategy: As an undergraduate obtain internship or volunteer positions to gain related experience. Gain experience in



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a social service setting. Obtain a graduate degree in a related field for counseling, social work, or healthcare practitioner positions.

Business/Nonprofit: Human resources – Market research analyst – Sales/marketing representative – Organizational planner – Management trainee – Consultant – Cultural resource manager – Arts council director – Foundation administrator – Political action advocacy

Suggested Strategy: Gain relevant experience through internships, volunteer positions, or part-time work in your area of interest.. Consider earning a second degree, minor, or pursuing additional coursework in a complementary field of study. Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.

Communication/Journalism: Editor – Journalist – Researcher/technical advisor – Public opinion analyst

Suggested Strategy: As an undergraduate obtain internship or volunteer positions to gain related experience. Supplement coursework with classes in Communication & Journalism and English. Gain experience with campus media outlets.

Related Links in the Women's and Gender Studies Discipline:

UofL Women's Center, (Check out the Financial Aid link on the Women's Center Web Page for scholarship information.)

UofL Commission on the Status of Women

CommonGround, UofL student organization in support of lesbian/gay/bisexual students

UofL PEACC Project, UofL program to combat violence against women

Community Coordinated Child Care

Kentucky Youth Advocates

UofL Center for LGBT Services

UofL Faculty & Staff for Human Rights

KY Reproductive Freedom Project

KY Women's Book Festival, 2006

Women/Gender Studies Programs/Resources

National Women's Studies Association

University of Wisconsin Women's Studies Bibliographies

Feminist Theory Website

University of Kentucky Women's Studies Program

Western Kentucky University Women's Studies Program

Eastern Kentucky University Women's Studies Department

Association of College and Research Libraries, Women's Studies section

U.S. Government, sources on gender equity

National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education (financial aid resources for LGBT students)



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Activist Resources On-Line

MADRE (an international women's human rights organization demanding human rights for women and families)
National Organization for Women
Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan
Feminist Majority On-Line
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Human Rights Campaign
Lambda Legal
National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women
Choice USA
National Women's Health Network
Feminist Campus (campus-oriented website sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation)
Our Bodies Ourselves
Human Rights Watch, Women's Rights Division



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>