



Women's Studies

Women's Studies is the interdisciplinary study of the systems of gender, politics, and representation that shape women's lives. Women's Studies asks: How does being a woman affect one's participation in the family, economy, politics, art, and literature? How do language, belief and visual representation convey meaning about women's and men's status in society? How has that status changed historically? How does the experience of women vary by class, race, nationality, and sexual orientation? Questions like these have produced an extensive body of scholarship that puts gender at the center of analysis.

The Women's Studies Program at the University of Michigan is a diverse intellectual community dedicated to excellence through feminist research, teaching, and activism. It seeks to build interdisciplinary collaborations

among faculty and students that bridge gender, ethnic, economic, and national divides; create new knowledges about women, gender, race, and sexuality; challenge unequal distributions of power; and improve the lives of all women and men.

Women's Studies graduates go on to a wide variety of careers, including law, public interest, social services, healthcare, and teaching. Seventy percent of our graduates continue their education in graduate or professional school. Many choose dual majors, thus broadening their career possibilities.

Listed below are some characteristic skills developed by Women's Studies majors at the University of Michigan as well as representative occupations of program graduates.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

The interdisciplinary nature of Women's Studies requires students to develop their abilities in areas that range from critical analysis to group coordination and facilitation. These skills may be applied in a wide variety of occupations. For example, while a social worker,

lawyer, or lobbyist might use the skills of compiling and evaluating information for different purposes, each will probably use those skills on a daily basis. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

Analysis and Research

- Analyzing
- Organizing ideas
- Interpreting ideas/events
- Interdisciplinary methods
- Decision making
- Examining evidence
- Compiling and evaluating information
- Comparing/contrasting ideas and information

Communication

- Writing
- Presenting viewpoints/analyses
- Understanding/speaking to persons from different backgrounds
- Conveying ideas
- Listening to others

Project Development

- Assessing needs/interests
- Evaluating
- Planning
- Translating theory into action
- Developing research ideas
- Organizing materials/information

Working with People

- Leading/participating in groups
- Comparing cultures/societies
- Working within organizations
- Coordinating committees

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The selected list that follows offers a glimpse of the wide-ranging career paths of Women's Studies majors at the University of Michigan and other colleges. For some occupations listed below, such as city planner, related

training may be desirable. For those occupations marked with a • on the list, additional graduate study is generally expected.

Business

Manager
• Personnel director
• Attorney
Account executive
Publications coordinator
Market researcher
Television programming director
Web designer
Sales representative

Public Sector

Public interest group director
Lobbyist
Politician
Health science administrator
• City planner
Grants coordinator
Journalist
Development officer
Community organizer

Human Services

• Psychotherapist
Director of a crisis center
Counselor (e.g., substance abuse, battered women)
• Clergy
• Physician
• Social worker
• Nurse midwife
• Health educator

Education

• University academic administrator
• Student services director
• Professor
• Librarian
Affirmative action representative
• Teacher

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Complete information on course offerings and requirements may be found in the *LSA Bulletin* and on the web at www.lsa.umich.edu/women. Concentration requirements are WS 240 and a minimum of 28 credits of upper-level courses on women and gender. Students are required to complete one practicum course, a course in feminist thought, four interdisciplinary courses, a course on gender in the discipline, as well as at least one in the gender, race and ethnicity, and at least another in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. These courses are:

- Four interdisciplinary courses in Women's Studies
- A practicum, WS 350, WS 420, WS 485 or Soc 389 (sections 110, 301 or 302)
- WS 330
- A gender in the discipline course
- An elective in Women's Studies at 200 level or above
- WS 440

Two upper-level cognate courses, not in Women's Studies are required. Women's Studies offers two minors: one in Women, Race and Ethnicity and another in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

LS&A Academic Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
764-0332

Women's Studies Program
1122 Lane Hall
763-2047
www.lsa.umich.edu/women