Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary field that includes the study of
1) the experiences, conditions and social realities of women of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, classes, abilities, and sexual orientations in a global context;
2) the ways in which gender, sexuality, race, and class intersect and
3) feminist, queer and anti-racist scholarship.

Why UMD

- The mission of the program is to prepare students for meaningful participation and contribution in an inclusive and diverse society; to be local, national, and global citizens; and to participate effectively and contribute meaningfully in a diverse workplace.
- The WGSS program at UMD is very personalized. Faculty get to know you and commit to ensuring students attain their full capabilities and potential while at UMD.
- WGSS courses are very interactive. All classes are student centered and students learn through exploration and discovery.
- We are social justice and social transformation focused with a strong history of collaborating with community organizations. They are many opportunities to organize, to intern, and to effect social change.

Acquired Skills

Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies majors develop:
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Analytical creative and critical thinking skills
- The ability to influence, persuade, and present alternative viewpoints
- The ability to analyze root causes of social problems and work towards solutions

Career Possibilities

- Human services departments and nonprofit organizations.
- Advocate for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence.
- Communications consultant.
- Congressional aide.
- Law (prepares one for law school).
- Midwife, sexual assault nurse, or other health related fields.
- United Nations, Unicef, AMREF
- Equity and diversity specialist in schools, universities, hospitals, corporations.
- Politics

Scholarships

There are two WGSS specific scholarships available. The $500 Jane Maddy Scholarship is awarded to two WGSS students each year. The $1000 WGSS Legacy Scholarship is awarded to one WGSS student each year.
Students can apply and/or be awarded the scholarship more than once. Many of our majors have also been awarded college and campus wide scholarships.

What you can do with this degree?

The degree prepares students to think multidimensionally, critically and intersectionally. Our students learn to question power and structural arrangements and ask key questions using multiple lenses of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, physical ability, and among all human differences. Armed with this knowledge most of our student pursue careers in nonprofit, and/or non-governmental organizations. Others use the degree to pursue careers in law, health care, business, education, human services, or politics.

Graduate Report

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here's a sampling of positions Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Shelter Advocate - American Indian Community Housing Organization, Duluth, MN
- Program Leader - Madison School & Community Recreation, Madison, WI
- Domestic Violence Advocate - 360 Communities, Hastings, MN
- Youth Development Specialist - AmeriCorps, Duluth, MN

For more data see the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Follow-Up Report. For ideas about Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and other majors visit Career & Internship Services.