Undergraduate Minor

Careers related to race, gender, and sexuality studies
RGSS programs help students evaluate how systems of privilege and inequality affect people in any type of work and in any organization or system, like health care and education. RGSS provides knowledge, perspectives and critical thinking skills, teaching students to use their voices to address biases and systemic discrimination, and to create more accurate and empowering models for people, culture and society. Because of its emphasis on communication, critical thinking and problem-solving, RGSS courses and programs are valuable in a broad range of careers.

Study social justice issues you care about.
Today’s young people try to understand issues like Black Lives Matter, The Me Too movement, immigration and LGBTQ identities. The UW-La Crosse Race, Gender and Sexuality Studies program is an opportunity to think critically about contemporary and historical movements for social justice related to race, gender and sexuality. Students are empowered to challenge social inequality and engage with the community.

UWL offers the only program among the UW institutions that combines the intersectional study of race, gender, and sexuality in one interdisciplinary department. The department also offers a Hmong Certificate program, a Social Justice Minor, and our unique college access program, the Self Sufficiency Program. This program is aimed primarily at single parents, but offers empowerment and resources to anyone seeking a college education.

What is race, gender, and sexuality studies?
This program use an intersectional approach to understanding people and groups. Students gain a deep understanding of how race, class, gender, sexuality and more contribute to their experience of the world, physically, socially and emotionally.
How Race, Gender and Sexuality Studies can elevate careers

Business, Management, Personnel
- Advocate and provide strategies for racial and gender justice within companies, non-profits, and other employers.
- Ensure equitable procedures in hiring, evaluation, pay, promotion and leadership opportunities.
- Design family leave and other work-life policies in ways that are equitable and help keep talented staff connected to the organization.
- Advocate for health insurance coverage that serves women's needs with respect to family health, and the needs of groups who may need health insurance coverage not available in all plans.

Counseling and social work
- Explore biases in therapeutic models.
- Gain an understanding of the common concerns experienced by people of color, LGBTQ+ people and women, including: the mental health impacts of racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexual assault, body image issues, self worth, and more.
- Relate clients’ personal issues to the social construction of gender, race, class and sexuality.
- Understand intersectional inequities to advocate for policy change.

Education
- Become aware of racist, sexist, homophobic transphobic biases in curricular models and help transform the curriculum.
- Learn about classroom behaviors and school policies that limit students to stereotypical roles.
- Explore teaching models, curriculum integration and anti-racist, non-sexist teaching.

Effective and global citizenship
- RGSS courses and programs can help everyone understand how gender roles and situations within social hierarchies have been constructed in the past. They can help us imagine and create less limiting possibilities in a world of rapidly changing roles and expectations.

Health sciences and health care
- Identify issues related to health disparities and the health impacts of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and economic inequality.
- Understand women’s positions within health care systems, such as serving as the primary health care decision makers for families and as patients whose pain is often under-acknowledged.
- Learn to use health care contexts in ways that empower people to address issues like family violence and sexual assault.
- Help integrate sexual and reproductive health into health care systems.

Political science, law, public policy
- Learn how women, people of color and LGBTQ+ people have been, and sometimes still are, excluded from political processes and how they are working to achieve political empowerment.
- Learn about ways that political systems are shaped by systems of privilege and inequality.
- Learn how to advocate for public policy that addresses all aspects of social inequality.