



Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

COLLEGE OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND HUMANITIES

Undergraduate Programs

Major:

- Women's Studies

Minor:

- Women's Studies
- Social Justice

Sample Courses

- Gender, Race, and Class in American Institutions
- Introduction to LGBT Studies
- Girls and Women in Sport
- Women and Leadership
- History of Motherhood
- Gendered Violence Prevention
- Globalization, Women, and Work
- Lesbian Studies
- History of Black Women's Activism
- Gender and Human Rights
- Gender, Sexuality, and Social Change in Religion
- Hip Hop Culture, Race, and Gender
- Women, Poverty, and Public Policy
- Search for Economic Justice
- Introduction to Social Justice
- Women in the U.S. Economy
- Women's Health Issues
- Sexual Health Promotion
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Latin America
- Philosophy of Love, Sex and Friendship
- Women and Politics
- Human Sexuality
- Sociology of Gender

Professional Associations

- National Women's Studies Association | www.nwsa.org

Department Overview

The mission of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Department is to empower students to think critically about gender and sexuality, challenge social inequality, and become ethical problem-solvers, preparing them for careers, engaged citizenship, and advanced degrees. We advance knowledge and critical conversations about social justice through teaching, research, community engagement, and service. We provide students with opportunities to develop research and communication skills and creatively use the knowledge and practices of our discipline.

The WGSS program offers an interdisciplinary curriculum that enables students to: examine the meaning of gender as a socially constructed category; explore the roles of institutional structures on all gender identities in national and international contexts; and critique the way society and knowledge, itself, has been organized. The program not only allows students to study the diversity of human experience by uncovering hidden histories but helps students understand themselves, their place in the world, and how social transformation is possible. Students have the opportunity to connect feminist theory with community needs through internships, involvement with the College Feminists, and other campus and community leadership opportunities.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

4300 Centennial Hall

608.785.8357

www.uwlax.edu/wgss

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Department Features

MAJOR AND MINOR

The department offers a 33-credit major (B.A. or B.S.) and a 21-credit minor in Women's Studies. Courses with a focus on women, gender, or sexuality offered through other departments allow students to develop expertise in particular fields. The department provides excellent one-on-one advising about courses and career development, and strongly encourages and facilitates student participation in internships that provide practical experience applying concepts, knowledge, and skills.

CAMPUS EVENTS

The WGSS Department sponsors or co-sponsors many programs about women and women's concerns, gender, and sexuality. WGSS events are free and open to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM (SSP)

This semester-long program concentrates on critical reading, writing, and thinking to prepare low-income people, often single parents, for successful college work. Classes meet one night per week and child care is provided. SSP also provides internship opportunities for women's studies students.

STUDENT CLUB

The mission of the College Feminists is to provide students as well as the La Crosse community with advocacy on women's and gender issues. College Feminists initiates activities for UWL students and the La Crosse community and collaborates with many other student clubs on campus to provide rich educational opportunities outside the classroom as well as fun socializing.

INTERNSHIPS

- New Horizons Shelter and Women's Center
- Bluff Country Family Resources
- 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection
- Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth
- Essentials Health Clinic
- First Call for Help
- Self-Sufficiency Program
- Gundersen Health System
- Mayo Clinic Health System

Internship possibilities beyond the local region: Feminist Majority, Planned Parenthood, NOW, Women's Policy, Inc.

Career Opportunities

ENTRY LEVEL

WGSS graduates work in many careers in the arts, business, education, law, health professions, social advocacy, and social work.

FURTHER EDUCATION

The major qualifies students to pursue advanced degrees in Women's Studies, Gender Studies, or Sexuality Studies, as well as a variety of related fields. The minor enhances qualifications for advanced degrees in many related fields.

Occupational Outlook

WGSS evaluates how cultural definitions of people have shaped most fields of study and most professions. It provides material and techniques to correct biases and to create more accurate and empowering models of people, culture and society. Because of its emphasis on communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving, WGSS courses and programs are valuable in a broad range of careers.

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, PERSONNEL

- Designing family leave and other work-life policies in ways that are equitable and help keep talented staff connected to the organization
- Advocating 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
- Ensuring equitable procedures in hiring, evaluation, pay, promotion, and leadership opportunities

COUNSELING AND SOCIAL WORK

- Explore biases in therapeutic models
- Gain an understanding of the common concerns experienced by female clients, such as battering, rape, incest, body image, self-worth, and others
- Relate women's personal issues to the social construction of gender

EDUCATION

- Become aware of sexist biases in curricular models
- Learn about classroom behaviors that limit students to stereotypical roles
- Explore teaching models, curriculum integration, and non-sexist teaching

EFFECTIVE AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

WGSS courses and programs can help everyone understand how the roles of women and men 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

- Women are the primary health care decision makers in families
- Healthcare encounters provide good opportunities to screen for family violence and sexual assault
- Healthcare providers have a role to play in empowering women to care well for their sexual and reproductive health

POLITICAL SCIENCE, LAW, PUBLIC POLICY

- Learn how women have been excluded from the political process in the past and how they are working to achieve political empowerment
- Explore women's public policy issues