

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Rachel Carson Hall 18
(707) 664-2840
www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Charlene Tung

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Jo-Ann Smith

FACULTY

Lena McQuade
Don Romesburg
Charlene Tung

Programs Offered

Major in Women's and Gender Studies
Minor in Women's and Gender Studies
Career Minor in Women's Health
Minor in Queer Studies

Women's and gender studies (WGS) is an interdisciplinary major that examines the experiences and opportunities of women and men in relation to race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. WGS places gender in specific cultural and historical contexts in relation to families, communities, and nations. In addition, feminist scholarship in recent years has inspired a vast array of work on those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. Uniting inquiry in women's and gender studies is the effort to understand and explain the inequalities between and among men and women and to envision change.

The Women's and Gender Studies Department allows students to engage in both classroom and community work. In addition to building skills through coursework in social science research methods, feminist theory, and original research projects, students are also required to complete at least 4 units of internship in a community organization. These combined experiences provide women's and gender studies students with critical analytical skills and an opportunity to apply the theories and methods discussed in the classroom to practice in everyday life and the job market.

Major in Women's and Gender Studies

The major is an interdisciplinary curriculum that explores the nature and function of gender as it intersects with race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and nation within our everyday institutions and lives. This includes contemporary, historical, and cross-cultural examinations of the sexual division of labor, the social construction of the family, the law, media, and other public and private institutions. Women's and gender studies also focuses on how ideological conceptions of masculinity and femininity shape human development and constructions of knowledge itself.

The women's and gender studies major is constructed to encourage students to double-major or to minor in another discipline. The major has three components:

1. An interdisciplinary core of 21 units that exposes students to feminist theory and research about women and gender;
2. A disciplinary concentration of 15 units that exposes students to how gender analyses develop within, and can influence, a specific discipline; and
3. Skills application in social services for a total of 8 units, including 4 units of internship or community involvement.

Careers in Women's and Gender Studies

Women's and gender studies graduates hold tools – knowledge of gender issues, critical thinking skills, and breadth of perspective – that public service organizations, private industry, government, and graduate schools want and need. The women's and gender studies major or minor provides excellent preparation for students going into teaching, counseling, social work, public relations, public policy and management, advocacy work, and other fields. WGS graduates also pursue advanced degrees in education, law, public policy, history, psychology, sociology, and other areas.

Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies

Degree Requirements	Units
General education	50
Major core requirements	44
Electives	26
Total units needed for graduation	120

I. Core Requirements

WGS 280 Women's Bodies: Health and Image or WGS 285 Men and Masculinity or WGS 350 Gender, Sexuality, and Family	3-4
WGS 375 Gender, Race, and Class	3
WGS 425 Feminist Research Methods	4
WGS 475 Contemporary Feminist Theory	4
WGS 485 Senior Seminar	4
Elective	3

The elective should be from within WGS, although appropriate courses from another department may be considered (in consultation with a WGS advisor). The elective course is separate from those taken to fulfill II and III below.

Total core units 21

II. Disciplinary Concentration

Students must specialize in one discipline (defined as any recognized major or minor in the University) by completing 15 units of coursework in that area as follows:

- A course on women, men, or gender (3-4 units). Examples: Sociology of Gender, Women Writers, Gender and Archaeology, or Women in U.S. History;
- An introductory (3-4 units) course in the discipline (may be lower- or upper-division); and
- Additional upper-division courses (8-10 units) in the discipline, chosen in consultation with a women's and gender studies advisor.

Total disciplinary concentration units 15

III. Skills Application

WGS 390 Gender and Work 4

WGS 395 Community Involvement Project (CIP) or

WGS 499 Internships 4

Internships/Community Involvement Projects must be completed in a community organization chosen in consultation with a WGS advisor. Sites usually address social inequalities related to issues raised in WGS courses. Examples: United Against Sexual Assault, Circle of Sisters after-school program, The Living Room (drop-in center for at-risk women and children), and The Family Connection (work with families transitioning out of homelessness).

Total skills application units 8

Total units necessary for major 44

Minor in Women's and Gender Studies

The minor in women's and gender studies is an interdisciplinary curriculum that applies feminist perspectives to the study of women and men. It draws upon both courses offered through the women's and gender studies department (e.g., WGS 350) and courses on gender offered through various departments on a regular and occasional Special Topics basis. The minor is composed of 10 units of core courses and at least 6 units of supporting courses, for a minimum total of 16 units. At least 13 of these units must be upper-division.

Minor Core Requirements (10 units)

The core courses provide an organized framework for understanding women's and men's lives and individual experiences within cultural groups, and from a societal perspective. It is recommended that students enroll in the core courses in the following order:

WGS 280 Women's Bodies: Health and Image or

WGS 285 Men and Masculinity or

WGS 350 Gender, Sexuality, and Family 3-4

WGS 375 Gender, Race, and Class 3

WGS 475 Contemporary Feminist Theory 4

Minor Supporting Courses (6 units)

Minors in women's and gender studies must complete at least two courses from at least two of the following categories for a total of 6 units.

Note: Courses on women and gender offered in other departments can fulfill these requirements.

- I. Women and Gender in American Society
- II. Women and Gender in the Humanities
- III. Biological and Psychological Perspective on Women or Gender
- IV. Women or Gender in International and Cross-Cultural Perspective
- V. Special Topics on Women or Gender

For more information, please come to the Women's and Gender Studies Department office (664-2840), Rachel Carson 18.

Total units in the WGS minor 16

Career Minor in Women's Health

Women's health is a large and growing area of research and policy interest in the United States. The career minor in women's health provides students with interdisciplinary coursework, training, and work experience in the social, political, and economic aspects of women's health and illness. Career needs of both health care providers and liberal arts and sciences majors are addressed. It is a highly suitable program for those interested in pursuing careers as nurses, physicians, counselors, therapists, public health workers, research analysts, policy makers, and in a variety of other fields.

Minor Core Requirements (6 units)

WGS 280 Women's Bodies: Health and Image 3

NURS 480 Health, Sexuality, and Society or

WGS 350 Gender, Sexuality, and Family 3-4

Practical Application (3-4 units)

WGS 499 Internship in Women's Health Setting (4) or

NURS 425 Senior Clinical Study (3) 3-4

Electives (10-11 units)

All electives must be health-related (including mental health). When the health course does not explicitly deal with women's health, students are expected to do their term papers and projects on women's health issues and to be prepared to share these course materials with the program coordinator.

Suggested Electives

GEOG 396 Medical Geography 3

GERN 300 Basic Gerontology 3

GERN 319/SOCI 319 Aging and Society 3

NURS 340 Health and Illness in the Expanding Family 4

PSY 404/WGS 330 Psychology of Women 4

PSY 408 Transitions in Adult Development 4

PSY 454 Biofeedback and Somatic Psychology 4

SOCI 452 Health Care and Illness (cross-listed as GERN 452) 4

WGS 301 Women's Health Lecture Series 1-2

WGS 440/SOCI 440 Sociology of Reproduction 4

WGS/NURS 495 Special Study Research on Women's Health 1-4

Total units required in women's health minor 20

For more information come to the Women's and Gender Studies Department Office in Rachel Carson 18.

Minor in Queer Studies

The minor in queer studies gives students competency within a dynamic field of interdisciplinary scholarship related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender lives as well as gender and sexual structures and identities. It provides coursework in queer theory, politics, history, sociology, psychology, cultural criticism, and methodology. The queer studies minor will augment students' pursuit of graduate and professional degrees. In a public- and private-sector job market with increasing demand for nuance in issues of diversity and critical flexibility, the minor will position graduates on the leading edge in many fields, including social work, counseling, education, health-care, social service, media, policy, nonprofit advocacy, and social marketing.

Minor Core Requirements (12 units)

WGS 255 Introduction to Queer Studies (Fall only) (GE D1)	4
WGS 301 Queer Studies Lecture Series (Spring only)	1
WGS 350 Gender, Sexuality, and Family (GE E)	3
WGS 455 Queer Theory/Queer Lives (Spring only)	4

Electives (6-8 units)

Students choose two interdisciplinary sexuality-themed courses in consultation with the queer studies minor advisor.

Suggested Electives

ANTH 302 Biological Basis of Sex Differences	4
ANTH/HD 318 Human Development: Sex & the Life Cycle	3
HIST 449 Gender and Sexuality in Latin America	4
NURS 480 Health, Sexuality, and Society (GE E)	3
PSY 290 Sexual Identities Across the Lifespan	4
PSY 490 Psychology of Gender	4
SOCI 360 Sociology of Sexualities	4
WGS 285 Men and Masculinity (GE E)	3
Queer/LGBT/sexuality-related Special Studies courses offered in Sciences, Arts/Humanities, and Social Sciences.	

Total units required in queer studies minor **18**

For more information, please visit the Women's and Gender Studies Department Office in Rachel Carson Hall 18.

Sample Four-Year Plan for Women's and Gender Studies Major (Freshman Entry to Program)

Plan to complete the major (44 units) and graduate (120 units) in eight semesters starting in the freshman year. This major is organized to facilitate a double major or minor in another discipline. Hence 20 units of the major can be counted toward the double major (e.g., all the disciplinary concentration and 4 additional units can be counted for both majors).

FRESHMAN YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (15 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i>
GE (3), GE (3)	GE (3), GE (3)
GE (3), GE (3), GE (3)	GE (3), GE (3), GE (3)

SOPHOMORE YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (14 Units)</i>
WGS 280 (GE) (3) or WGS 285 (3)	WGS Elective (3)
Lower-division course in disciplinary concentration (4)	Disciplinary course (4)
GE (3)	GE (3)
Electives (6)	Electives (4)

JUNIOR YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (17 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (13 Units)</i>
WGS 375 (3)	WGS 390 (4) and WGS 499 (2)
Gender course in disciplinary concentration (4)	Disciplinary course needed for 20-unit minor (4)
WGS 350 (3)	Upper-Division GE (3)
Disciplinary course needed to complete a minor (4)	
Upper-Division GE (3)	

SENIOR YEAR: 30 Units

<i>Fall Semester (17 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (13 Units)</i>
WGS 425 (4)	WGS 485 (4)
WGS 475 (4)	WGS 499 (2)
Electives (9)	Electives (7)

TOTAL UNITS: 120

Sample Four-Semester Plan for Women's and Gender Studies Major (Transfer Students and Upperclassman Entry to Program)

Plan for transfer students and those who declare a major in women's and gender studies at the start of their junior year. (This plan assumes the student has completed 62 units toward graduation and all lower-division GE.) This plan is organized to facilitate a minor in another discipline.

JUNIOR YEAR: 29 Units

<i>Fall Semester (14 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i>
WGS 350 (3)	WGS 375 (3)
WGS Elective (3)	WGS 390 (4) and WGS 499 (2)
Gender course in disciplinary concentration (4)	Disciplinary course (4)
Course in disciplinary concentration (4)	Upper-Division GE (3)

SENIOR YEAR: 30-32 Units

<i>Fall Semester (16 Units)</i>	<i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i>
WGS 425 (4)	WGS 485 (4)
WGS 475 (4)	WGS 499 (2)
Disciplinary course (4)	WGS elective (3)
Course to complete the minor in a discipline (4)	Upper-Division GE (3)
	Electives (3)

TOTAL UNITS: 120