WOMEN’S STUDIES, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Learning Objectives

• Career-Related Skills:
  • Describe professional options;
  • Identify personally relevant career options to implement their gender knowledge, critical and communication skills, and feminist values in a variety of settings;
  • Develop a résumé centering around skills relevant to a business-oriented position and to placement in a graduate program.

• Communication Skills:
  • Communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship;
  • Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of major feminist theories;
  • Translate feminist theory and concepts into everyday language.

• Content Knowledge:
  • Define/explain major concepts underlying women’s and gender studies;
  • Describe the basic history of Women’s Studies (the “three waves” and beyond);
  • Define feminist concepts and theories;
  • Describe the interdisciplinary nature of the fields of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies;
  • Demonstrate awareness of feminist history and movement outside of the United States, i.e., global or transnational feminism;
  • Summarize the history and fundamental contributions of black feminism in relation to mainstream feminism.

• Diversity and Ethical Considerations:
  • Name the principles for a feminist classroom (confidentiality, respect of all, disagreeing through reason, not emotion, etc.) and practice them;
  • Integrate knowledge of cultural diversity in the context of human rights frameworks;
  • Apply basic principles of ethics to real-life situations, such as bystander action, or intervening in other forms of prejudice and hate.

• Research Skills:
  • Differentiate schools of feminist thought, and how research methods vary from one to the other (e.g. feminist literary analysis vs. psychological experimentation and protocols);
  • Integrate research from various academic fields into one’s own research and writing;
  • Gain first-hand experience with faculty research (as a research assistant) and/or with working as an intern with a faculty member (as a teaching assistant) or with a diversity-oriented organization (as an intern).

• Thinking Skills:
  • Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and (if relevant) quantitative and qualitative research to analyze real life issues related to gender and sexuality, and/or textual analysis (depending on the student’s secondary disciplinary focus);
  • Synthesize theoretical concepts;
  • Formulate activist activities based on theoretical principles;
  • Formulate and defend one’s own scholarly opinion regarding feminism based on reading, interpreting, and synthesizing the literature;
  • Relate classroom and course knowledge to current events, feminist concepts and theories to research and to real life.