

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 resumé 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.