WOMEN'S STUDIES, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
This interdisciplinary major is designed to develop a broad understanding of the study of women and women's perspectives in all areas of academic scholarship. The focus is on feminist analyses of women's lives, of women's social, cultural, and scientific contributions, and of the structure of sex/gender systems. The interdisciplinary and inclusive nature of the field is reflected in a curricular structure that includes courses cross-listed with a wide variety of departments, courses that deal with aspects of women's lives throughout history, and courses that recognize the diversities of culture, race, religion, ethnicity, age, disability, and sexual orientation.

Students may choose either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science Program. The B.A. degree in Women's Studies is a traditional Women's Studies degree. The B.S. degree is intended for students with strong interest in quantitative skills, women's health and sexuality, and/or women and science, or who wish to pursue a multiple major program with other B.S. degree programs.

What is Women's Studies?
Women's Studies explores the intersection of identity, social power, and privilege. Concerned with how societies “construct” inequality and social bias, Women's Studies analyzes every aspect of our lives through a critical lens, without filtering out impacts of socio-political inequalities, and lived experiences of women and their families. With cross-listed courses in Anthropology, Communications, Government, History, Psychology, Sociology, Women's Health and more fields, students can approach Women's Studies from almost any direction. Alongside the U.S. history of women and feminist movement, “transnational” feminism offers a wider comparative study of: constructions of gender across U.S. history of women and feminist movement, “transnational” feminism, History, Psychology, Sociology, Women's Health and more fields, students can approach Women's Studies from almost any direction. Alongside the U.S. history of women and feminist movement, “transnational” feminism offers a wider comparative study of: constructions of gender across cultures; the legal and political standing of women and marginalized populations; the nature and impacts of gender-based violence, mass migration, militarization, climate change, food insecurity and other contemporary challenges on the physical, social and political wellbeing of women around the globe.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You want to translate your curiosities, experiences, passions and interests into actionable and meaningful work.
- You seek out inclusive environments, with persons of different backgrounds, cultures, and races to understand their points of view.
- You are passionate about gender equity, human rights, and social justice.
- You want to explore how gender and sexuality play a role in culture, the arts, literature, health, politics, the sciences, law, and education.
- You see yourself as a change agent in this world!

Entrance to Major
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and

2. have third-semester classification.

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Women's Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>21-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>57</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

3-12 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3
Credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

**Cultures Requirement**

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

**Writing Across the Curriculum**

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

**Total Minimum Credits**

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**Requirements for the Major**

This includes 3-12 credits of General Education courses: 3-6 credits of GQ courses, 0-3 credits of GH courses, and 0-3 credits of GS courses.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44.

### Prescribed Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMNST 301</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMNST 492</td>
<td>Contemporary Feminist Analysis: The Capstone Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMNST 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or WMNST 106</td>
<td>Representing Women and Gender in Literature, Art and Popular Cultures</td>
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</tbody>
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### WMNST 400

Debates in Contemporary Feminism

Select 3 credits from the following:

- WMNST 401 Doing Feminism: Theory and Practice

### WMNST 494

Research Project

### WMNST 495

Internship

### WMNST 496

Independent Studies

Select 27 credits (at least 9 credits at the 400 level) in Women's Studies from the program-approved lists, including:

1. 6 credits of arts and humanities courses from the following:
   - WMNST 83

2. WMNST 101 The African American Woman

3. WMNST 102 Women of Color: Cross-Cultural Perspective

4. WMNST 104 Women and the American Experience

5. WMNST 106N Representing Women and Gender in Literature, Art and Popular Cultures

6. WMNST 117 Women in Modern History

7. WMNST 137 Women and Religion

8. WMNST 194 Women Writers

9. WMNST 407W Women and Theatre

10. WMNST 438 Feminist Philosophy

11. WMNST 462 Reading Black, Reading Feminist

12. WMNST 466 Lesbian and Gay History

13. WMNST 490 Women Writers and Their Worlds

14. WMNST 400 Debates in Contemporary Feminism

15. WMNST 401 Doing Feminism: Theory and Practice

Select 3 credits from the following:

- WMNST 401 Doing Feminism: Theory and Practice

### WMNST 412

Education and the Status of Women

### WMNST 426Y

Gender Geographies

### WMNST 429

Women in Developing Countries

### WMNST 420

Women Writers

### WMNST 421

Sexual and Domestic Violence

### WMNST 424

Women and Sport

### WMNST 428

Gender and Politics

### WMNST 452

Women's Health Issues

### WMNST 453

Women and the Criminal Justice System

### WMNST 454

Gender Roles in Communication

### WMNST 456

Gender, Occupations, and Professions

### WMNST 458

Critical Issues in Reproduction

### WMNST 471

The Psychology of Gender

### WMNST 476

Anthropology of Gender

6 credits that focus on women's health and sexuality or women in science and technology from the following:

- WMNST 157 Science, Technology, and Gender

3 credits that focus on non-Western women from the following:

- WMNST 102 Women of Color: Cross-Cultural Perspective
WMNST 202
WMNST 420 Women in Developing Countries
WMNST 476 Anthropology of Gender

3 credits that focus on women of color in the United States from the following:
WMNST 101 The African American Woman
WMNST 103 Racism and Sexism
WMNST 136 Race, Gender, and Employment
WMNST 205 Gender, Diversity and the Media

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 15 credits total from the following groups with at least 3 credits from each group:

15
Quantification (GQ) and Research Methods
Values, Ethics, and Scientific Inquiry
Social and behavioral sciences, health sciences, or natural sciences

1 The same course may be used to fulfill more than one requirement within Additional Courses.

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park
Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors

Suggested Academic Plan
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
ENGL 15, 30, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15 (GWS)‡ 3 WMNST xxx (Natural & Social Sciences)* 3
WMNST 100* 3 Major Supporting Courses and Related Areas† 3
Major Supporting Courses and Related Areas* 3 General Education Course 3
General Education Course (FYS) 3 General Education Course 3
General Education Course (GQ)‡ 3 General Education Course 3

Second Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
WMNST xxx (Arts and Humanities)* 3 WMNST 301* 3
CAS 100A, 100B, 100C, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T (GWS)‡ 3 Major Supporting Courses and Related Areas† 3
WMNST 250, 452, or 458‡ 3 General Education Course 3
General Education Course (GQ)‡ 3 General Education Course 3
Elective 3 Elective 3

Third Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
WMNST 400 or 401* 3 WMNST 4xx* 3
Major Supporting Courses and Related Areas† 3 WMNST 4xx* 3
WMNST xxx (Natural & Social Sciences)* 3 WMNST xxx (Natural & Social Sciences)* 3
General Education Course 3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D (GWS)‡ 3
General Education Course 3 General Education Course 3
Elective 3

Fourth Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
WMNST 494, 495, or 496* 3 WMNST 492* 3
WMNST 250, 452, or 458‡ 3 WMNST xxx (Arts & Humanities)* 3
Elective 3 Elective 3
Major Supporting Courses and Related Areas† 3 Elective 3
General Education Course (GHW) 1.5 General Education Course (GHW) 1.5
Elective 3

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
Women's Studies, B.S.

# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

1 Select 15 credits total from groups a, b, and c, with at least 3 credits from each group. A. Quantification (GQ) and Research Methods. B. Values, Ethics, and Scientific Inquiry. C. Social and Behavioral Sciences, Health Sciences, or Natural Sciences. See Adviser for Current List

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Note:

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

WMNST majors must take 3 credits that focus on non-Western women and 3 credits that focus on women of color in the United States. Please see adviser for current list.

Career Paths

Employers today value effective communication, analytical thinking, and teamwork. With its emphasis on how gender, sexuality, race and other forms of diversity impact the experiences of every individual, the Women's Studies curriculum trains its majors to recognize the impacts of bias and unequal social power in the social, cultural and political arenas. Graduates enter their post-graduate world sensitive to diverse perspectives that can either facilitate or impede team building, problem solving, and negotiation. Women's Studies graduates—no matter where their career paths lead—are committed to the kind of institutional and social change that values all voices, and supports social justice.

Careers

Women's Studies graduates from Penn State work in a wide variety of professions and industries. You will find us in the legal profession (one alumna runs her own legal firm, serving lower-income clients and gender-based discrimination cases). Others work in communications, marketing and advertising, business, banking and human resources. Activist students find their way into non-profits, advocacy groups, government, human development, journalism and communications. Women's health is a dynamic field—medical care, nursing and research positions are out there, as well as health administration. Teaching attracts many of our graduates.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

The scholarly field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies prepares students to study some of the most complex challenges in a world where gender, race, class, sexuality, and power are always intertwined. As an interdisciplinary field, WGSS spans the arts and sciences, the humanities, and policy fields and provides applicable training for students seeking to continue their studies. Our scholars gain experience as researchers and teachers with the innovative tools to prepare them as leaders across the public, private, and educational sectors.

MORE INFORMATION

Professional Resources

• National Women's Studies Association (http://www.nwsa.org)
• National Organization for Women (https://now.org)

Contact
University Park
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
133 Willard Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-4025
jle1@psu.edu
http://www.womenstudies.la.psu.edu