

Women's and Gender Studies

- B.A.
- Minor

Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field focusing on how gender, together with race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and ability, affects our lives. WGS students analyze how gender structures societies past and present and how it affects people at the individual and group levels. They explore paths to achieve equality for all people.

Overview of skills developed

- Written and verbal communication
- Interpersonal communication
- Critical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Learning and synthesizing new ideas
- Information management

Career Paths

Women's and Gender Studies graduates tend to follow three types of career paths: **sustainers**, **evolvers**, and **synthesizers**.

- **Sustainers** pursue career paths that involve working with gender issues directly, in types of employment where their degree fits well with the position (for example, a social worker, an analyst at a nonprofit, a paralegal or lawyer, a community health worker, a human resources diversity specialist). Typically, sustainers are involved in activist work and they often maintain an activist agenda outside of their employment as well.

- **Evolvers** take their training in women's and gender studies into arenas where it may not have previously seen as directly applicable, and where they find or create new opportunities. Evolvers are innovators and adapt easily. They are not afraid to take appropriate risks to follow their goals. For example, they may get involved with sustainability work or they may run their own socially responsible business.

- **Synthesizers** move between the other two categories. For example, a synthesizer may be involved with a nonprofit organization and then work to bring in women's and gender issues into the events run by the organization.

Source: Michele Tracy Berger and Cheryl Radeloff, Transforming Scholarship: Why Women's and Gender Studies Students Are Changing Themselves and the World, 2nd edition. Routledge, 2015.

Curriculum outline

Students learn to analyze: structural inequality; how gender shapes our socioeconomic and political worlds; the individual and collective ideas of components of social change; culturally and historically specific ideas of gender, sex, and sexuality; feminist perspectives on the study of literature, history, and the arts.

Students may choose to double major in a related field, such as Crime and Justice Studies, English & Communication, Health & Society, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Public Administration, Psychology, or add a minor in a field like Sustainability or Urban Studies.

Course Offerings Include:

- Intro to Women's and Gender Studies
- Global Feminism
- Ecofeminism: Philosophy and Practice
- Women in World History
- Race, Gender, and Biomedicine
- Reproductive Rights and Health
- Global Women Writers

Top Jobs

- Community Health Worker/Educator (median salary: \$46,080)
- Consultant (median salary: \$113,534)
- Human Resources Specialist (median salary: \$63,490)
- Human Rights Advocate (median salary: \$52,441)
- Research and Media Strategy Specialist (\$49,000)
- Social and Community Service Managers (median salary: \$69,600)
- Social Worker (median salary: \$49,470)
- Victim/Witness Advocate (median salary: \$49,470)

Graduate school placements

- American University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- George Washington University

Job placements

- American Chemical Society
- Younger Women's Task Force
- Girls Incorporated
- MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women
- The Women's Center of New Bedford
- The Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts

More info

- Study abroad
- Scholarships for Women's and Gender Studies majors and minors
- Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CWGS)
- Independent study on special topics