

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts

Introduction to the Major

The Women's and Gender Studies major (WGS) explores how gender intersects with sexuality, race, and other social identities — historically and today.

We explore the social construction of femininities and masculinities, gendered dimensions of power and institutions, and the role of patriarchy in structuring expectations around gender expression and identity, sexuality, race, and class. This interdisciplinary program incorporates perspectives from faculty across the university. From the personal to the political, from theory to practice, you will analyze and discuss diverse viewpoints and engage with issues on campus and beyond.

Highlights

Together with your adviser, you will design a distinctive specialization to focus your studies. Students will complete a related minor or second major to sharpen your research and analytical skills through interdisciplinary coursework.



"My experience as a WGS major has taught me the importance of thinking critically about power and identity. I appreciate the opportunity to make the major my own."

- Henley Ballou, Class of 2022

What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

WGS graduates work with Harvard School of Public Health, Facing History and Ourselves, Boston Children's Hospital, Neighbor to Neighbor MA, Global Gender Scholar, and more.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Our alumni pursue graduate study in public administration, social work, marriage and family therapy, law, psychology, education, sociology, and more.

Foundational Courses

Students should take WGS 110 - Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies and one of the following theory courses:

- ENG 231 - Queer Modernisms
- ENG 264 - Queer Victorians
- PSCI 210 - Sexuality and Politics
- PSCI 178 - Gender and Political Theory

Find out more at clarku.edu/programs/major/womens-and-gender-studies-ba/

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose



Cultivate Your Communities



Engage Locally & Globally



Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1



Explore the WGS major

Take Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies. Meet other majors and learn key vocabulary and theories in this course. Make sure you attend the Enloe lectures and other WGS events.



Identify courses with the WGS attribute

Work with your adviser to help find courses that will fulfill requirements and expand your knowledge. Explore options for the required second major or a minor to complement WGS.



Explore the Clark community and beyond

Connect with groups on campus and in Worcester. Which organizations match your interests? What volunteer opportunities might you pursue? Log into Handshake to find volunteer, internship, or job opportunities to pursue or get involved through community engagement fairs.

Year 2



Declare your major and establish your specialization

In WGS, you design a specialization that helps you hone your skills and knowledge across at least two disciplines. Take the methods course and other courses that build critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills.



Start networking

Attend a career fair or visit your career adviser at the Career Connections Center (CCC) to learn about potential paths and opportunities.



Prepare for undergraduate research

Work with your advisor to start planning ahead for your capstone. Will you do an internship? Design a directed study? Take a capstone seminar in your second major? You can also start to consider pursuing an honors thesis.

Year 3



Pursue your specialization

To complete this requirement, you will take three courses at the 200-level and above across at least two departments.



Hone your campus presence

Many WGS majors and minors have participated in NARAL-Clark, Choices, Prism, All Kinds of Growth, and other related groups. You can also get involved with the WGS Newsletter.



Do an internship, study away, or study abroad

Work with the CCC to update your resume for an internship, study away, or study abroad application. These opportunities will give you real-world experience, expand your perspective, and help bolster your resume at the same time. Opportunity funding is available for summer internships, projects, and research.

Year 4



Bring it all together with your capstone

All of your hard comes together in your capstone. Make sure to review your coursework and complete all degree requirements.



What's next?

Identify which career fields you want to pursue or decide if graduate school is right for you. Work with your adviser to identify ways to test-drive your options through the Alumni Job Shadow Program. Connect with alumni and build your network.



Get ready to launch

As a WGS major, you have learned how to think and speak across disciplines. You have honed a perspective that allows you to identify broad, structural issues, and a critical-thinking skill set ready to approach complex questions and problems.