



HIGHLIGHTS

- Year 1** Core courses in the major
- Year 2** Select a specialization and declare your major
- Year 3** Finish your electives and take courses in your specialization
- Year 4** Take a capstone seminar, design a directed study or an internship for your capstone

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.

CORE COURSES

All WGS majors develop a theoretical foundation through two core courses. 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. Required courses include:

- Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- Topics in Feminist Theory
- Three electives in different departments
- Three specialization courses
- One methods or skills course
- One capstone course

"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 '22

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts



DESIGN
YOUR
JOURNEY



Explore
and navigate
Clark curriculum



Connect
and engage
with communities



Discover
and pursue
your passions



Develop
professional
skills



Reflect,
design
and plan

YEAR

1

YEAR

2



□ Explore the WGS major

Take Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies. Meet other majors and learn key vocabulary and theories in this course.



□ 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 Women's and Gender Studies.



□ Learn about campus events and resources

Make sure you attend the Enloe lectures and other WGS events where you can meet other members of the Clark community who are excited about WGS-related subjects. Make ClarkYou your default homepage and explore student resources related to academics, campus life, and health and wellness.



□ 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 the Office of Community Engagement & Volunteering



□ Reflect on what sparks your interests

What new interests have you discovered? What do you still want to try?



□ Declare your major

Identify faculty members who share your interests and consider asking one to become your adviser. Work with your adviser to continue to choose courses across disciplines to complete the requirements.



□ Start networking

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



□ Establish your specialization

In WGS, you design a specialization that helps you hone your skills and knowledge across at least two disciplines. This should be related to your required minor or second major.



□ Build your skill set

Take the methods course and other courses that build critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills.



□ 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.



□ Look back and look ahead

What courses do you still need to complete the major? What are you interested in pursuing after college? What skills will help you do so? Use your remaining courses to help accomplish these goals. Make an appointment with an adviser at the Career Connections Center to discuss!

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.

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. What courses are offered this year that fit into your specialization?



Hone your campus presence

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



Develop a professional resume

Work with the CCC to polish your resume and upload to Handshake for review, or visit the Career Lab in ASEC.



Enlarge and strengthen your networks

Attend WGS events to meet others with similar interests. Use ClarkCONNECT to connect with Clark alumni to hear about their path from WGS to their current career.



Do an internship, study away, or study abroad

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.



No regrets!

What's on your Clark undergraduate bucket list? Take an elective or two. Where do you need to build confidence or clarity? Where do I still need to build skills or experiences? Consider these as you pick courses and build relationships with mentors.



Plan for next year and beyond

Work with your academic adviser to make sure you are ready for your last year at Clark!

YEAR 4



Bring it all together with your capstone

All of your hard comes together in your capstone. Publish your accomplishments in the WGS Newsletter.



Think about what's next

Decide if graduate school is right for you with these resources or connect with your career adviser for help with post-graduation plans.



Consider your options

Identify which fields you want to pursue and work with your career adviser to identify ways to test-drive your options through the Alumni Job Shadow Program.



Connect with alumni

Build your professional network. Seek out mentors in your field and meet alumni on ClarkCONNECT. Clarkies love to help each other!



Share what you've learned

Present your research or experience at Clark and beyond. Explore campus and community opportunities such as ClarkFEST to share your work and experiences.



Apply for jobs or graduate programs

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.



Finish strong

What have you learned that you value? What have you excelled at? What action steps do you need to take this year to finish strong?



AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR!

As a WGS major, you will develop knowledge and skills applicable across multiple fields.

WGS is an interdisciplinary major. Students take courses across multiple departments, developing a skill set that translates well across disciplinary boundaries, and is applicable in multiple professional arenas. They learn to analyze complex social structures and confront injustice and oppression connected to gender, sexuality, and other intersecting social identities. We hone a critical perspective toward the world — an asset for any future employer!

CONNECT WITH US!

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clarku.edu/departments/womens-and-gender-studies/

Advising

We will help you set a course for success at Clark and beyond.

With your adviser, you will select classes to complete the WGS coursework. Together, you'll design a specialization and decide how to complete your capstone requirement.

CLARK
UNIVERSITY



Challenge Convention.
Change Our World.

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