WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OFFICE
Rachel Carson Hall 18
(707) 664-2840
www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies

DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Don Romesburg

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Jo-Ann Smith

FACULTY
Lena McQuade
Don Romesburg
Charlene Tung

Programs Offered

- Major in Women’s and Gender Studies
- Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies
- Career Minor in Women’s Health
- Minor in Queer Studies

Women’s and gender studies (WGS) is an interdisciplinary major that examines the experiences and opportunities of women and men in relation to race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. WGS places gender in specific cultural and historical contexts in relation to families, communities, and nations. In addition, feminist scholarship in recent years has inspired a vast array of work on those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. Uniting inquiry in women’s and gender studies is the effort to understand and explain the inequalities between and among men and women and to envision change.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department allows students to engage in both classroom and community work. In addition to building skills through coursework in social science research methods, feminist theory, and original research projects, students are also required to complete at least 4 units of internship in a community organization. These combined experiences provide women’s and gender studies students with critical analytical skills and an opportunity to apply the theories and methods discussed in the classroom to practice in everyday life and the job market.

Major in Women’s and Gender Studies

The major is an interdisciplinary curriculum that explores the nature and function of gender as it intersects with race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and nation within our everyday institutions and lives. This includes contemporary, historical, and cross-cultural examinations of the sexual division of labor, the social construction of the family, the law, media, and other public and private institutions. Women’s and gender studies also focuses on how ideological conceptions of masculinity and femininity shape human development and constructions of knowledge itself.

The women’s and gender studies major is constructed to encourage students to double-major or to minor in another discipline. The major has three components:

1. An interdisciplinary core of 21 units that exposes students to feminist theory and research about women and gender;
2. A disciplinary concentration of 15 units that exposes students to how gender analyses develop within, and can influence, a specific discipline; and
3. Skills application in social services for a total of 8 units, including 4 units of internship or community involvement.

Careers in Women’s and Gender Studies

Women’s and gender studies graduates hold tools – knowledge of gender issues, critical thinking skills, and breadth of perspective – that public service organizations, private industry, government, and graduate schools want and need. The women’s and gender studies major or minor provides excellent preparation for students going into teaching, counseling, social work, public relations, public policy and management, advocacy work, and other fields. WGS graduates also pursue advanced degrees in education, law, public policy, history, psychology, sociology, and other areas.

Bachelor of Arts in Women’s and Gender Studies

(See pages 245-246 for sample four-year programs.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Requirements</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General education</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major core requirements</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total units needed for graduation</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. Core Requirements

- WGS 280 Women’s Bodies: Health and Image or
- WGS 285 Men and Masculinity or
- WGS 350 Gender, Sexuality, and Family 3-4
- WGS 375 Gender, Race, and Class 3
- WGS 425 Feminist Research Methods 4
- WGS 475 Contemporary Feminist Theory 4
- WGS 485 Senior Seminar 4
- Elective 3

The elective should be from within WGS, although appropriate courses from another department may be considered (in consultation with a WGS advisor). The elective course is separate from those taken to fulfill II and III below.

Total core units 21

II. Disciplinary Concentration

Students must specialize in one discipline (defined as any recognized major or minor in the University) by completing 15 units of coursework in that area as follows:
A course on women, men, or gender (3-4 units). Examples: Sociology of Gender, Women Writers, Gender and Archaeology, or Women in U.S. History;

An introductory (3-4 units) course in the discipline (may be lower- or upper-division); and

Additional upper-division courses (8-10 units) in the discipline, chosen in consultation with a women’s and gender studies advisor.

Total units necessary for major 44

III. Skills Application

WGS 390 Gender and Work 4
WGS 395 Community Involvement Project (CIP) or WGS 499 Internships 4

Internships/Community Involvement Projects must be completed in a community organization chosen in consultation with a WGS advisor. Sites usually address social inequalities related to issues raised in WGS courses. Examples: Verity, Circle of Sisters after-school program, and The Living Room (drop-in center for at-risk women and children).

Total skills application units 8

IV. Electives

Electives (10-11 units)

All electives must be health-related (including mental health). When the health course does not explicitly deal with women’s health, students are expected to do their term papers and projects on women’s health issues and to be prepared to share these course materials with the program coordinator.

Suggested Electives

ANTH 318 Human Development: Sex and Life Cycle 3
BIOL 311 Sexually Transmitted Diseases 3
BIOL 318 Biology of Aging 3
GERN 300 Basic Gerontology 3
GERN 319/SOCI 319 Aging and Society 3
KIN 316 Women in Sports: Issues, Images, Identities 3
NURS 340 Health and Health in the Expanding Family 4
NURS 345 Clinical Practicum Expanding Family (Nursing only) 4
PSY 362 Human Sexuality (Summer) 4
PSY/GERN 408 Transitions of Adult Development 4
PSY 418 Psychology of the Family 4
PSY 454 Biofeedback Somatics and Stress Management 4
SCI 150 Introduction to Careers in Health Professions 1
WGS 301 Feminist Lecture Series 1-2
WGS 440/SOCI 440 Sociology of Reproduction 4
WGS/NURS 495 Special Study Research on Women’s Health 1-4

Total units required in women’s health minor 20

Minors in women’s and gender studies must complete at least two courses from at least two of the following categories for a total of 6 units.

I. Women and Gender in American Society

II. Women and Gender in the Humanities

Total units in the WGS minor 16

Career Minor in Women’s Health

Women’s health is a large and growing area of research and policy interest in the United States. The career minor in women’s health provides students with interdisciplinary coursework, training, and work experience in the social, political, and economic aspects of women’s health and illness. Career needs of both health care providers and liberal arts and sciences majors are addressed. It is a highly suitable program for those interested in pursuing careers as nurses, physicians, counselors, therapists, public health workers, research analysts, policy makers, and in a variety of other fields.

Minor Core Requirements (6 units)

WGS 280 Women’s Bodies: Health and Image 3
WGS 350 Gender, Sexuality, and Family 3-4

Practical Application (4 units)

WGS 499 Internship in Women’s Health Setting or NURS 425 Senior Clinical Study 4

Electives (10-11 units)

All electives must be health-related (including mental health). When the health course does not explicitly deal with women’s health, students are expected to do their term papers and projects on women’s health issues and to be prepared to share these course materials with the program coordinator.
Minor in Queer Studies

The minor in queer studies gives students competency within a dynamic field of interdisciplinary scholarship related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender lives as well as gender and sexual structures and identities. It provides coursework in queer theory, politics, history, sociology, psychology, cultural criticism, and methodology. The queer studies minor will augment students’ pursuit of graduate and professional degrees. In a public- and private-sector job market with increasing demand for nuance in issues of diversity and critical flexibility, the minor will position graduates on the leading edge in many fields, including social work, counseling, education, healthcare, social service, media, policy, nonprofit advocacy, and social marketing.

Minor Core Requirements (12 units)

WGS 255 Introduction to Queer Studies (Fall only) (GE D1) 4
WGS 301 Queer Studies Lecture Series (Spring only) 1
WGS 350 Gender, Sexuality, and Family (GE E) 3-4
WGS 455 Queer Theory/Queer Lives (Spring only) 4

Electives (6-8 units)

Students choose two interdisciplinary sexuality-themed courses in consultation with the queer studies minor advisor.

Suggested Electives

ANTH 302 Biological Basis of Sex Differences 4
ANTH/HD 318 Human Development: Sex & the Life Cycle 3
HIST 449 Gender and Sexuality in Latin America 4
NURS 480 Health, Sexuality, and Society (GE E) 3
PSY 290 Sexual Identities Across the Lifespan 4
PSY 490 Psychology of Gender 4
SOC 360 Sociology of Sexualities 4
WGS 285 Men and Masculinity (GE E) 3
Queer/LGBT/sexuality-related Special Studies courses offered in Sciences, Arts/Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Total units required in queer studies minor 18

For more information, please visit the Women’s and Gender Studies Department Office in Rachel Carson Hall 18.
Sample Four-Semester Plan for Women's and Gender Studies Major (Transfer Students and Upperclassman Entry to Program)

Plan for transfer students and those who declare a major in women's and gender studies at the start of their junior year. (This plan assumes the student has completed 62 units toward graduation and all lower-division GE.) This plan is organized to facilitate a minor in another discipline.

**JUNIOR YEAR: 29 Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester (14 Units)</th>
<th>Spring Semester (15 Units)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGS 350 (3)</td>
<td>WGS 375 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS Elective (3)</td>
<td>WGS 390 (4) and WGS 499 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender course in disciplinary concentration (4)</td>
<td>Disciplinary course (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course in disciplinary concentration (4)</td>
<td>Upper-Division GE (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SENIOR YEAR: 30-32 Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester (16 Units)</th>
<th>Spring Semester (15 Units)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WGS 425 (4)</td>
<td>WGS 485 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGS 475 (4)</td>
<td>WGS 499 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciplinary course (4)</td>
<td>WGS elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course to complete the minor in a discipline (4)</td>
<td>Upper-Division GE (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL UNITS: 120**