

WOMEN'S STUDIES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

Teaching
Research
Information/ Library science
Higher education administration and student support services:

Women and gender resource center, LGBTQIA+ resource center, admissions, financial aid, academic advising, development, alumni affairs, international education and study abroad, career services, residence life, student activities, sorority and fraternity life, orientation, leadership
Community education

Universities and colleges
Women's resource centers
Nonprofit organizations
Government programs (e.g., classes for displaced homemakers, parenting, GED prep, etc.).
Libraries (for women's studies departments, women's organizations, museums, etc.).

Earn a Ph.D. to teach and research in the field of Women's Studies at four-year institutions.
Master's or Ph.D. is required to teach at two-year colleges.
Obtain master's in library/information science or student affairs if interested in those areas.
Join related professional associations as a student member.
Gain experience through volunteer work or internships.
Seek leadership roles on campus such as peer mentor, resident assistant, or orientation leader.
Develop strong communication and public speaking skills.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Training and development
Human resources
Diversity, equity, and inclusion
Management
Marketing
Advertising
Public relations
Sales
Consulting
Union organizers

Public and private corporations, particularly:
Women's divisions
Women focused industries
Consulting firms
Marketing companies
Public relations agencies
Organizations for research on and advancement of women in business (e.g., Catalyst)

Obtain a minor or double major in business.
Earn a graduate degree in an area of interest.
Gain experience through internships or other employment.
Become current with business and industry literature and news.
Stay abreast of current technology.
Gain leadership experiences through campus involvement or volunteer work.
When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major".
Understand the top skills employers desire, and be prepared to demonstrate them (communication, teamwork, leadership, etc.).
Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

HEALTHCARE

Medicine specializing in women's issues:

- Obstetrics & gynecology
- Breast cancer
- Multiple sclerosis
- Fertility
- Nursing
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Dentistry
- Public health
- Medical assistant

Healthcare settings exclusively for women
Organizations devoted to women's health (e.g.,
National Women's Health Organization, CDC
Women's Health Department)
Hospitals
Clinics
Private or group practice
Wellness centers
Nursing homes
Mental health institutions
Federal, state, or local health departments
Centers for reproductive health
Women's resource centers

Maintain a high GPA for admission into graduate schools or professional programs.
Take prerequisite courses required by graduate programs or obtain a related double major or minor.
Meet with pre-health advisor periodically to discuss curricular decisions.
Prepare for and take appropriate admissions tests.
Obtain summer jobs, volunteer positions, or internships to test field of interest and gain experience.
Talk to professional in fields of interest and arrange shadowing opportunities.

LAW AND POLITICS

Law
Corporate practice
Public interest law
Civil law (e.g., family, discrimination, sexual harassment, etc.).
Lobbying
Government relations
Legislative aid
Elected or appointed leadership
Public policy
Research
Intelligence
Campaign management
Special interest advocacy
Program administration

Law firms
Corporate legal departments
Public defenders' offices
District attorneys
Government agencies
Public interest groups
Legal aid
Sole practitioner
Lobbying groups
Women's advocacy organizations

Supplement curriculum with relevant courses to enhance research and writing skills.
Maintain a high GPA.
Prepare for and take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).
Participate in activities that develop strong debate and public speaking skills such as mock trial.
Run for office in student government or work on a political campaign.
Gain relevant experience through jobs or internships with law firms or government agencies.
Obtain the J.D. for law positions or an advanced degree in political science or public administration for government positions.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling
Psychotherapy
Mental health services
Case management
Social work
Vocational/ Career counseling
Programming
Community relations
Administration

Private and group practice
Mental health institutions
Hospitals and clinics
Federal, state or local government:
 Department of Human Services
 Veterans' administration
Women's service organizations (e.g., Girl Scouts, Women for Women, AWARE, About-Face, etc.).
Organizations for women's aid (e.g., rape crisis, pregnancy support organizations, eating disorder treatment centers, battered women's shelters, adoption agencies, etc.).
Youth and family agencies
University and college counseling and career centers

Obtain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs and internships.
Volunteer with organizations for women's aid (e.g., crisis hotlines, Big Sisters, women's resource centers, etc.).
Learn to work well with different types of people and gain experience working with diverse clientele.
Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.
Earn a graduate degree in specific fields (e.g., marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, social work, counseling, psychology, etc.) for substantive counseling and administrative roles.
Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations.
Research state licensure requirements in fields such as counseling and psychology.

NONPROFIT

Administration
Program management and development
Grant writing
Research
Policy analysis
Volunteer coordination
Community education
Public relations and marketing

Nonprofit organizations
Social service agencies
Hospitals and medical centers
Private foundations (e.g., The Ford Foundation)
 International organizations (e.g. The World Health Organization, The International Red Cross, etc.).
Special interest groups
Trade or professional associations
Libraries
Educational institutions
Cultural heritage organizations
Women's service organizations
Human rights organizations

Seek multiple volunteer and internship positions to gain experience and build contacts in the field.
Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations.
Develop strong communication and research skills.
Learn how to write grants and gain an understanding of budgeting and fiscal management.
Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field.
Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours.
Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.

AREAS

WRITING

Journalism
Creative writing
Freelance writing
Copy writing

EMPLOYERS

Newspapers
Magazines
Broadcast media companies: television and movie industry
Trade, professional, or consumer publications
Internet sites
Advertising agencies
Publishing houses
Large corporations
Self-employment

STRATEGIES

Pair an interest in Women's Studies with communication skills to write about women, write on topics of interest to women, or for publication targeting a women audience.
Obtain a minor in English or journalism or take some general writing-focused classes.
Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or department/ Program newsletters.
Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center.
Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published.
Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions.
Become familiar with the proposal and submission process involved in freelance writing.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Women's Studies provides a broad, liberal arts background that helps build skills in critical thinking and problem solving, data collection and analysis, oral, written and presentation skills, and co-operative teamwork skills.
- Women's studies also provides in-depth knowledge of the conditions of women in various cultures and societies, gender dynamics, strategies and organizational skills needed to address gender inequalities, women's struggles, achievements, and contributions in past and present societies and across cultures, the courses and consequences of women's subordination, gender-based assumptions and biases and their consequences, social change agents, and sensitivity to social concerns and other view points.
- Women's studies also explores how intersecting oppressions such as racism, sexism, and ableism are comparable and intertwined. It works to address the systemic problems that create oppression.
- Some students may choose to study Women's Studies because they enjoy the subject and wish to pursue careers requiring "any major." In this scenario, it is critical to develop desirable skills through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences.
- Women's Studies majors are excellent candidates for a number of graduate school options because of their broad liberal arts background as well as specific interests that may set them apart from other students. For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high GPA, establish relationships with faculty to secure strong recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer, work, or research opportunities.