

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

**What is Women's and Gender Studies?** (from <http://www.albright.edu/catalog/womens.html>)

“The women's and gender studies curriculum offers a series of courses on women, gender and the family, providing a coherent grasp of women's achievements throughout history as well as a sense of female psychology and socialization. In offering students a systematic range of women's studies perspectives and fields, the program allows them the opportunity to relate the interdisciplinary study of women's experience to the content of their major academic field of study.

More specifically, women's and gender studies has the following goals:

- To develop the leadership potential of women by exposing them to women's history and their achievements in various fields
- To offer male students the opportunity to study the history of women's contributions in the arts and sciences and to understand fully the unique nature of women's experiences
- To understand the ways in which women's works in art, literature, history, science, religion and philosophy have been inspired and influenced by a tradition of women's works in all creative and academic fields
- To identify the particular circumstances of working class and minority women and understand how the forces of gender, race and class shape their lives and determine their work

Since its inception in 1989, the women's and gender studies curriculum includes a growing number of courses on male gender roles that reflect the growing body of scholarship centered on how men are gendered in American society. Although the majority of women's studies courses emphasize gender in Western societies, one of the goals of this program is to provide a global context and offer students courses that will define the roles and issues of women and men in non-Western societies.”

**What are the career opportunities for a Women's and Gender Studies concentrator?**

**Related Career Titles** (Some may require education beyond bachelor's degree)

Social Worker	Health Clinic Coordinator	College Professor
Human Rights Advocate	Victims' Advocate	Journalist
Archivist	Lawyer	Women's Center Director
Legislative Aide	Public Relations Manager	Rape Crisis Program Director
Community Org. Dir.	Intake Counselor	Policy Advocate
Health Care Specialist	Teacher	

**How do you get ready?** (from <http://career.utk.edu/students/majors/pdf/womenstudies.pdf>)

- 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 cooperative 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.
- Some students may choose to study Women’s Studies because they enjoy the subject but 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 and establish relationships with faculty to secure strong recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer, work or research opportunities.

### **Related Major Skills**

Critical and Inferential Thinking	Oral Presentation Skills
Effective Writing Skills	Research Skills
Understanding Human Interactions	Recognize Gender Differences/Similarities
Identify Value Systems	Concern for and Sensitivity to Others
Able to Observe, Analyze, & Interpret Information	Decision Making
Problem Solving	Good Listener
Leadership Abilities	Team Worker
Interact with Diverse Populations	Understanding of Community Needs
Explain Ideas Clearly	

### **What about the future?**

For specific job outlook information, refer to [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco).

**Available at Albright College Career Development Center’s Resource Library**

- Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Bookworms and Other Literary Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Born Leaders and Other Decisive Types, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Caring People and Other Sensitive Types, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Careers for Extroverts and Other Gregarious Types, Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Persuasive Types and Others Who Won't Take No for an Answer, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Scholars and Other Deep Thinkers, by Blythe Camenson
- Career Opportunities in Law and the Legal Industry, by Susan Echaore-McDavid
- Career Opportunities for Writers, by Rosemary Ellen Guiley
- Opportunities in Counseling and Development Careers, by Neale Baxter and Philip A. Perry
- Opportunities in Education Support Careers, by Mark Rowh
- Opportunities in Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Law Careers, by Gary Munneke
- Opportunities in Nonprofit Organizations, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Opportunities in Public Health Careers, by George E. Pickett and Terry W. Pickett
- Opportunities in Social Science Careers, by Rosanne J. Marek
- Opportunities in Social Work Careers, by Renee Wittenberg
- Opportunities in State and Local Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Writing Careers, by Elizabeth Foote-Smith

### **Disclaimer**

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Career Development Center.

### **Resources for Women's and Gender Studies**

- [Women's Studies/Women's Issues Resource Sites](http://userpages.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html),  
http://userpages.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html  
A selective, annotated Web site containing resources and information about women's studies/women's issues. with emphasis on sites of use to an academic women's studies program.
- [WSSLinks](http://libr.org/wss/wsslinks/index.html) http://libr.org/wss/wsslinks/index.html  
Well-organized collection of academic resources on various topics in women's studies. Maintained by the Collection Development Committee of ACRL-WSS (Association of College and Research Libraries' Women's Studies Section).
- [Feminist Majority Foundation Online](#)
- [The United Nations and the Status of Women](#)
- [Center for American Women and Politics](#)

- [National Women's Health Information Center](#)  
“...a service of the U.S. Public Health Service’s Office on Women’s Health. The NWHIC provides a gateway to the vast array of federal and other women’s health information resources.” Includes a Men’s Health section as well.
- United States Department of Justice - [Office on Violence Against Women](#)  
Comprehensive site with many links to topics such as date rape, sexual harassment, men’s activism and victims’ resources.

### **Organizations, Associations and Forums**

- [National Women's Studies Association](#)  
The primary organization for Women’s Studies. The NWSA “supports and promotes feminist/womanist teaching, learning, research, and professional and community service at the pre-K through post-secondary levels and serves as a locus of information about the inter-disciplinary field of Women’s Studies for those outside the profession.”
- [National Organization for Women](#)  
Includes NOW press statements, hot topics essays, and copies of organization’s newsletter.
- American Council on Education, [Office of Women in Higher Education](#)  
This division of the American Council of Education provides national direction for women’s leadership development and career advancement.