

Career

Paths

GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gender & Women's Studies uses feminist and interdisciplinary methods to teach, conduct research, and expand existing bodies of knowledge. Critical thinking, the production of theory, and the assumption of community and global responsibility are integral in these methods. Gender & Women's Studies focuses on the interrelationship between the personal and the political, supporting and promoting feminist teaching, learning, research, scholarship, creative activity, and professional and community service, ext of the language. Gender & Women's Studies majors are suited for careers within business, healthcare, human services, education, writing, non-profits, and law and politics.

You may choose to study Gender & Women's Studies not only because you enjoy the subject, but wish to pursue careers requiring "any major" associated with the industries listed above. In this scenario, it is critical to develop skills relevant to targeted fields through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences.

Gender & 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. Research areas of interest for specific program requirements.

Education

Example Career Paths: Teaching | Research | Community education | Information/library science | Higher education administration and student support services

Potential Employers: Universities and colleges | Women's resource centers | Non-profit organizations | Government programs (e.g., classes for displaced homemakers, parenting, GED prep, etc). | Libraries (for women's studies departments, women's organizations, museums, etc.)

Professional Associations: [National Women's Studies Association](#) | [Association for Gender, Research, Education, Academia, and Action](#)

Business and Industry

Example Career Paths: Training and development | Human resources | Diversity, equity, and inclusion | Management | Marketing | Advertising | Public relations | Sales | Consulting | Union organizer

Potential Employers: Public and private corporations | Consulting firms | Marketing companies | Public relations agencies | Organizations for research on and advancement of women in business, (e.g., Catalyst)

Professional Associations: [Catalyst](#) | [Women's Business Enterprise National Council](#)

Healthcare

Example Career Paths: Medicine specializing in women's issues | Nursing | Physical therapy | Occupational therapy | Dentistry | Public health | Medical assistant

Potential Employers: 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

Professional Associations: [National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health](#) | [American College of Nurse-Midwives](#)

Law and Politics

Example Career Paths: Law | Lobbying | Government relations | Legislative aid | Elected or appointed leadership | Public policy | Research | Intelligence | Campaign management | Special interest advocacy | Program administration

Potential Employers: 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

Professional Associations: [National Organization for Women](#) | [National Women's Law Center](#) | [Rhode Island Women's Bar Association](#)

Human Services

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

Potential Employers: Private and group practice | Mental health institutions | Hospitals and clinics | Federal, state, or local government | 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

Professional Associations: [National Women's Council](#) | [National Women's Studies Association](#) | [National Organization for Women](#)

Nonprofit

Example Career Paths: Administration | Program management and development | Fund raising/development | Grant writing | Research | Policy analysis | Volunteer coordination | Community education | Public relations and marketing

Potential Employers: 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) | Special interest groups | Trade or professional associations | Libraries | Educational institutions | Cultural heritage organizations | Women's service organizations | Human rights organizations

Professional Associations: [Women's Funding Network](#) | [Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch](#) | [Global Fund for Women](#)

Writing

Example Career Paths: Journalism | Creative writing | Freelance writing | Copy writing

Potential 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

Professional Associations: [Women's National Book Association](#) | [Women Writing the West](#) | [Women's Fiction Writers Association](#)

Preparing for your Career

- Engage in internships, part-time jobs, or volunteer opportunities with organizations and employers whose values align with yours.
- Pair an interest in Gender and Women's Studies with a skill, such as writing or communication to be able to write about topics associated with women, write policy that support women, or any type of publications that target a female audience.
- Seek leadership roles on campus such as a peer mentor, resident advisor, or as a leader in a student organizations revolved around supporting women.
- Engage with networking groups or professional organizations that are focused in promoting the development and advancement of women.
- Volunteer your time with organizations that support/provide aid to women.
- Couple your coursework in Gender and Women Studies with another major or minor to have this major or minor serve as your application of your knowledge of Gender and Women Studies.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

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What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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