

Women's Studies

An Overview

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary academic area of study that is concerned with difference, history, and the social, legal, political and cultural implications of gender. The coursework especially focus on topics regarding race, class, age and sexuality in both national and international contexts. Students majoring in Women's Studies acquire skills in independent critical thinking, analytical skills, strong oral and written expression and highly competent research capabilities. In general, they must be able to actively listen, work well with others, respect diversity, and adapt to unpleasant or stressful environments.

Where Employed?

Graduates with this major or minor may work in a variety of settings including non-profit agencies, community mental health centers, law firms, research centers, trade and international organizations, unions, social and human services agencies, schools and universities, and women's organizations at a local level for city, county, state or federal government.

Related Occupations

Business/Law	Healthcare	Human Services	Education/Writing/Arts
Trainer Human Resources Management Marketing Advertising Public Relations Sales Consulting Business Owner Civil Rights Lawyer Lobbying Legislative Aid Union Organizer Elected Govt Official Public Policy Campaign Mgmt Special Interest Advocacy Town Mgr or Mayor	Doctor Nurse Physical Therapy Occupational Therapy Dentistry Health Clinic Medical Assistant Hospital Foundation Director <u>Women Specialization:</u> Obstetrics & Gynecology Breast Cancer Multiple Sclerosis Fertility Midwife/Birth Educator	Counseling Psychotherapy Social Work Case Management Programming Community Relations Administration <u>Women Specialization:</u> Human Rights Advocate Victims Advocate Battered Shelter Program Director Rape Crisis Program Director Eating Disorders Specialist	Teaching School Counseling Student Affairs Administration Research Library Community Education Archivist Journalism Freelance Writing Copy Writing Speech Writer Artist Musician Casting Director

Job Outlook

Employment opportunities will vary with the occupation and specialty. Graduates with bachelor's degrees may experience keen competition for available paid positions. Opportunities will be better for those with advanced degrees and solid work experience. Many students go on to pursue graduate degrees in law, education, medicine, public affairs, public health, journalism, business, counseling, politics and international relations. For many students, social activism from their college years may transfer into an internship or volunteer position, which may become more permanent. Having these foundation experiences is key to creating a network of people and agencies to draw from and contribute to over time.

Wages and Salaries

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), entry level graduates with liberal arts and general studies degrees averaged a starting salary of \$45,413. Those with degrees in other social sciences averaged a starting salary of \$36,333. Salaries vary and depend on factors such as level of experience, skills, type of employer and geographic location.

Internet Resources

General Career Resources

Careers & majors:

<http://www.worldwidelearn.com/online-education-guide/social-science/womens-studies-major.htm>

Global list of women's organizations (by country and state): <http://www.distel.ca/womlist/womlist.html>

Resources for feminism and women's studies: <http://feminism.eserver.org/>

Job Searching Sites

CareerWomen.com - <http://www.careerwomen.com/>

Women's Job List - <http://www.womensjobsearch.net/>

Graduate School

Programs in the U.S. - <http://www.artemisguide.com/>

Government Resources

Emily's List - <http://www.emilyslist.org/>

Feminist Majority Foundation - <http://www.feminist.org/intern>

Health/Education/Writing Resources

Feminist Women's Health Center - <http://www.atlwhc.org/>

Institute for Women's Policy Research - <http://www.iwpr.org/index.cfm>

Off Our Backs (Feminist Publication House) - <http://www.offourbacks.org>

WomenOf.com (Internet Magazines) - <http://www.womenofcolorado.com/>

Advocacy/Non-Profit Resources

9 to 5 National Organization of Working Women - <http://www.9to5.org/>

Colorado Association of Non-profits - <http://www.coloradononprofits.org/>

Global Fund for Women - <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/cms/>

NARAL Pro-Choice America - <http://www.naral.org>

National Council of Women's Organizations - <http://www.womensorganizations.org/>

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute - <http://www.nglft.org>

The Network of East-West Women - <http://www.neww.org/en.php/home/index/0.html>

Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN): Preparing Women to Lead - <http://www.plen.org>

Women Make Movies - <http://www.wmm.com>

Women's Health Network - <http://www.womenshealthnetwork.org/>

Professional Associations:

American Association of University Women - <http://www.aauw.org/>

Center for Study of Women in Society - <http://csws.uoregon.edu/>

Colorado Federation of Business and Professional Women - <http://www.bpwco.org/>

Colorado Women's Bar Association - <http://www.cwba.org/>

Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce - <http://www.cwcc.org/>

League of Women Voters - <http://www.lwv.org/>

National Women's Studies Association - <http://www.nwsa.org/>

NOW - National Organization for Women - <http://www.now.org/>

CAREER SERVICES • UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

Willard Administrative Center Room 34 133 UCB Boulder, CO 80309-0133

Phone 303-492-6541 FAX 303-492-5723 E-mail: career@colorado.edu <http://careerservices.colorado.edu>

Additional guides available at: <http://careerservices.colorado.edu/students/MajorCareerInfo.aspx>