INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Gender and sexuality pervade every aspect of our lives. The Gender and Women’s Studies undergraduate program introduces students to the intersectional analysis of gender, women, and sexuality, focusing on the workings of power in social and historical life. Students learn to apply methods derived from the social sciences, the humanities, and the interdisciplines to the study of gender. They explore a growing body of feminist and queer theory that revises our understanding of gender, sexuality, society, and culture.

The Department of Gender and Women’s Studies offers a major and minor in Gender and Women’s Studies, as well as a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies.

THE MAJOR CURRICULUM

The Gender and Women’s Studies department offers an introduction to feminist theory as well as more advanced courses that seek to expand capacities for critical reflection and analysis and to engage students with varied approaches to feminist research.

The program curriculum draws students into interdisciplinary and intersectional analysis of specific gender practices through investigating areas such as feminism in a transnational world, the politics of representation, feminist science studies, gender and work, gender and health, and queer visual culture.

“Gender and Women’s Studies taught me a way of thinking which expanded my intellectual/cultural/ethical horizons tremendously.”

– Cathie Nelson, GWS major

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Consider completing the GWS Honors Program.
- Join a student organization such as the GWS Undergraduate Student Association.
- Apply to the GWS Student Research Fund or URAP and work with GWS faculty.
- Get involved with campus issues as a Gender Equity Center intern or volunteer.
EXPLORATION

Your major is the foundation for your academic journey. Explore your options:

1. Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
2. Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements and consult the major FAQs.
3. Enroll in GWS 10 Intro to Gender and Women’s Studies and GWS 14 Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Global Political Issues.

CONNECT AND BUILD COMMUNITY

Connect and build your network:

1. Get involved with the Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
2. Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
3. Enroll in UGIDS 98: College Success in L&S.
4. Consider applying to the UNITY or WISE Theme Program.

DISCOVER YOUR PASSIONS

Discover your passions:

1. Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar like GWS 24 or 294, L&S 4, or a student-run DeCal course such as the Gentiles DeCal.
2. Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
3. Get inspired through GWS faculty publications and podcasts.
4. Continue with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course like L&S/GWS 100Y: Gender, Sex and Power.
5. Check out research opportunities for GWS majors.
6. Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URBAP and SURF-SMART.
7. Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

ENGAGE LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

Engage locally and globally:

1. Attend the Calapaloosa student activity fair and get involved with student organizations.
2. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
3. Explore study, internships, and research abroad options with the Berkeley Study Abroad.
4. Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
5. Get involved with campus issues as a Gender Equity Center intern or volunteer.
6. Consider a Berkeley Global Internship in the United States or abroad.
7. Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
9. Mentor local youth through the YWCA Girls Group Mentoring Program or Women and Youth Supporting Each Other.
10. hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.

REFLECT AND PLAN YOUR FUTURE

Reflect and plan your future:

1. Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
2. Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
3. Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
4. Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.
5. Reflect on your education so far and continue to set goals for yourself.
6. Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
7. Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.
8. Learn about graduate and professional school opportunities.
9. Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
10. Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
11. Attend career and graduate school fairs like the “Nonprofit, Education, and Public Service Career Fair.”
12. Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Majoring in Gender and Women’s Studies is attractive to employers and graduate school admissions, and it can lead to careers in medicine, law school to NGOs, teaching, and business. Employers like to see students who have taken classes indicating sustained critical thinking and writing, and a commitment to social justice.

JOBS AND EMPLOYERS

- Clinical Research Coor., Stanford University
- Counselor, Asian Immigrant Women’s Advocate
- Fellow, Fulbright Program
- Filmmaker, Independent Films
- Organizer, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- Partnership Development Azt., Fair Trade USA
- Policy Analyst, UC Berkeley
- Researcher, National Taiwan University
- Senior Community Manager, Udacity
- Sex & Gender Equity Analyst, CA Dept of Education

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- African-American/Black Studies, PhD, UC Berkeley
- Industrial Psychology, PhD, Rice University
- Film Studies, Masters, UCLA
- Law, JD, UC Berkeley
- Masters of Divinity, Union Theological Seminary
- Medicine, MD, UC Berkeley/UCSF School of Medicine
- Public Health, Masters, Pepperdine Social Work, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.