Bachelor of Arts

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Gender and sexuality permeate 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.

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

— Cathie Nelson, GWS major

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.

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.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

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FIRST YEAR
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements and consult the major FAQs.
- Enroll in GWS 10 Intro to Gender and Women’s Studies and/or GWS 14: Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Global Political Issues.

SECOND YEAR
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Start thinking about upper division core (GWS 101, 102, 195) and elective courses within the major.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.

THIRD YEAR
- Focus on completing upper division requirements and electives.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the Gender and Women’s Studies honors program.

FOURTH YEAR
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Earn academic credit related to an internship or independent study.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
- Majors in Gender and Women’s Studies are attractive to employers and graduate school admissions, from medical school and 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 Coord., Stanford University
- Counselor, Asian Immigrant Women’s Advocate
- Fellow, Fulbright Program
- Film maker, Independent Films
- Organizer, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- Partnership Development Ass’t., 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 University
- Social Work, Masters

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

Updated: 11.13.23

Connect and build community
- Get involved with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.
- Consider applying to the Student Learning Center.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.

Discover your passions
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar like GWS 24 or 39A, L&S 1, or a student-run DeCal course such as the Gentles DeCal.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
- Get inspired through GWS faculty publications and podcasts.

Engage locally and globally
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with student organizations.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

Reflect and plan your future
- Visit Berkeley Career Engagement and the Career Counseling Library.
- Develop a plan for getting career ready.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.

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