

The UNO Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) Program empowers individuals and communities through the collaborative work of students and faculty, who together study and explore all women's lives and all constructions of gender across time, place, and culture, using a feminist lens.

Students learn while they prepare for life after graduation with a challenging and flexible curriculum of study, internships and independent study. For example, those interested in gender and health take different courses from those interested in art and feminism. Questions such as "Why is there a gender wage gap?" "Where are the women?" and "Why has masculinity been called a public health crisis (by men)?" animate Women's and Gender Studies. Most fields of study today include women, gender, and sexuality to some extent: This major makes them the focus. The program employs the tools of different disciplines, including communication, arts and humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and history.

Knowledge about women's history, feminist perspectives, and the differences that gender and sexuality make to peoples' lives are important to individuals, families, businesses and organizations, communities and nations. Graduating students are prepared for many opportunities. Women's and Gender Studies students change lives and change the world!

Women's & Gender Studies Major at a glance:

Number of majors: 52 **Credit hours needed:** 33
Degrees offered: B.A. **Minors offered:** Yes (18 credits)
Concentrations: No

Knowledge & Skills Gained as a Women's & Gender Studies Major:

Knowledge:

- Students learn about gender, sexual difference, masculinity and femininity. Courses examine the intersections of gender with race/ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic class, ability levels, sexuality, and additional dimensions of difference.
- WGST majors learn to identify, articulate and analyze subtle as well as overt cultural practices that promote and even institutionalize specific notions around gender, sexuality, and sexual orientation.
- Our graduates have highly developing reading, writing, and oral communication skills, especially concerning women's and gender issues. They are good researchers and are comfortable talking about a wide variety of related topics. They can build logical arguments using scholarly evidence.

Skills:

- WGST graduates analyze all kinds of texts, from screenplays to novels, advertisements and music lyrics. They can think critically about language, gender, and culture to explain the overt and covert meanings of these texts.
- Our graduates can solve problems that arise when different notions of gender or sexuality collide in homes, workplaces and communities. They appreciate the value of diverse perspectives grounded in different lived experiences and can help to identify common ground.

Career Opportunities:

By nature, Liberal Arts majors make great employees in any field because of their ability to communicate effectively, think critically and solve complex problems. These timeless skills make them attractive to employers in all walks of society. Specifically though, WGST majors often pursue careers in:

- Academic advisor
- Non-profit fundraising director
- Health clinic coordinator
- Homeless shelter director
- Educator
- Counselor
- Domestic violence/Intimate partner violence shelter manager
- Student advisor
- Non-profit program manager

When the WGST major is matched with complementary minors and thoughtful internships, new possibilities arise. A few examples are:

- **WGST** + Marketing = advertising
- **WGST** + Gerontology = Nursing Home Coordinator
- **WGST** + Criminal Justice = Corrections Officer, Probation/Parole Officer
- **WGST** + Business = Industry jobs of all types
- **WGST** + Political Science = Congressional Aide
- **WGST** + English = Writing/Publishing

Student Opportunities:

- **No Limits!** student conference is held annually and collaboratively by the UNL, UNK, and UNO Women's and Gender Studies programs. Students present their research or creative activity in a collegial, professional and supportive environment.
- **WGS Club** is forming. Student members will contribute to WGS initiatives such as the No Limits conference and the annual spring event, and will pursue projects that they choose.
- **The UNO Women's Resource Center and Woman to Woman International** - Omaha Chapter welcome involvement of Women's and Gender Studies Students. A Gender and Sexuality Club is under development.

Did You Know?

Nearly every college and university in the United States has a Women's and Gender Studies program (although they go by different names, such as "Feminist Studies," or "Sexuality and Gender Studies.") Women's and Gender Studies became a major at UNO in 2001.

For more information:

For program information, contacts and course requirements visit:

www.unomaha.edu/cas

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