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.

“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.

ADVISING

Students can contact the major advisor, Althea Grannum-Cummings to schedule appointments or ask questions by emailing cummings@berkeley.edu.

Advising Drop-In Hours
Monday - Friday, 10am - 12pm

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.
**Gender and Women's Studies**

**Design Your Journey**

**Bachelor of Arts**

**Explore Your Major**

- 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 20 Intro to Feminist Theory.

**Connect and Build Community**

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

**Discover Your Passions**

- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar like GWS 24 or 39, L&S 4, or a student-run DeCal course such as the Gentile 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 the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter extensibility.

**First 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.

**Second 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.

**Third Year**

- Start attending events in the Gender and Women's Studies department and the Beatrice Bain Research Group.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.

**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 "must have" courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

**What Can I Do With My Major?**

Majoring in Gender and Women's Studies is 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 Asst., Fair Trade USA
- Policy Analyst, UC Berkeley Researcher, National Taiwan University
- Senior Community Manager, Ucadity
- 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.

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