



# Women's Studies Program Career Guide



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement  
Women's Studies Programs™

# Why Study Women and Gender?

## Women's Studies Classes

The Women's Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor for students who want to gain an in-depth understanding of the way in which gender plays a critical role in the lives of women and men. In your classes you will examine the cultural and social construction of gender, explore the history, experiences and contributions of women to society, and learn the influences of gender on the lives of both women and men.

## Future Career

The program emphasizes critical thinking across disciplines, which is vital to success in any career you choose. You will learn how to critically evaluate practices, beliefs and standards about gender that shape the opportunities that women and men face in their daily lives. You can use these skills in a variety of careers in order to be a more successful leader and a better colleague who will know how to be effective in diverse work settings.

## Personal Life

Many women studies students report that their courses have had a profound impact on their lives by providing them with a means of understanding their experiences as men and women. Women's studies not only focus on experiences such as domestic violence, discrimination in the workplace, and gender differences in the division of labor at home, but give a foundation for understanding the root cause of these experiences, which is the first step to gain the awareness needed to have a more empowered life.

## Building Communities

Women's Studies students often use their skills to benefit their local communities. Insights from the knowledge gained, the ability to use critical thinking and the sensitivity toward the influence of gender is often used by students who volunteer in their communities. Many women's studies students make a commitment to making the lives of women, men and children better, such as counseling victims of domestic violence, working on rape crisis hotlines, and other service projects.

**While degree programs can vary from one college or university to the next most feature courses in the following disciplines:**

Anthropology, Art, Communication Studies, Counseling, Education, Exercise Sport Science, Geography, Health, History, Human Development & Family Services, Literature, Sex and Gender, Sociology, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology

### Courses

WS 1305 – Human Sexuality	WS 3340 – Gender Sexuality in Classical World
WS 2300 - Intro to Women's Studies	WS 3341 – Women in European Civilization
WS 2301 - Gender Roles	WS 3342 – Intro to Human Geography
WS 2331 - Sociology of Marriage	WS 3382 – Women Writers
WS 3306 - Women in Culture & Society	WS 4302 - Psychology of Human Sexual Behavior
WS 3307 - Gender Issues in Sport	WS 4310 – Feminist Thought & Theory
WS 3312 - Gender & Communication	WS 4325 – Major Issues in US Women's History
WS 3321 – Human Sexuality	WS 4355 – Women in Conflict
WS 3323 – History of Women in America	WS 4399 – Women's Studies Seminar
WS 3326 – Women & Politics	
WS 3331 – Sociology of Family	
WS 3332 – Feminism & Philosophy	
WS 3337 – Inequality in America	

### Feminist Theory

By understanding the ideals and the objectives of women's liberation, students are capable of interconnecting diversity.

- Strong critical thinking skills. Students gain the ability to solve problems and think creatively about potential solutions. Student's benefit from an increased emphasis on the history of female cultural and political figures.
- Confident oral presentation skills. Students have the opportunity to present their research on topics traditionally underrepresented within general studies. Each opportunity to speak provides the student the ability to reduce their apprehension about speaking to groups.
- Effective writing skills. Students gain experience in refining their writing skills while developing the ability to compose and edit complex reports under deadline.
- Strong research skills. Students develop abilities to gather information from library and Internet sources. In addition, many women's and gender studies classes assign research projects to students that rely on interviews with subjects who tell their own stories about their experiences as women or men. In doing so, students build skills and experience designing projects, interviewing and critically analyzing data that may surpass those of students in many traditional college majors.

### Resources

- Texas Tech University Career Center
- World-Wide-Learn guide for Women's Studies Students
- Feminist Majority Foundations Career Site
- Artemis Guide to Women's Studies Programs in the US
- Center for the Study of Women in Society
- National Council on Women's Organizations

# Career Paths

## Applying Women's Studies to Your Career

Whether students are choosing to go into fields of study such as Business Administration, Medicine, Law or Public Relations, courses in women's studies provide critical professional development. Having experience in women's studies will give you the following skills to help in a number of possible careers.

- To teach about women and men in non-sexist ways is one of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and professors at all levels of education.
- To understand public policy questions which revolve around assumptions about what women and men do, assumptions that are rapidly changing as men and women push for equality at home and at work.
- To write about women's issues – from analysis of the gender gap in wages to media images of women – requires a thorough grounding in women's history, experience, and modes of expression.
- Understanding that market research and advertising may be based on sexist interpretations that are "bad for business" is useful in product development.
- Knowing that product design may reflect views of gender behavior no longer appropriate to vast segments of the market is essential for good business.
- Being a good manager involves understanding worker stress to be a major factor in productivity, a stress often based in work-family arrangements.
- Realizing that many facets of international business rely on women industrial workers and as agricultural laborers, especially in the global south is crucial for future policy development.

*"For me, women's studies is an alternative point of view through which we can view our world. As a history major, I believe women's voices are vital in understanding the human condition and I am fortunate to have the opportunity of being women's studies minor."*

- **Frances Martin**  
Undergraduate, Major: History



*"Women's Studies has made me more aware of the issues in the media and helped me understand what a Feminist really is."*

- **Candiss Patton**  
Undergraduate, Major: Retail Management



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## Support

Provide feminist-centered, gender and identity-aware education to an inclusive campus environment.

## References

National Women's Studies Association [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)

World-Wide-Learn Guide for Women's Studies Students

Transforming Scholarship: Why Women's and Gender Studies Students are Changing Themselves and the World by Michele Tracy Berger and Cheryl Radeloff (2011)  
Routledge

Rethinking Women's and Gender Studies edited by Catherine M. Orr, Ann Braithwaite, Diane Lichtenstein (2012)



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[www.depts.ttu.edu/wstudies](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/wstudies)



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## Women's Studies Programs™

Box 42009 | Lubbock TX 79409-2009 | T 806.742.4335  
DOAK Hall RM 123 & 125 | [womens.studies@ttu.edu](mailto:womens.studies@ttu.edu)