WOMEN’S STUDIES

College of Arts and Humanities
2101 Woods Hall
301-405-6877
wmst.umd.edu

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry analyzing structures of power, especially as they are grounded in gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, ability, and other inequalities, and as they configure historical and contemporary struggles for social change. The department and faculty at the University of Maryland enjoy a global reputation for innovative theoretical and methodological interventions and for their attention to curriculum transformation and global women's studies institution building. With a core faculty of 7 and more than 80 affiliate faculty from across the campus, the program offers a BA, MA/PhD, undergraduate and graduate certificates in women's studies, a minor in black women's studies, and undergraduate minors and certificates in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies.

Programs

Major

• Women’s Studies Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/womens-studies/womens-studies-major)

Minors

• Black Women’s Studies Minor (ARHU) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/womens-studies/black-womens-studies-minor)
• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/womens-studies/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-studies/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-studies-minor)

Certificates

• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies Certificate (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/womens-studies/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-studies/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-studies-certificate)
• Women’s Studies Certificate (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/womens-studies/womens-studies-certificate)

Advising

Advising is mandatory for all majors each semester. Please call 301-405-6827 for an appointment.

Certificate students and minors are also encouraged to consult with the Department of Women's Studies academic advisor prior to registration each semester.

To review the academic plan for this major, go to http://www.arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/advising/academicplans

Opportunities

Internships

As part of the major, students are required to complete a hands-on, practical learning experience. They may do so through an internship or a feminist pedagogy course.

Students seek internship opportunities in local, state and federal governments, non-profit organizations, policy and research institutions as well as agencies committed to social change. Student internship sites have included: League of Women Voters of Maryland, Sinister Wisdom lesbian literary and art journal, National Organization for Women, Jewish Women International, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project, State of Maryland Lt. Governor’s Office, D.C. Rape Crisis Center, the District Alliance for Safe Housing, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland, and Calvert OB/GYN Associates.

Students who complete this requirement through the feminist pedagogy course work closely with a faculty member in an undergraduate course in Women’s Studies, studying feminist theories of learning and assisting in the planning and delivery of the course.

Honors Program

The Honors Program is designed to give students the opportunity to pursue an area of passionate academic interest in greater depth than that allowed by formal classes. Honors students engage in rigorous interdisciplinary research under the close supervision and mentorship of a Women’s Studies faculty member. Students can be expected to gain a deeper understanding of some aspect of women’s, gender, and/or sexuality studies and to develop habits of self-reliance, individual initiative, and critical analysis. The culminating thesis may be a sustained piece of writing or a substantial creative or activist project.

Student Societies and Professional Organizations

Iota, iota, iota (Triota) is the Women’s Studies Honor Society. This organization strives to maintain feminist values of egalitarianism and inclusiveness. It celebrates the diversity of experiences that are central to Women’s Studies. Triota works to promote student research and activism in socio-political issues that affect all minority groups and aims to recognize and promote the academic achievements of students enrolled in Women’s Studies and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies courses.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

For information about Scholarships and Financial Assistance offered by the Department of Women’s Studies, please visit http://wmst.umd.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/awards-and-scholarships.

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit: www.financialaid.umd.edu.
Awards and Recognition

The Women's Studies Department administers a variety of awards and grants to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship, research, leadership and service.

Each fall the department awards travel funds to support the participation of undergraduate students in the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference. Any student in the university who has completed 12 credits of WMST and/or LGBT courses is eligible to apply for the NWSA travel award.

Majors are eligible to apply for Academic Enrichment funds for research travel, participation in academic or leadership conferences and workshops, or other activities that will enhance their education in women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies.

The Laura Nichols Award recognizes student commitment to equality, inclusion, and social change.

Additionally, at its commencement ceremony, the department recognizes graduates who have excelled in academics or in service to the campus and community.

For information on any of these awards, including how to apply, contact the Department of Women's Studies, or go to http://wmst.umd.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/awards-and-scholarships.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES

The Women's Studies Multimedia Studio is a multi-purpose event space and lab dedicated to fostering connections between Women's Studies and digital humanities by engaging issues of identity and difference through art, performance, media activism, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

All students are welcome to gather in the Woods Hall lounge in 2101 Woods Hall to work, study, or gather.