

# WOMEN'S STUDIES

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

#### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

Training and Development  
Human Resources  
Equity and Diversity  
Management  
Marketing  
Advertising  
Public Relations  
Sales  
Consulting

### EMPLOYERS

Public and private corporations, particularly:  
    Women's divisions  
    Female focused industries  
Consulting firms  
Marketing companies  
Public relations agencies  
Organizations for research on and advancement of  
    women in business, e.g., Catalyst

### STRATEGIES

Obtain a minor or double major in business.  
Earn a graduate degree in an area of interest.  
Gain experience through internships or other  
    employment.  
Become current with business and industry literature  
    and news.  
Stay abreast of current technology.  
Gain leadership experience through campus  
    involvement or volunteer work.  
When job searching, seek employers interested in  
    hiring "any major."  
Understand the top skills employers desire and be  
    prepared to demonstrate them, such as  
    communication (oral and written), computer,  
    interpersonal, leadership, and teamwork, etc.  
Be willing to start in a management-trainee program  
    or other entry-level positions.

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#### **HEALTHCARE**

Medicine Specializing in Women's Issues:

    Obstetrics & Gynecology  
    Breast Cancer  
    Multiple Sclerosis  
    Fertility  
Nursing  
Physical Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Dentistry  
Public Health

Healthcare settings exclusively for women  
Organizations devoted to women's health  
    including:  
    National Women's Health Organization  
    CDC Women's Health Department  
Hospitals  
Clinics  
Private or group practice  
Health networks  
Wellness centers  
Nursing homes  
Mental health institutions  
Federal, state, or local health departments  
Centers for reproductive health

Maintain a high GPA for admission into graduate  
    schools or professional programs.  
Take prerequisite courses required by graduate  
    programs or obtain a related double major or  
    minor.  
Meet with a pre-health advisor periodically to discuss  
    curricular decisions.  
Prepare for and take appropriate admissions tests.  
Obtain summer jobs, volunteer positions, or  
    internships to test field of interest and gain  
    experience.  
Talk to professionals in fields of interest and  
    arrange shadowing opportunities.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling  
Psychotherapy  
Mental Health Services  
Case Management  
Social Work  
Vocational/Career Counseling  
Programming  
Community Relations  
Administration

Private and group practice  
Mental health institutions  
Hospitals and clinics  
Federal, state, or local government, including:  
    Department of Human Services  
    Veterans Administration  
Women's service organizations, e.g. Girl Scouts,  
    Women for Women, AWARE, About-Face, etc.  
Organizations for women's aid, e.g. rape crisis,  
    pregnancy support organizations, eating disorder  
    treatment centers, battered women's shelters,  
    adoption agencies, etc.  
Youth and family agencies  
University and college counseling and career centers

Obtain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs and internships.  
Volunteer with organizations for women's aid such as crisis hotlines, Big Sisters, women's resource centers, etc.  
Learn to work well with different types of people and gain experience working with diverse clientele.  
Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.  
Earn a graduate degree in fields such as, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, social work, counseling psychology, etc. for more substantive counseling and administrative roles.  
Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations.  
Research state licensure requirements in fields such as counseling and psychology.

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### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Research  
Information/Library Science  
Higher Education Administration and Student Support Services including:  
    Admissions  
    Financial Aid  
    Academic Advising  
    Development  
    Alumni Affairs  
    International Education and Study Abroad  
    Career Services  
    Residence Life  
    Student Activities and Greek Life  
    Orientation  
    Leadership  
Community Education

Universities and colleges  
Women's resource centers  
Non-profit organizations  
Government programs, e.g. classes for displaced homemakers, parenting, GED prep, etc.  
Libraries (for Women's Studies departments, women's organizations, museums, etc.)

Earn a Ph.D. to teach and research in the field of Women's Studies at four-year institutions.  
Master's or Ph.D. is required to teach at two-year colleges.  
Obtain masters in library/information science or student affairs if interested in those areas.  
Join related professional associations as a student member.  
Gain experience through volunteer work or internships.  
Seek leadership roles on campus such as peer mentor, resident advisor, or orientation leader.  
Develop strong communication and public speaking skills.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### WRITING

Journalism  
Creative Writing  
Freelance Writing  
Copy Writing

Newspapers  
Magazines  
Broadcast media companies including television  
and movie industry  
Trade, professional, or consumer publications  
Internet sites  
Advertising agencies  
Publishing houses  
Large corporations  
Self-employment

Pair an interest in Women's Studies with communication skills to write about women, write on topics of interest to women, or for publications targeting a female audience.  
Obtain a minor in English or journalism or take some general writing-focused classes.  
Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or department/program newsletters.  
Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center.  
Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published.  
Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions.  
Become familiar with the proposal and submission process involved in freelance writing.

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### NONPROFIT

Administration  
Program Management and Development  
Fund Raising/Development  
Grant Writing  
Research  
Policy Analysis  
Volunteer Coordination  
Community Education  
Public Relations and Marketing

Nonprofit organizations  
Social service agencies  
Hospitals and medical centers  
Private foundations, e.g. The Ford Foundation  
International organizations, e.g. The World Health Organization, The International Red Cross  
Special interest groups  
Trade or professional associations  
Libraries  
Educational institutions  
Cultural heritage organizations  
Women's service organizations  
Human rights organizations

Seek multiple volunteer and internship positions to gain experience and build contacts in the field.  
Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations.  
Develop strong communication and research skills.  
Learn how to write grants and gain an understanding of budgeting and fiscal management.  
Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field.  
Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours.  
Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### LAW AND POLITICS

#### Law:

Corporate Practice  
Public Interest Law  
Civil Law (family, discrimination, sexual harassment, etc.)

#### Lobbying

Government Relations

Elected or Appointed Leadership

Public Policy

Research

Intelligence

Campaign Management

Special Interest Advocacy

Program Administration

#### Law firms

Corporate legal departments

Public defenders offices

District attorneys

Government agencies

Public interest groups

Legal aid

Sole practitioner

Lobbying groups

Women's advocacy organizations

Supplement curriculum with relevant courses to enhance research and writing skills.

Maintain a high GPA.

Prepare for and take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

Participate in activities that develop strong debate and public speaking skills such as mock trial.

Run for office in student government or work on a political campaign.

Gain relevant experience through jobs or internships with law firms or government agencies.

Obtain the J.D. for law positions or an advanced degree in political science or public administration for government positions.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Women's Studies provides a broad, liberal arts background that helps build skills in critical thinking and problem solving, data collection and analysis, oral, written and presentation skills, and co-operative teamwork skills.
- Women's studies also provides in-depth knowledge of the conditions of women in various cultures and societies, gender dynamics, strategies and organizational skills needed to address gender inequalities, women's struggles, achievements, and contributions in past and present societies and across cultures, the courses and consequences of women's subordination, gender-based assumptions and biases and their consequences, social change agents, and sensitivity to social concerns and other view points.
- Some students may choose to study Women's Studies because they enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring "any major." In this scenario, it is critical to develop desirable skills through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences.
- Women's Studies majors are excellent candidates for a number of graduate school options because of their broad liberal arts background as well as specific interests that may set them apart from other students. For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high GPA, establish relationships with faculty to secure strong recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer, work, or research opportunities.