College
Arts and Humanities

Programs Offered:
Minor - Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies

UW-Parkside offers a concentration in women’s, gender and sexuality studies through the liberal studies major. This major draws upon existing UW-Parkside courses, and students may also receive credit for appropriate transfer courses, distance education courses, and credit for experiential learning.

UW-Parkside also offers a minor in women’s studies through the Center for Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Interested students should consult the director of the Liberal Studies Program for the major and the director of the Center for Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies for the minor.

Affiliated Organizations:
The Women’s Center, Wyllie Concourse, 262-595-2170; The Status of Women Committee, 262-595-2592; LGBTQ Resource Center, 262-595-2456

Career Possibilities
Nonprofit organizations, business, human resources, creative arts, education, government, health, journalism, law, medicine and social work, especially pertaining to issues of gender and sexuality. Graduate school with emphasis in the humanities, social sciences or the professions. Many careers are strengthened and enhanced by a minor in women’s studies. Students are encouraged to discuss career options early with the program director and to consider internships and other activities which allow them to explore career possibilities.

Program Overview

The Center for Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies provides an interdisciplinary program that draws upon all departments in the university to provide a systematic analysis of gender roles, sexual identity, and women’s experiences in society. Its goal is to provide insights and generate activities that will lead to a better understanding of gender roles and sexual identity, improve the position of women, and transform society in the process. In such courses, women’s positions are often analyzed relative to those of men, and these courses are relevant for both women and men who are seeking a fuller understanding of the past, present and future social trends.

These six learning objectives should guide students’ selection of elective courses and guide their approach to the work they do in their course study.

1. Analysis: The ability to read and interpret gendered elements of verbal and nonverbal tests and imagery.
2. Communication: The ability to perceive gender bias in language choices and rhetorical strategies, and to communicate effectively using the media of the 21st century.
3. Ethics and Social Justice: The ability to recognize social injustice, inequality, and discrimination, particularly in regard to gender, and to expose and articulate options for change.
4. History, Culture, and Society: The ability to recognize patterns in past events and see their impact on the status of women and the construction of gender roles.
5. Critical Thinking: The ability to analyze how value systems shape human knowledge with respect to gender.
6. Interdisciplinarity: The ability to make deliberate connections among various academic disciplines, to comprehend and participate in more than one discipline.

Students electing the women’s, gender and sexuality studies concentration in the liberal studies major or the women’s, gender and sexuality studies minor may combine it with any major to give those students enhanced knowledge of gender issues within their major area. Graduates have found jobs in the community that focus on women’s issues such as program coordinator, program director, counselor, etc., in organizations dedicated to women’s issues. In addition, students have often been able to redirect the focus of existing organizations to address the needs of women, which are often neglected.

Preparation for Graduate School

Students who graduate with this minor can go on to professional and graduate programs in law, sociology, humanities, medicine and health, theology and other fields. Consult the director for further information to develop a plan of study.

Internships

Internships and applied experiences in other courses or independent study projects are encouraged. These experiences assist students in evaluating developing skills for possible job settings and for community organizing.
Requirements for the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor (18 credits)

Eighteen credits are required for the minor. Students must take three core courses:

A. Required Core Courses (9 credits)

Choose one from each of the following:

1. Required Course (3 credits)
   - WGSS 110 Introduction to Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies ..........3 cr

2. Choose One (3 credits)
   - WGSS/ENGL 112 Women in Literature.........................3 cr
   - OR
   - WGSS/SOCA 213 Gender and Society.........................3 cr
   - OR
   - WGSS/HIST 236 Women in Modern Society..................3 cr

3. Choose One (3 credits)
   - WGSS/COMM 463 Gender, Race, Class and Sexualities in Media....................3 cr
   - OR
   - WGSS 494 Internship in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies .................1-6 cr
   - OR
   - WGSS 495 Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Seminar ..................3 cr
   - OR
   - WGSS 497 Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Senior Thesis ..........3 cr
   - OR
   - WGSS 499 Independent Study ......................1-3 cr

B. Elective Courses (9 credits)

The minor also requires three elective courses, deriving from at least two of the following three areas: Humanities and Art, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. Each semester, courses from other departments that are available for women's, gender and sexuality studies credit will be listed in the course schedule.

1. Humanities and Art
   - Approved women’s, gender and sexuality studies courses from English, art, communication, theatre arts, humanities, music and philosophy. Examples include:
     - COMM/ WGSS 315 Communication and Gender..................3 cr
     - COMM/ WGSS 463 Gender, Race, Class and Sexualities in Media....................3 cr
     - ENGL/ WGSS 112 Women in Literature.........................3 cr
     - ENGL 417 Studies in British Literature: British Women Novelists ........3 cr
     - ENGL 464 Studies in Cultural Trends: Gay and Lesbian Literature ..........3 cr

ENGL/ WGSS 469 Women as Writers and Characters ..........3 cr
PHIL 290 Special Topics in Philosophy: Feminism in Philosophy..................3 cr
THEA/ WGSS 215 LGBTQ Representation on Stage and Screen....................3 cr

2. Social Sciences

Approved women’s, gender and sexuality studies courses from sociology, history, international studies, political science, psychology, economics, and business. Examples include:

- CRMJ/ WGSS 366 Women, Crime and Criminal Justice ..........3 cr
- HIST/ WGSS 236 Women in Modern Society ..................3 cr
- MGT 446 Global Issues in Management .................3 cr
- POLS/ WGSS 203 Women, Power and Politics................3 cr
- PSYC 280/380 Psychology of Gender .................3 cr
- SOCA/ WGSS 213 Gender and Society ..................3 cr
- SOCA/ WGSS 367 LGBTQ Studies ..................3 cr
- SOCA 374 Women and Work ..................3 cr

3. Natural Sciences

Approved women’s, gender and sexuality studies courses from biology, chemistry, physics, environmental studies, and exercise science and sport management. Examples include:

- BIOS 103 Human Biology ..................3 cr
- HESM 321 Women’s Health Issues ..........1-4 cr
- HESM 330 Sport in Society ..................3 cr
- SOCA 379 Society and Environment .............3 cr
- WGSS 250 Women in Science ..................3 cr

Each semester, courses appropriate for the women’s, gender and sexuality studies minor are listed in the course schedule. Since courses are offered on a rotating basis, students are advised to consult with women’s, gender, and sexuality studies faculty and directors to assist them with course selection and proper completion of requirements.

Students may count 3 credits of WGSS 494 Internship or WGSS 499 Independent Study toward the minor. Arrangements for these projects must be made with individual women’s, gender and sexuality studies faculty.

Courses in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)

110 Introduction to Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies ..........3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Fall.

Introduces students to the field of women’s studies, its theoretical and methodological bases, and the challenges it creates for other academic disciplines. Analyzes the construction of gender for both men and women. Examines issues of sexuality, including sexual attraction, intersexuality and trans-sexuality. Identity is examined as a complex series of intersections that involve race, ethnicity and class, often at a global level.
315 Communication and Gender .......................................................... 3 cr
Prereq: Core courses or consent of instructor. Freq: Spring.
Examines the role of communication in the construction of gender and
the role of gender in the social organization and use of language and
communication systems. Cross-listed with COMM 315.

366 Women, Crime and Criminal Justice ........................................... 3 cr
Prereq: CRMJ 101 or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.
Examines the study of female crime and delinquency. In addition to
women as offenders, this course focuses on women as victims and
workers in the criminal justice system. Cross-listed with CRMJ 366.

367 LGBTQ Studies ........................................................................ 3 cr
Prereq: WGSS 110, SOCA 100 or 101. Freq: Occasionally.
Examines the everyday lives of people in the LGBTQ community as
they participate in identity politics, collective action, resistance, and
empowerment in a heteronormative society. Cross-listed with SOCA
367.

390 Special Topics in Women’s, Gender and
Sexuality Studies ................................................................. 1-4 cr
Prereq: Varies by topic. Freq: Occasionally.
Selected topics in women’s, gender and sexuality studies.

463 Gender, Race, Class and Sexuality in Media ............................. 3 cr
Prereq: Junior standing or consent of instructor. Freq: Fall.
Explores how mediated representations of gender, race, class and
sexualities contribute to our cultural identities. Cross-listed with COMM
463.

469 Women as Writers and Characters ............................................ 3 cr
Prereq: ENGL 167, 266. Freq: Occasionally.
Examines writing by women and depictions of women in literature. May
be repeated for credit with different topic. Cross-listed with ENGL 469.

490 Special Topics in Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies .... 3 cr
Prereq: Varies by topic. Freq: Occasionally.
Selected topics in women's, gender and sexuality studies.

494 Internship in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies .... 1-6 cr
Prereq: Consent of instructor and program director. Freq: Fall, Spring,
Summer.
Work experience in a program related environment, or supervised
experience in planned projects, that expose students to applied
settings that serve women. Emphasis applying feminist analysis,
qualitative research methods, communication and other skills, while
increasing career knowledge and awareness. Maximum of 3 credits
may apply to minor.

495 Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Seminar ............... 3 cr
Prereq: WGSS 110 and two other WGSS courses. Freq: Alternate years.
Focuses on developments in feminist theory and methodology, with
the goal of integrating theory and methods acquired in earlier women's,
gender and sexuality studies courses and encouraging students to
apply the material to the community around them. Allows students
to work in their own interests within a broad theme selected by the
instructor.

497 Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Senior Thesis .......... 3 cr
Prereq: WGSS 110 and two other WGSS courses; and consent of
instructor. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Independent research and writing of an essay of substantial length
under faculty supervision. Agreement of faculty member to undertake
supervision is necessary before registration.

499 Independent Study ................................................................. 1-3 cr
Prereq: Consent instructor and program director. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Individual research projects in women's, gender and sexuality studies.
Maximum of three credits may apply to minor.