

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Learning Objectives

• Career-Related Skills:

- Describe professional options;
- Identify personally relevant career options to implement their gender knowledge, critical and communication skills, and feminist values in a variety of settings;
- Develop a resumé centering around skills relevant to a business-oriented position and to placement in a graduate program.

• Communication Skills:

- Communicate effectively (in writing and/or orally) the results of a project or internship;
- Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of major feminist theories;
- Translate feminist theory and concepts into everyday language.

• Content Knowledge:

- Define/explain major concepts underlying women's and gender studies;
- Describe the basic history of Women's Studies (the "three waves" and beyond);
- Define feminist concepts and theories;
- Describe the interdisciplinary nature of the fields of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies;
- Demonstrate awareness of feminist history and movement outside of the United States, i.e., global or transnational feminism;
- Summarize the history and fundamental contributions of black feminism in relation to mainstream feminism.

• Diversity and Ethical Considerations:

- Name the principles for a feminist classroom (confidentiality, respect of all, disagreeing through reason, not emotion, etc.) and practice them;
- Integrate knowledge of cultural diversity in the context of human rights frameworks;
- Apply basic principles of ethics to real-life situations, such as bystander action, or intervening in other forms of prejudice and hate.

• Research Skills:

- Differentiate schools of feminist thought, and how research methods vary from one to the other (e.g. feminist literary analysis vs. psychological experimentation and protocols);
- Integrate research from various academic fields into one's own research and writing;
- Gain first-hand experience with faculty research (as a research assistant) and/or with working as an intern with a faculty member (as a teaching assistant) or with a diversity-oriented organization (as an intern).

• Thinking Skills:

- Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and (if relevant) quantitative and qualitative research to analyze real life issues related to gender and sexuality, and/or textual analysis (depending on the student's secondary disciplinary focus);
- Synthesize theoretical concepts;
- Formulate activist activities based on theoretical principles;
- Formulate and defend one's own scholarly opinion regarding feminism based on reading, interpreting, and synthesizing the literature;
- Relate classroom and course knowledge to current events, feminist concepts and theories to research and to real life.