

WOMEN'S STUDIES

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Training and Development
Human Resources
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 (i.e., Catalyst)

STRATEGIES

Obtain a minor in business or take some general business courses.
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.
Develop strong computer skills.
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.

HEALTHCARE

Medicine Specializing in Women's Issues:
 Obstetrics & Gynecology
 Breast Cancer
 Multiple Sclerosis
 Fertility
Nursing
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Dentistry

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
Planned Parenthood

Maintain a high grade point average needed for graduate school and professional programs.
Take prerequisite courses required by professional program, 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 your field of interest and arrange shadowing opportunities.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling
Psychotherapy
Mental Health Services
Case Management
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,
 abortion clinics, eating disorder treatment centers,
 battered women's shelters, adoption agencies, etc.

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.
Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for substantive counseling work and advancement into administrative work.
Research and pursue specific degrees of interest at the graduate level, including marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, social work, counseling psychology, etc.

EDUCATION

Teaching
School Counseling
Student Affairs
Administration
Research
Information/Library Science
Community Education

Universities and colleges (Women's Studies departments)
Women's resource centers
Non-profit organizations
Government programs, e.g. classes for displaced homemakers, parenting, 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.
Get involved in 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.

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

Supplement curriculum with relevant courses.
Maintain a high grade point average.
Prepare for and take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).
Participate in activities that develop strong debate and public speaking skills; participate in mock trial.
Obtain the J.D. for law positions or an advanced degree in political science or public administration for government positions.
Gain relevant experience through jobs or internships with law firms or government agencies.

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 causes 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.

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Women's Studies Links:

[WorldWideLearn guide for Women's Studies Major](#)

[National Women's Studies Association](#)

[Feminist Majority Foundation's Career Site](#)

[Artemis Guide to Women's Studies Programs in the US](#)

[Feminism & Women's Studies](#)

[Center for the Study of Women in Society](#)

[Global List of Women's Organizations \(listed by country\)](#)

[National Council on Women's Organizations](#)

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Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2007)

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