Recommendations

B.A. Women’s & Gender Studies

To learn more about how you can make the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:

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PARTICIPATE

Community Service

**Related course**
WGST 112 - Women In Society service learning section taught by Dr. Mary Baskin Waters; WGST 430 - Men & Masculinity; WGST 499 - Internship

**Sites/experiences**
WGST 112 provides a social science perspective of the changing roles and images of women in psychological, sociological, historical, anthropological, economic, and political contexts. The service-learning section emphasizes the importance of active learning both in the classroom and in the community through individualized service-learning placements in local organizations. Students will enhance their values of civic responsibility and community collaboration through service opportunities that address gendered social issues, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, medically underserved individuals, homelessness, and incarcerated youth. In WGST 430, students explore gender and masculinity through a service learning component. Students either 1) volunteer with an organization that works to prevent or aid victims of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, or child abuse; or 2) do a social marketing activity that in some way gives information to the broader community about issues covered in the course (e.g., violence, men’s health, intersexuality, etc.). The WGST 499 Internship is described in detail in the internship section below. The Women’s Well-Being Initiative (WWBI) is an active coalition of faculty, students, and community members. WWBI activities include school-based literacy initiatives, an on-going collaboration with the Juvenile Arbitration Program of Lexington County to provide an arts program for at-risk girls, outreach and educational initiatives with the local Hispanic population, and oral history projects aimed at gathering and disseminating community members’ experiences and perspectives. WWBI is led by Dr. Lynn Weber and Dr. DeAnne Messias in WGST.

**Why this is important**
Women’s & Gender Studies as a discipline has always been concerned with making connections between theory and practice. Community service as part of the learning experience helps students see connections between theories discussed in class and what happens in the real world.

Global Learning

**Related Course**
WGST 113 - Women’s Health; WGST320 - Sexual and Gender in Ancient Greece; WGST 358 - Gender and Culture; WGST 381- Gender and Globalization; WGST 430 -- Sex, Gender, & Religion; WGST 555 - Language and Gender; WGST 320 examines topics such as gender roles and standards of sexual behavior as manifested in ancient Greek literary and archaeological evidence; attitudes toward homosexuality; the modern media’s representation of famous Greeks. WGST 358 is the anthropological study of gender, with emphasis on cross-cultural investigation of the interaction of biological, cultural, and environmental factors including intersections of race, social class, and sexuality as influences on gender behavior. WGST 430 explores the role of gender and sexuality in the shaping of individual and social religious identities. The course employs critical theories of the body and religion to explore issues such as how one’s biological body impacts one’s religious practices, and how these practices are affected when bodies or sexuality are non-traditional (e.g., LGBTQ). WGST 555 examines approaches to gender and language emphasizing the social grounding of both; and how language reflects sociocultural values and is a tool for constructing different types of social organization.
**Timing for study abroad**  
Varies by student

**Opportunities**  
Study Abroad Office

**Why this is important**  
A major theme of Women's & Gender Studies as a discipline is that gender is constructed and enacted in many different ways around the world.

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**Peer Leadership**

**Student Organization(s)**  
Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance at USC. Brings together USC feminists in a forum for discussion and activism.

**Why this is important**  
Students apply the concepts they have learning in WGST classes to leadership positions that allow them to make a difference in their communities.

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**Internships**

**Related Courses**  
WGST 499 Internship, a 3 credit class, is required for the major. Practical service-learning internship experience integrating knowledge and materials from previous Women's & Gender Studies courses.

**Recommended sites/work experiences**  
Students have interned at numerous non-governmental and governmental organizations. Community agencies include Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands, Sistercare, Girls Inc., Planned Parenthood, Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands, The Dickerson Center, The Free Medical Clinic, Tell Them, PASOS, the Harriet Hancock Center, and many others. University-based organizations include Sexual Assault Violence Intervention & Prevention, Healthy Carolina, & Office of Sexual Health. Governmental organizations include the Juvenile Arbitration Program of the 11th Circuit, SC Attorney General's office, and the SC Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Why this is important**  
The goals of the internship are for students to 1) gain an understanding of how the dynamics of gender, race, class, sexual orientation, and other categories of difference operate in the real world through working with a community or other organization; 2) to make a difference in the community by helping to address problems caused by treating people differently or unjustly because of their gender, race, class, sexual orientation, or other categories of difference.

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**Research**

**Related courses**  
WGST 499 Internship. Students can choose a research-based activity to fulfill this requirement.

**Sample research projects or topics**  
In Fall 2013, a student will be helping Dr. Dana DeHart in the College of Social Work to analyze her data examining pathways to prison for girls in the juvenile justice system.

**Why this is important**  
Research allows students another avenue to integrate what they have learned about gender, race, class, and other categories of difference into a meaningful project. It also allows them to form a close working relationship with the professor and other students in the professor’s lab that they are working with.
INTEGRATE

How to Integrate

A sample of the creative work students do in WGST courses: In the WGST 499 Internship, students create a poster of their work at their internship site. A poster session on community-based research is held at the end of the semester. Students discuss their work with faculty, students, and community members who attend the poster session. In WGST 113 Women’s Health, students create Powerpoint presentations of a women’s health issue and present these to the class. Students also interview an important woman in their life about a women’s health issue and write a paper for the class based on this interview. In the WGST 499 Internship students apply what they have learned in the major to the problems and issues that community agencies and other groups are working to address. The experience of applying the knowledge learned in the major to solving real world problems is invaluable. The purpose of learning is not just to gather knowledge but to use that knowledge to make a difference in the world.

LEAD

Initial career opportunities

Careers WGST graduates have pursued include public policy and advocacy positions, health-related careers, social work careers, business/service industries, legal services, and community development.

Related graduate programs

Law school, Public Policy, Women's & Gender Studies master’s programs, Women's & Gender Studies PhD programs, Master's/PhD in Public Health, Urban Planning master’s programs are some of the graduate programs WGST majors have gone to. Many WGST majors are double majors, and the 2nd major in WGST enhances their first major. For example, students who double major in Public Health and WGST have specialized in careers related to women’s health. Such students have often gone to graduate programs in Social Work, Psychology, and Sociology as well.

Future career opportunities

Law, Public Policy, Academia, Urban Planning, Public Health, Social Work, Psychology, Sociology

The listed experiences are a sample of options for your major. See the USC Connect experiences database to search for more opportunities.

www.sc.edu/usccconnect/participate