



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Women's and Gender Studies Department is a small, flexible and supportive program that emphasizes one-on-one mentoring and advising. As an interdisciplinary field informed by the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, a degree in Women's and Gender Studies teaches students the skills to not take things at face value, to challenge assumptions, and mediate conflicts in an inclusive manner. Infused with a strong social justice component, students are taught to think globally and systemically about problems and to synthesize and analyze information in a way that allows for evidence-based solutions and policy work. Women's and Gender Studies students examine the intersectionalities of gender, race, class and sexuality on all people's lives. They write a lot. Students are taught to recognize the politics of knowledge construction and the long history of gender bias across the disciplines. Students in Women's and Gender Studies classes learn about current research and theories about women and gender and gain practical knowledge to help them in their lives and careers. Given the high rates of sexual violence, the inequalities of access to resources, the gender segregation of the labor force, the gendered wage gap, and so much more, students choose a Women's and Gender Studies major/minor for themselves, their communities and the wider world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Students who graduate from UW-Whitewater with a degree in Women's and Gender Studies will meet the following student learning outcomes:

Cognitive

- Detect biased thinking in relation to gender, gender identity, ethnicity, class and sexuality.

- Identify and analyze arguments in source materials, including written texts and visual images.
- Understand the connections between individual and social experiences.
- Analyze the intersections and disconnections between gender and other elements of experience such as ethnicity, class and sexuality.

Skills

- Conduct a reasoned argument utilizing evidence and text.
- Write research papers.
- Demonstrate basic computer skills, including doing research, writing, and presentations online.

Subject Matter

Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of three of the following:

- History of the Women's Movement inside the U.S. and in at least one country outside the U.S.
- Sexual and domestic violence—including its prevalence and effects.
- Globalization, including information about the role of women in the international economy and workplace.
- The role of women in such social institutions as the family, the political system, and the justice system.
- The most important theoretical frameworks or concepts for the discipline of Women's Studies.
- The health and life-stage issues faced by women.