



Women's & Gender Studies

Gonzaga's Women's and Gender Studies program is an inter- and multi-disciplinary program that develops student capacity to understand the world through a range of theories and methodologies that include gender as a central analytic component. The program seeks to: (1) examine and question the constructions of gender identity and the impact these processes have on lived experiences of persons both locally and transnationally; (2) foster understanding of the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class; (3) cultivate the conviction that one has an ethical obligation to combat sexism, heterosexism, and other forms of intersecting discrimination such as racism and classism; and (4) encourage students to respect and value difference as we strive for a more just, equal society.

THE PROGRAM

As a program that intersects with several different academic disciplines, a **minor in Women's and Gender Studies (WGST)** complements many of Gonzaga's majors. The 21-credit minor consists of three required courses and four electives.

For the lower-division requirement, WGST students choose one of two **introductory courses**:

- WGST 201 - Sex, Gender, and Society; or
- WGST 202 - Gender, Difference & Power

The two other required courses are:

- WGST 401 - Feminist Thought/Gender Theory
- WGST 499 - Symposium in Women's and Gender Studies

This three-course sequence is designed to train students to work with the concepts, methods, and theories of feminist/gender studies scholarship and apply them toward understanding problems created by gender inequality. WGST students are encouraged to develop models of gender justice and work toward realizing them.

The program currently offers stand-alone and cross-listed courses in many different disciplines. Faculty members trained in feminist scholarship and pedagogy teach WGST courses, and they seek to create a community of learners in which both professors and students take responsibility for the educational experience.

Beyond the classroom, WGST students and faculty host organized events, such as a pop culture **lecture series** and "Take a Stand," a dramatic production featuring stories about sexual violence written and performed by students. In addition, the program sponsors films, discussions, and social events. The program also annually publishes *The Fringe*, a collection of essays, art, poetry, and photography.

OUTCOMES

Students participating in WGST courses contribute their ideas and talents inside and outside of the classroom. Service-learning opportunities allow students to bring theory and practice together.

The skills developed in WGST courses are applicable to many careers. Gonzaga WGST graduates work in business, education, journalism, government, international development, law, public relations, social services, and research. WGST graduates have also entered graduate programs in art history, counseling, literature, media studies, political science, social work, sociology, and women's and gender studies.

Recent graduates are pursuing a multitude of interesting experiences:

- studying overseas as a Fulbright Scholar in Zambia
- serving in the Peace Corps
- pursuing a law degree at Georgetown
- working in community outreach for women's health education
- serving on the staff of a U.S. Senator
- volunteering with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- coordinating volunteers in programs for troubled teens in the Pacific Northwest
- testifying at the United Nations
- studying culinary arts in San Diego
- teaching with Teach for America

Overall, the shared educational journey found in the WGST curriculum has inspired its graduates to fight for gender justice in a global society.

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