The Women’s Studies Internship

Your education will make more sense as you get out of the classroom and into your life!

- Integration of theory & practice
- Crucial work experience
- Contacts with potential employers
- Placements for any major
- Supportive environment

Our undergraduate internship program is designed to provide students with supervised work experience in the profession they are preparing to enter. Internships are available in a wide range of fields and are tailored to match each student’s abilities and interests with the needs of a particular placement. Interns work 9-18 hours per week to receive 3-9 credits. Through this program students have the chance to develop skills and confidence with the support of a field supervisor and an academic coordinator.

Students from a broad range of backgrounds participate in this program, including those who are changing fields or are returning to work after a period of varied experience without pay. Through placements, students are able to expand their resumes, clarify their career goals and make contacts with potential employers.

In addition to the field placement, students are required to participate in a weekly three-hour, three-credit seminar. This integrative seminar is designed to provide students with a forum for situating their work experience within a broader context. A portion of each class is devoted to discussion in which insights gained from students’ field experiences are viewed from the perspective of their academic training.

Prerequisite: One Women’s Studies course.
Consent of Instructor is required. For more information, contact Marita McComiskey, Associate Director of Women’s Studies & Internship Coordinator, (860) 486-1133 or marita.mccomiskey@uconn.edu.

Why Major or Minor in Women's Studies?

If you are considering a major or minor in Women’s Studies but are wondering what your prospects for employment or graduate education might be, notice the diverse career paths some of our former students have chosen:

Advocacy Medical Fields
Counseling Non-Profit Work
Crisis Intervention Politics
Editing Psychology
Education: all levels Public Policy
Government Publishing
Graphic Design Radio Broadcasting
Human Resources Research
Insurance Underwriting Social Service
Labor Mediation Social Work
Law Theatre & Arts
Lobbyist TV Production
Magazine Editing Union Organizing
Marketing Writing

The Women’s Studies Major and Minor provide an exceptional Liberal Arts education. In addition, it enhances or develops skills in critical thinking, writing, communications, and collaboration. All of these skills are vital in today’s job market and, as evidenced from the list above, our students are fully prepared to enter into a wide range of careers.

When someone asks what one does with a major or minor in Women’s Studies, tell them “anything you want!” And you can do it better with this educational background.

Women's Studies Student Awards

All UCONN undergraduate students are eligible to compete for three annual awards.

Chase Going Woodhouse Prize:
- awarded to an undergraduate for an academic project that focuses on feminist concerns. This prize is named in honor of former Congresswoman and Director of the Women’s Service Bureau. An activist and leader among the first generation of post-suffrage women in Connecticut, Chase Going Woodhouse provided an example of commitment to women’s interests and to realizing feminist goals in practical politics. The Prize includes $100.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon Award:
- presented to an undergraduate student whose academic and/or community work reflects a dedication to the understanding and advancement of women of color in the U.S. The award is named in honor of the Mohegan Indian medicine woman, anthropologist and community educator. Gladys Tantaquidgeon featured original scholarship on Eastern Native American culture through the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum. In her leadership role and scholarly research she has highlighted the significance of Native American women’s culture. The Award includes $250.

Feminist Arts Award:
- given for the first time in 2002, it was established to recognize feminist visual, music, poetry, fiction, or film created by an undergraduate. This award was established to honor the wonderful outburst of feminist arts activity at UConn. The Award includes a $50 prize.

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The Women’s Studies Program

The Women’s Studies Program is a flexible interdisciplinary academic program devoted to the critical analysis of gender and the pursuit of knowledge about women. Combining the methods and insights of Women’s Studies scholarship, our courses yield fresh perspectives which help us to understand the origins of and changes in diverse cultural and social arrangements. The Women’s Studies major is broad as well as flexible, and the student’s program can readily reflect individual interests or complement a second major.

Gender is a common thread in our curriculum, which interweaves issues of race, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, ability, national origin and religion. The Women’s Studies Program is committed to a vision that is truly international and cross-cultural. Without this perspective, our view of the world is profoundly impoverished and stereotypes will continue to distort our understanding.

The Program prepares students to employ critical learning in their private lives, in their public roles as citizens and as members of the work force, and enhances their ability to work with and for women to create a more humane society. Women’s Studies fosters interdisciplinary breadth and critical thinking and thus opens the way to a wide variety of career choices and graduate programs. Women’s Studies students are flourishing in social service agencies, business, law, education, and journalism, and employers appreciate the broad interdisciplinary perspective of Women’s Studies education.

Requirements for the Women’s Studies Major

Core Courses
Students are required to take the following:

- One 100/100 level WS Introductory Course (WS 104/1104, WS 105/1105 or WS 124/1124)
- WS 265W/3265W – WS Research Methodology
- PHIL 218/3218 – Feminist Theory OR
- WS 250/3250 – Feminisms
- WS 261/3891 – WS Internship
- WS 262/3894 – Intern Seminar
- WS 289W/4994W – Senior Seminar in WS

Supporting Courses
In addition to core courses, students are required to take five Supporting Courses.

Majors must complete at least 15 credits of 200/300 level courses that should be selected with the guidance of their faculty advisor. At least three of these courses will be Women’s Studies or cross-listed courses. Two of the five supporting courses may include cross-referenced courses that cover special topics relevant to feminist scholarship in various departments. Such cross-referenced courses will be applied to the major with approval of the Program Director.

Related Courses
Students must take an additional 12 credits at the 200/300 level or above in fields closely related to the major. No required course in the major or in the related area may be taken pass/fail.

Requirements for the Women’s Studies Minor

- Fifteen credit hours in Women’s Studies and cross-listed courses, of which one course may be at the 100/100 level.
- No more than two courses may be counted toward both the Major and the Minor.
- The Women’s Studies Internship Program (WS 261/3891 and 262/3894) will count for a maximum of six credits toward the Minor.
- Students should contact the Women’s Studies Program office for advising. Students must have the approval of their advisor and the Women’s Studies Program Director.

Women’s Studies Courses

104/1104 Feminisms & the Arts
105/1105 Gender in Everyday Life
121/1121 Women in History
124/1124 Gender in a Global Perspective
193/1193 Foreign Study
203W/3216W Women in Political Development
204/3052 Women & Politics
208/3416 Gender & Sexuality in Modern Europe
210/3561 Hist. of Women & Gender in Early US
215/3562 Hist. of Women & Gender in US (cross-listed as HIST 215/3562)
217/3217 Women & Anthropologic. Perspective on Women
231/3350 Women & Citizenship (cross-listed as ANTH 231/3350)
241/3453 Women & Social Change (cross-listed as SOCI 241/3453)
245/3621 Sociology of Sexualities
245W/3621W (cross-listed as SOCI 245W/3621W)
246/3102 Psychology of Women
246W/3102W (cross-listed as PSY2C246W/3102W)
247/3652 Black Feminist Politics
250/3250 Feminisms
251/3251 Women & Body Art
252/3252 Genders & Sexualities
255W/3255W Sexual Citizenship
258/3258 Latina Narrative
259/3259 Fictions of Latino Masculinity

Cross Referenced Courses

DRAM 230/3130 Women in Theatre
ENGL 212/3490 The Modern Novel*
ENGL 227/3201 World Literature in English*
ENGL 264/3509 Studies in Individual Writers*
ENGL 267/3627 Studies in Literature*
ENGL 268W/4600W Seminars in Literature*
ENGL 274/3212 Asian American Literature*
ENGL 285/3609 Women in Literature*
ENGL 286/3611 Women in 20th Century Lit.*
ENGS 285/3609 Women: Dev Perspective
HDFS 270/3421 Low Income Families
HDFS 271/3422 Black Am. Family Pattern
HDFS 272/3431 Family & Work
HDFS 278/3423 History of the Family
HIST 209/3203 History of the Family
PHIL 218/3218 Feminist Theory
SOCI 221W/3221W Asian American Women
SOCI 222/3222 Asian Indian Women Activism
SOCI 252W/3610W Sociology of Gender
SPAN 207/3207 Women’s Studies on Spanish

*Appropriate/specific sections/themes/topics, as approved by WS Director/Advisor

260/3260 Latinas and Media
261/3891 Women’s Studies Internship
262/3894 Women’s Studies Intern Seminar
263/3263 Women & Violence
264/3264 Gender in Workplace
265W/3265W WS Research Methodology
266/3266 Women and Ethnicity
267/3267 Women & Poverty
268/3268 Gender & Communication
269/3269 The Women’s Movement
270/3403 Women & Religion
271/3271 Seminar on Rape Ed. & Awareness I
272/3272 Seminar on Rape Ed. & Awareness II
273/3402 Women & Film
290/3209 Ethnicities, Sexualities, & Modernisms
293/3993 Foreign Study
295/3998 Variable Topics in Women’s Studies
298/3997 Special Topics in Women’s Studies
299/3999 WS Independent Study