

“What Can I Do with a WGS Degree?”
(compiled by University of Texas at Austin with links to original sources)

Students who complete the sequence can apply their knowledge to positions in education, government, nonprofit organizations, activism, journalism, law, public policy, social services, health services, and careers in the humanities and fine arts.

(<https://wgs.illinoisstate.edu/academics/>)

Employers hire people who can problem solve, write, research and think. Many of our graduates have pursued careers in law, medicine, public health, public policy, social work, teaching, counseling, advocacy, journalism, television production, union/labor organizing, public relations, academia, politics, fundraising for non-profits, small business developer, librarianship, arts administration, and in Foreign Service.

Many students incorporate their WGST degree with other departmental offerings across campus, either as a second major, a minor, or a graduate certificate. Paired with a Biology degree, a WGST graduate may attend medical school to specialize in women’s health; combined with a Business degree, a WGST graduate will better understand how gender affects the workplace. Students have coupled the critical thinking skills they learn in WGST with majors in Sports Marketing, Journalism, Education, Sociology, Theatre, Psychology and Art.

(<http://www.colorado.edu/wgst/>)

Graduates will be prepared to work in nonprofits, nongovernmental organizations or corporate fields.

(<https://sst.clas.asu.edu/node/302>)

What Employers Want

Employers often seek out liberal arts graduates, knowing that a liberal arts education emphasizes critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills. A liberal arts degree shows an employer that you have studied a wide variety of topics and probably have a broader view of the world than other applicants. A Women’s and Gender Studies major provides all of these benefits and more:

- Expertise in finding and using information on contemporary social issues
- An understanding of differences of gender, sexuality, race, culture, and social class
- Insight into the connections among different forms of oppression
- A foundation for analyzing inequities and initiating change

This preparation in critical thinking and social awareness is also excellent background for students pursuing graduate and professional degrees.

When Barbara Luebke and Mary Ellen Reilly researched this question in 1995, they found Women's Studies graduates working in a variety of fields—including the arts, business and industry, education, health care, the media, politics, law, social work, psychology, and sports.

They found Women's and Gender Studies graduates holding the following jobs:

- Administrator of a human services department
- Advocate for victims of domestic violence and hate crimes
- Artist
- Associate director of a human rights organization
- Business owner
- Clergy
- Communications consultant
- Congressional aide
- Coordinator of a women's health clinic
- Director of social service agency
- Executive director of a foundation
- Film production assistant
- Flight instructor
- Journalist
- Law enforcement officer
- Librarian
- Manager of energy conservation
- Musician
- Novelist
- Nurse practitioner
- Physician
- Professor
- Program director of a rape crisis center
- Psychologist
- Psychotherapist
- Public health educator
- Public relations director
- Social worker
- Teacher
- Theater staff
- Town manager
- Union organizer

[\(https://wgs.tcnj.edu/for-students/careers-and-graduate-school/what-you-can-do-with-a-wgs-major\)/](https://wgs.tcnj.edu/for-students/careers-and-graduate-school/what-you-can-do-with-a-wgs-major/)

Sample Career Titles

Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Detailed career profiles are available in the Career Centre. Some positions require further education and experience.

Child Life Specialist	Researcher*
Community Worker*	School Counsellor*
Border Service Agent	Sociologist*
Community Health Promoter	Special Education Teacher*
Religious Worker*	Clergy
Social Worker*	Journalist*
Human Resources Diversity Specialist	Editor*
Support Worker	Lawyer*
Volunteer Manager*	Archivist*
Family Support Worker	Union Organizer
Settlement & Youth Worker	Project Manager
Corporate Communications Coordinator	Lobbyist*
Community Service Agency Director	Public Policy Analyst*
Executive Director of a Non-Profit Organization	Foreign Service Officer*
Child and Youth Worker*	Public Relations Specialist*
Market Research Analyst*	Legislative Aide
Event Planner*	Educational Administrator
Librarian*	Elementary School Teacher*
Advertising Account Executive*	ESL Teacher*
Professor*	High School Teacher*
Marriage and Family Therapist*	

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/careers-by-major-women-gender-studies>

Jobs & Career Resources

Degrees in Gender & Women's Studies prepare undergraduate and graduate students for a wide variety of careers. The B.A. or B.S. degree in Gender & Women's Studies, for example, provides excellent grounding for careers in law, health, public administration, and social services. Students pursuing doctoral work will find that interdisciplinary training in Gender & Women's Studies gives them with theoretical and methodological strengths in many disciplines and applied research fields. Specialists in Gender & Women's Studies work as consultants in industry, higher education, insurance companies and personnel firms. State and federal government agencies require people with special training for understanding gender relations and social inequality in general. Finally, educational institutions need specialists to develop and administer Gender & women's studies programs, women's centers, and other institutional structures for studying and assisting women.

<http://sbs.mnsu.edu/women/jobs.html>

In short, the WGS major prepares students to be citizens of the world: equipped to think critically about the major issues of the day; able to perform well in a multitude of jobs requiring skills in reading, writing, and oral communication; and prepared to go on to graduate or professional training in a chosen field.

Many career opportunities exist for people with an understanding of women's, gender, and sexuality issues. There is growing demand in the professions of business, law, medicine, public administration, social work, teaching, counseling, and government service for expertise on gender issues.

Business: Businesses and corporations are increasingly concerned with women's issues such as sexual harassment, flex-time, parental leave, pay equity, and equal employment opportunities. Majoring in Women's Studies particularly helps professionals in these fields to learn how male/female interactions affect the business environment, to gain an understanding of federal, state, and local equal opportunity legislation, and to explore differences in women's and men's managerial styles. Graduates of women's studies programs are increasingly being used as consultants in industry, higher education, insurance companies, and personnel firms.

Education: A degree in Women's Studies helps professionals in these fields to become aware of sexist, racist and other biases in textbooks, learn about subconscious classroom behaviors that limit students to stereotypical roles, and explore non-sexist teaching models and curriculum integration. Graduates of women's studies programs find employment as teachers, counselors, librarians, program directors, and in university residence life and campus leadership.

Media and the Arts: Majoring in Women's and Gender Studies helps professionals in these fields to become aware of sexist, racist and other biases that have historically affected media/arts production and content, as well as to develop an understanding of their impact on issues related to women, gender and sexuality. Graduates of women's studies programs find employment in the arts, arts administration, art therapy, arts administration, writing, editing, reporting, film and video production, marketing and museum studies

Politics and Law: Majoring in Women's and Gender Studies helps professionals in these fields to learn how women have been excluded from the political process in the past, examine how women are working to achieve political empowerment today, and explore women's public policy issues. Graduates of women's studies programs work as lawyers in the realms of environment, public interest, affirmative action, immigration and women's advocacy; they also find work as lobbyists, and in careers of public affairs and policy making.

Non-profit and government service: Many nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations focus their missions around making a difference on issues related to gender and sexuality. Professionals in these fields offer assistance to survivors of abuse and assault, people in need of safe reproductive and sexual health services, those in need of family assistance, low-income parents, girls needing positive role models, and many more. Graduates of women's

studies programs find employment in the areas of policy-making and lobbying on behalf of human rights, gender and sexual equity.

Social Work and Psychology: Majoring in Women's and Gender Studies helps professionals in these fields to explore sexist biases in therapeutic models, gain an understanding of the common concerns experienced by female clients, such as battering, rape, incest, body image, and self-worth, and relate women's personal issues to the social construction of gender. The fields of clinical psychology, social work have been revolutionized by Women's and Gender Studies scholarship over the past 20 years and is a major area of interest for Women's and Gender Studies graduates.

Medicine and Health Care: Majoring in Women's and Gender Studies helps professionals in these fields to explore sexist biases in research methods and treatment, and gain an understanding of the common concerns experienced by female clients. Graduates of women's studies programs find employment as doctors and nurses, health service supervisors, health education and health counseling, and women's health care.

Advanced Degrees: Majoring in Women's and Gender Studies provides students with an excellent background to pursue an MD, JD, MSW or PhD; as well as advanced degrees in Nursing, Divinity, Education, Economics, International Relations, Business Administration, and Library Science.

Students who have graduated with degrees in women's & gender studies nationwide report a variety of post-graduation occupations. The following list was compiled based on an article by Amber E. Kinser ("What Can You DO with a Women's Studies Major?"), published in Women's Studies Program Administrator's Handbook, by the National Women's Studies Association (2006).

<http://louisville.edu/wgs/undergraduate-studies/what-a-wgs-major-prepares-you-to-do.html>

Transform The World

What you can do with a degree in women's studies.

by [**Nikki Ayanna Stewart**](#)

- a) *Become the first woman president of Harvard University*
- b) *Win a Rhodes Scholarship to study sexual civil rights*
- c) *Advocate for domestic-violence survivors while starring on TV's Survivor*
- d) *Teach the next generation*
- e) *All of the above, and more*

<http://www.msmagazine.com/spring2007/womensstudies.asp>

http://www.msmagazine.com/spring2007/womensstudies_letters.asp

Additional Job Sources for WGS Degree Holders

idealists.org

<https://www.idealists.org/en/?sort=relevance&type=ALL>

[feminist.com](http://www.feminist.com)

http://www.feminist.com/resources/links/links_work.html

[about.com](http://www.about.com) - job resources for women

<https://www.thebalance.com/career-tips-4073127>

Portland State Career Center

<https://www.pdx.edu/careers/>

Social Service Related Jobs

<http://www.socialservice.com/>

Jobs Abroad International Job Opportunities

<https://jobs.goabroad.com/>

Philanthropy careers

<https://www.philanthropy.com/jobs/>

Non Profit Jobs - Community Career Center

<https://nonprofitjobs.org/>

NOW- Nation Organization for women

<http://now.org/about/job-and-internships/#jobs>

Advancing Women

<http://careers.advancingwomen.com/>

Girl Scouts of America

http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/careers/working_with_us.asp