Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

WHY STUDY WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES AT UMAINE?

Gender and sexuality are fundamental categories of social organization and power. The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS) program examines gender and sexuality as they intersect with race, ethnicity, class, nationality, disability and other sites of social inequality. Students develop an appreciation for connections between women’s studies scholarship, activism and social change, historically and in the present, to value and improve the position of all marginalized people.

The goals of the women’s, gender, and sexuality studies program are to:

• Teach and learn about all women’s and men’s experiences, past and present
• Make all people visible in their similarities and differences
• Value personal experience as a way of knowing
• Create new knowledge about women and men, applying it to personal, political and institutional change
• Strengthen the links among women, men and programs in the community and on campus
• Empower women and men by increasing choices in all people’s lives

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES?

WGS majors have gone on to graduate school in law, medicine, social work, education and human development. Careers have included business, social service organizations, midwifery and others.

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Arts in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies is an interdisciplinary program offered by WGS with two joint appointment faculty members (with expertise in fields of history and English) and with faculty from a variety of academic units or hired part-time for their particular expertise.

All students are required to engage in an internship or activism project in the community. This is a great way to make contacts for future employment.

Students are encouraged to pair their WGS coursework with another major. WGS brings forward questions and perspectives relevant to most disciplines that usually remain in the background.

MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES OR INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. PROGRAMS

Graduate specialization in WGS is available at the master’s and doctoral levels, and can be integrated into existing UMaine graduate degrees. These graduate specializations have included history, English, communication, higher education, counselor education, social work and human development. Students seeking an interdisciplinary graduate degree with a greater focus on women’s studies can design their own programs using UMaine’s Master of Interdisciplinary Studies or Interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs.

WGS offers graduate students hands-on experience in teaching with its feminist pedagogy class and is in the process of developing a competitive graduate student teaching internship. The application process will start in spring 2015.
ABOUT UMAINE
The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state’s premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 73 countries. It currently enrolls 11,286 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. The University of Maine offers doctoral degrees in 35 fields, representing the humanities, sciences, engineering and education; master’s degrees in roughly 70 disciplines; 90 undergraduate majors and academic programs; and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, visit umaine.edu.

explore
Bachelor of Arts in
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

International Affairs (Primary Field: WGS)
Global Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Issues

Minor in
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

WGS Specialization in
Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Programs

Our graduate faculty members come from across campus and represent sociology, communication and journalism, higher educational leadership, history and English.

OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM
We encourage students to attend or present their work at local, regional or national women’s studies conferences, and we support these trips financially. We also support students interested in activism to attend an annual student-run conference at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) specializes in the ideas and skills every educated person needs — communication, scientific and numerical literacy, global and social awareness. Students develop knowledge in these essential areas with the guidance of faculty drawn from our 18 departments and schools. The College offers 35 undergraduate majors and over 40 minors in the visual and performing arts, the humanities, the physical and mathematical sciences, and the social sciences. Programs in clinical psychology, computer science, and music are professionally accredited. CLAS also offers 30 graduate degrees (Masters and Doctoral) and several certificate programs.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.

“I think students should take a WGS class just because it is so enlightening to learn how to recognize things in our culture that you were never aware of or had exposed to you before.”

— Elizabeth Rovito, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Minor, English Major

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