

The Women's and Gender Studies major offers in-depth opportunities to study gender and its intersections with other aspects of identity within your field of interest. The major provides up-to-date knowledge about women and gender in comparative, transnational, historical, and global perspectives and equips you with the knowledge, theories, and methods relevant to a variety of careers and professions.

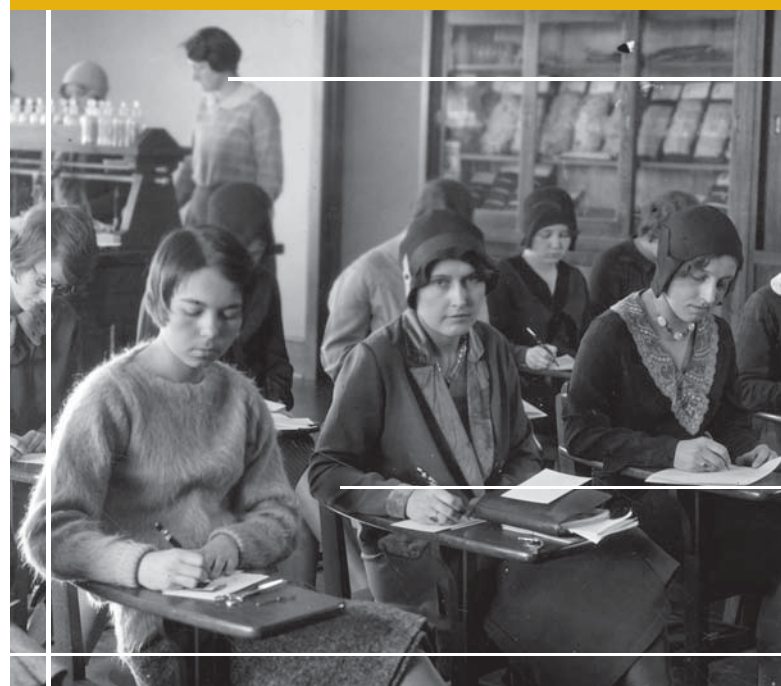
With a focus on the position of women in culture and society, this major emphasizes the intersections of gender with other social identities such as race, social class, religion, ethnicity, nationality, age, and sexual orientation.

Women's and Gender Studies majors learn about:

- the condition of women throughout history and in a variety of cultural contexts in the United States and across the globe
- the relationships among sex, gender roles, and power
- gender and sexual identities
- gender and its intersections with race, class, ethnicity, nationality, and religion
- women as producers and reproducers
- women, community, activism, and political power
- gender as a category of analysis in the academy and beyond



Julia Grant, associate professor in James Madison College, teaching her class, "Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Gay Studies"



Female students take notes for a textile class—1930s
Courtesy of University Archives & Historical Collections

For further information about the major, please contact the GenCen Advisor:
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Women's and Gender Studies BA Degree



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Students who are interested in gender equality at any level of society would greatly benefit from this major. Any student who wishes to be an educator, politician, sociologist, lawyer, or activist, as well as any who are interested in the humanities or social sciences, would find this major incredibly helpful.



Rachel Mieskowski

The Women's and Gender Studies major complements my degree program in Comparative Cultures and Politics. While traveling to many countries throughout the Middle East and Asia as a member of the military, I became very interested in the lives of women in those countries. I saw not only the ways in which women are different, but also the many ways we share a common bond. I want to explore the common struggles faced by women all over the world.



Andrea Norton

I want to learn all I can about gender identity and how I can help people like me understand who they are and what they're feeling ... Majoring in Women's and Gender Studies and focusing on Sexuality and Conflict, I will be able to learn new ways to gain rights for people who do not identify as cisgender.



Katherine Miller

Why Women's and Gender Studies?

The Women's and Gender Studies major at Michigan State University is offered through the College of Arts and Letters and administered by the Center for Gender in Global Context in International Studies and Programs. Our faculty is drawn from disciplines across campus—such as English; Anthropology; History; Sociology; and Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures—to offer a diverse set of critical approaches and perspectives.

The Women's and Gender Studies major offers comparative, interdisciplinary, and trans-historical academic training, providing a complex, nuanced, and deep understanding of women's experiences and the structural and cultural dynamics of how gender operates in our world. Students can find positions in a wide variety of fields, particularly if they are double or joint majors. Program graduates may go on to take jobs in business, human relations, community service, health care, public policy, journalism/editing/writing, human rights, and social work.

Women's and Gender Studies Requirements

Core Courses

- **WS 201: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies** ~ Foundational knowledge, theories, methods in women's and gender studies and of women's experience historically and across the globe
- **WS 202: Introduction to Contemporary Feminisms and Gender Theories** ~ Theories of feminism and gender from a variety of intellectual, political, cultural, religious, sexual, racial, ethnic, national, and global perspectives
- **WS 203: Introduction to Methods for Women's and Gender Studies Research** ~ Interdisciplinary research methods for global women's and gender studies
- **WS 492: Women's and Gender Studies Senior Seminar** ~ Guided advanced research and writing in a special topic in global gender and women's studies
- **WS 493: Internship** ~ Application of course work in Women's and Gender Studies through work experience related to women's and gender concerns; experience in legislative, community, or educational settings in the U.S. and overseas

Global Perspectives (minimum of two classes)

- **ANP 220: Gender Relations in Comparative Perspectives**
- **ANP 270: Women and Health: Anthropological and International Perspectives**
- **ANP 431: Gender, Environment and Development**
- **FW 221: Introduction to Gender and Environmental Issues**
- **HST 413: Families in Historical Perspective**
- **HST 420: History of Sexuality since the 18th Century**
- **HST 421: Women and Gender in Africa**
- **LIN 225: Language and Gender**
- **REL 315: Religion and Gender**
- **WS 403: Women and Change in Developing Countries**

Thematic Areas

- **Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and History** ~ Study the interrelation of gender and race over time through courses in anthropology, literature, history, geography, political science, sociology, and women's studies.
- **Sexuality and Conflict/Violence** ~ Explore the power dynamics of gender and sexuality in conflict situations through courses in criminal justice, communications, family and child ecology, geography, history, science, political science, psychology, sociology, and women's studies.
- **Gender and the Arts and Humanities** ~ Focus on gender within the arts and humanities field by taking courses in literature, language, media studies, history, political science, philosophy, religion, writing, and women's studies.
- **Gender Applied: Health, Urban, and Public Policy** ~ Learn how to apply theory and action in relation to public policy, health, and geography through courses in anthropology, criminal justice, literature, economics, environment, political science, epidemiology and public health, family and child ecology, psychology, sociology, urban planning, and women's studies.

Internships

The required internship is a fantastic way to supplement your academic interests by preparing you for your career of choice, as well as giving you a chance to expand on classroom theory. You may enroll in 2–4 internship credits. The GenGen internship coordinator can provide you with a list of local organizations offering internships that are related to women's issues and advocacy.

University Requirements

	credits
WRA (one course, 110-195H)	4
IAH (two courses: one below and one above 211)	8
ISS (one 200-level course, followed by one 300-level course)	8
ISB/ISP and laboratory (one biological sciences course; one physical sciences course; 2 laboratory credits)	8
Math (MTH 110 or higher)	3

You must complete the above courses with a minimum overall and major GPA of 2.0, and with at least 120 total credits.

College of Arts and Letters Requirements

Language

- Proctored exam: placing into a 300-level foreign language; or
- Courses: completion of two years of coursework or a foreign language 202 or 250 course

Two cognate areas (12 credits each)

- One or both cognate areas must be outside the College of Arts and Letters
- One cognate area must include at least 3 credits of 300- or 400-level work



Students dining in Morrill Hall— 1930s
Courtesy of University Archives & Historical Collections