

Women's Studies

The Women's Studies curriculum posits gender relations as a basic organizing principle of analysis. Gender is explored as a social construction that reflects and produces differentials of power and opportunity in many social systems. In a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts, women's studies majors explore the interactive matrix of gender, class, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, and sexual identity through works produced primarily by women. Hence majors will study women in the dominant culture and in cultures of women of color, both national and international. Such analysis illuminates the variety of men's and women's experiences and expressions, while identifying those that have been scripted into social definitions of normative human behaviors.

Women's studies majors study and develop feminist critiques of traditional disciplinary knowledge, yet there is an integrative component that draws on the valuable contributions of traditional knowledge as well. Exploration of the roots and forms of women's political activism, and the feminist reconstruction of history, contribute to the formulation of inclusive perspectives toward social life and the understanding of models and examples of social change. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum, women's studies majors apply multiple methodologies in developing research and critical thinking skills, and forms of personal expression. In IDS 400 courses, internships, and thesis projects, students integrate knowledge from different classes to conceptualize new, fuller ways of understanding.

Why Guilford College?

Consistently rated nationally by *The Princeton Review* as well as being one of the 40 colleges in *Colleges that Change Lives* by Loren Pope, Guilford College inspires each student to achieve excellence through an engaging community, rooted in Quaker values, which nurtures creativity and social responsibility.

What can a Guilford education offer you?

- An urban setting near other colleges & universities with an area student population of over 27,000 students
- A consortium agreement with University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro College, Bennett College, North Carolina A&T State University, Elon University and High Point University provides students with access to courses free of charge
- A college mission statement & core values based on, and consistent with, Quaker testimonies. Guilford's core values are: Community, Diversity, Equality, Excellence, Integrity, Justice & Stewardship.
- A challenging academic program which emphasizes not only academic tracks and the learning process, but also the interconnection between curricular and co-curricular pursuits
- A diverse student population providing a stimulating peer environment
- Excellent study abroad programs in China, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, and Wales

The academic program in Women's Studies

The Bachelor of Arts degree is offered in Women's Studies.

A minor is offered in Women's Studies.

Required courses for the Women's Studies major

The Women's Studies major is an interdisciplinary major that must be taken along with a disciplinary major. An adviser must be selected from a list of faculty who teach in the Women's Studies program, as well as an adviser from the other major. This may be the same person, or two different faculty members. The Women's Studies Committee will verify that all requirements for each major have been satisfactorily completed. Because the Women's Studies major is an interdisciplinary major, courses must be selected from at least four departments, with some courses in both the humanities and the social sciences. At least one senior integrative experience, a women's studies IDS 400 capstone, is required. Other integrative experiences, internships, independent study, or thesis, are encouraged.

Specific Course Requirements

Students must take a minimum of 32 credit hours (eight courses) in the disciplinary major and 33 credit hours (eight 4-credit courses plus a one-credit capstone) in Women's Studies in the following pattern:

- An introductory course:
 - ENGL 151: Black Women's History and Literature
 - HIST 223: Gender & Power in U.S. History
 - REL 222: Feminist Theology
- Another 100- or 200- level course approved for WMST
- At least one course must be on women of color (in U.S. or another part of the world).
- At least two 400-level courses, one of which must be a capstone IDS 400 course (one offered each semester)
NOTE: Independent studies, thesis, and internships can be taken at the 400 level
- An elective at any level
- The 1-credit Women's Studies Senior Forum is required of all majors in spring semester of their senior year unless a similar "transition out" course is required in the disciplinary major.

Because this is double major, two courses can double count for the women's studies major and other requirements without petitioning. Students must still fulfill the 33-hour requirement in Women's Studies and the total hour requirement in their other major.

First-year students should take ENG 151, HIST 223, or REL 222, to begin the major.

Internship Opportunities

Students may elect to complete an internship under the supervision of a faculty member in this department and receive credit for the experience. Such internships give majors the "hands-on" experience which is so necessary in this field. Among locations where Women's Studies majors have completed internships are the following:

- The Albert Kennedy Trust (London, UK)
- Department of Family and Children's Services (Atlanta, GA)
- The Family Crisis Center (Asheboro, NC)
- North Carolina Council for Women
- North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission
- Women's Resource Center of Greensboro

Where do graduates go?

- Graduate school in the social sciences and humanities
- Teach for America
- Peace Corps
- Social Work in North Carolina

Program Coordinators

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For additional information about Women's Studies at Guilford College visit www.guilford.edu/academics

