The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Minor encourages students to engage actively in the innovative and challenging work of interdisciplinary research. The program takes gender and sexuality as categories foundational to understanding culture and society, and investigates how these categories intersect with race, ethnicity, class, nationality and other categories of difference.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Through engagement with feminism, gender and sexuality studies, queer theory and LGBT studies, the program promotes interdisciplinary inquiry into femininity, masculinity, queerness and normativity. Areas of faculty strength include the study of nationhood, science, empire, transnational movements, globalization, family, health and implicit biases.

**WHY MINOR IN WGSS?**

Because WGSS is interdisciplinary, you study politics, literature, history, sociology, anthropology, biology and psychology, all with an aim towards social justice. A WGSS minor complements a variety of majors, and prepares you for a broad range of job opportunities by helping you to develop critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of diverse cultural perspectives and social experiences. Our minors have gone on to careers in science, law, non-profit organizations, community organizing, environmental activism, healthcare, social services, education and politics.

**OUR COURSES**

WGSS minors complete “WGSS 201: Introduction to Feminist Theories and Methodologies” and “WGSS 301: Integrative Seminar in Women’s and Gender Studies,” as well as a choice of five different courses from a wide variety of departments including English; Health and Human Development; History, Philosophy and Religious Studies; Modern Languages and Literatures; Native American Studies; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology and Anthropology.

Examples of courses regularly taught include:
- Gender, Race, Class and Family Diversity
- Food in America
- Colonial Latin America
- The Other in Japanese Literature and Culture
- Psychology of Prejudice
- Men and Masculinity
- Sociology of Human Sexuality

Political scientist Sara Rushing teaches political theory.
What can I do with a minor in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies?

As a liberal arts discipline, students can seek employment with various types of organizations – public, private, government and nonprofit. Graduates find job opportunities in a variety of fields, such as government, communications and media, law, public relations, human services, research, international relations, public health and other career fields.

Here are some examples of job titles:
- Admissions Counselor
- Biographer
- Business Manager
- Career Counselor
- Child Welfare Worker
- Community Affairs Specialist
- Community Service Agency Director
- Consumer Advocate
- Consumer Relations Representative
- Editor
- Employee Relations Manager
- Health Policy Planner
- Hospital Administrator
- Human Resource Administrator
- Investment Counselor
- Job Developer
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Market Research Analyst
- Planned Parenthood Counselor
- Psychologist
- Public Relations Specialist
- Sales Manager
- Social Worker
- Women’s Rights Advocate
- Writer

For additional information, contact:
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS & DISTINCTIONS

Triota Honors Society

Students who have taken at least two WGSS courses and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 are also eligible to join Triota, the national honors society for Women’s and Gender Studies, and graduate with honors.

Faculty/Student Research

Undergraduate students have numerous opportunities to conduct research with support from faculty and may opt to conduct such research as a Senior Capstone Project. Many students have presented their research through conference papers and posters, allowing them to gain experience conducting creative and original interdisciplinary work.

Beyond The Classroom

There are also many opportunities for students to engage in WGSS-related activities and activism on campus, including the Equal Pay Task Force, Diversity Center, QSA Spectrum, Transclub, Safe Zone and VOICE Center. The WGSS Speaker Series highlights current research of WGSS faculty, as well as of national and international scholars.

MSU students at a Take Back the Night rally.

Former WGSS student Thomas Wells participates in a Men Stopping Rape awareness campaign.

History professor Mary Murphy teaches Food in America and Gender in US/Canadian West.