

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies



Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies offers vibrant, interdisciplinary study of intersectional feminist theory and LGBTQ+ studies, helping you to build critical thinking skills necessary for navigating the current political and social moment. Grounded in social movements and reaching toward more just and equitable futures, the field empowers you to be informed citizens in a diverse social world. We prepare you to bring a wealth of knowledge related to diversity, equity and inclusion to legal, business, governmental, nonprofit, and educational contexts. With this degree, you can make a difference in the lives of others in your community, in your career and in society by critically evaluating and fostering change in unjust practices, beliefs and standards about gender and sexuality.

Career Outlook

The Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies degree will prepare you to recognize systems of power and to utilize your voice as a catalyst for change. With these skills, you can be a more successful leader within your organization, a better colleague within diverse work settings and a more powerful agent of social justice within your community and beyond.

With your Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies degree, you can find careers in many areas including advocacy, social services, human resources, community development, business, government, education, health care practice and law. Our alumni have found work as diversity and inclusion administrators, sexual violence researchers and at LGBTQ+ social service agencies.

Faculty Expertise

Study with award-winning faculty specialists in intersectional feminist theory and LGBTQ+ studies. Our joint appointed faculty conduct research in areas including:

- LGBTQ+ U.S. history.
- Gender and climate justice.
- Women in STEM.
- Women of color feminisms.
- TransLatina migration.
- Gender in media and communication.

You will also benefit by having classes and engaged learning experiences with a large group of associated and affiliated faculty from departments across the university.

Coursework

Our courses focus on issues of power, identity and inequality locally, nationally and internationally. You will leave the program with skills to fight for equity and inclusion with integrity, and to be good stewards of your communities. Our classes include analytical, reflective, creative and activist projects. Students create dynamic learning communities in which you can experience a sense of belonging and shared purpose.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Center for the Study of Women,
Gender and Sexuality**

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Degree Requirements

As a student in the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (CSWGS), through the analysis of human culture, you can focus on:

- Contributions and status of women and LGBTQ+ people.
- Social and cultural construction of gender and sexuality, past and present.
- Influences of gender and sexuality on the lives of all people.
- Feminist activism and advocacy movements.
- Intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, nationality, religion and age.

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies
go.niu.edu/catalog-ug-wgss

Minor in Women's and Gender Studies
go.niu.edu/catalog-ug-minor-wgs

Minor in LGBTQ+ Studies
go.niu.edu/catalog-ug-minor-lgbt

Certificates in Women's and Gender Studies
go.niu.edu/catalog-ug-cert-wgs

Certificate in LGBTQ+ Studies
go.niu.edu/catalog-ug-cert-lgbts

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies "gave me a 'leg-up' on (other) job candidates because it demonstrated a dedication to social justice and an ability to work across disciplines."



Our students participate in programs conducted by the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, such as Lavender Graduation ceremonies.

Research and Engagement

The Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality provides exciting opportunities for you to showcase your writing, creativity and critical thinking in the classroom and in engaged learning activities.

- Present your research and class projects at our annual Research Symposium.
- Work with faculty mentors on a Research, Engagement and Academic Diversity Grant.
- Pursue internships, study abroad, and publish and present your work.
- Participate in social justice initiatives on campus and in the community.

We also offer scholarships to support our most engaged students.

Contact Information

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niu.edu/clas/cswgs



Pursue your passion

Courses available include:

- Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.
- Feminist and Queer Theories.
- LGBTQ+ Studies.
- Global Gender Issues.
- Gender and the Environment.
- Growing Up Girl.
- Women and Cultural Expression.
- Research Methods in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.
- Transgender Studies.
- Language and Gender.
- Women in Science.



Northern Illinois University