

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Contact

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 Women in the Curriculum & Women's Studies
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Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (*including biology*)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language (*same language or two years of American Sign Language-ASL*)
- Academic electives (*to equal at least 17 total credits*)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Major Requirements

- 18 credits Women's Studies required courses
- 9 credits Women's Studies distribution requirements (*one course in each category—culture, society & public policy, health, science, & the environment*)
- 9 credits Women's Studies additional approved courses

120 Minimum total credit hours required for graduation

Women's Studies Minor

- 9 credits Women's Studies required courses
- 9 credits Women's Studies additional approved courses

Women's Studies Concentration in International Affairs

- 24 credits Women's Studies courses
- 27 credits Other International Affairs core courses

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program offered by the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program. Women's Studies majors will gain a more complete understanding of how the social construction of gender has influenced the roles, contributions, and experiences of women in many different cultures, past and present. Such an awareness can help majors better understand our contemporary world with its changing roles for women and men alike.

Graduates of this program will bring to the gender analysis of any situation knowledge of the complexity of its interaction with race, social class, and other forms of diversity. They will be able to recognize the connection between Women's Studies scholarship and the scholarship of other disciplines. Students will develop an appreciation for the connections between Women's Studies scholarship, activism, and social change, both historically and in current events and interactions. Graduates will have developed the critical intellectual capacity and the necessary communication skills to value and improve the position of all women in whatever public or private spheres they may choose.

Courses available in Women's Studies include an introductory course, Feminist Theory, and a senior seminar (all required for both the major and minor). Other courses include Women and Globalization; Women, Health, and the Environment; Franco American Women's Experience; Women in Music; Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies; Feminism and Cinema; Immigration, Women and Society; and Women in Europe (a travel/study course). Other topics courses are available on a semester-to-semester basis. For example, recent offerings have included Women and the Legal System; American Indian Women; Women Activists; Women's Sexuality; and Women and Work. In addition, other departments offer courses which are approved for credit toward the Women's Studies major and minor like these: Women's Literature; Womanhood in America (History); Women's Health (Nursing); Family Relationships; Women and Politics; Sociology of Gender; Gender and Warfare in Latin America; and Feminist Ethical, Social and Political Theory.

Career Opportunities

Students who major in Women's Studies are employed in social service work, health service occupations, business, law, education, and government at all levels. They find employment in public policy fields, working with women specifically or with people in general. For more specific examples, please refer to our web site.

General Education Requirements*

- ENG 101 College Composition
- 18 credits Human Values & Social Context area (*a single course may satisfy more than 1 sub-category, but a total of 18 credits must be completed*)
 - Western Cultural Tradition
 - Social Context & Institutions
 - Cultural Diversity & International Perspectives
 - Population & the Environment
 - Artistic & Creative Expression
- 2 courses Designated Writing Intensive (*1 must be within the major*)
- 2 courses Biological or Physical Sciences (*must include at least 1 laboratory course*)
- 1 course Ethics (*emphasis on discussion of ethical issues in 1 course or series of courses*)
- 6 credits Mathematics (*including statistics & some computer science, only 3 credits in computer science can count toward this requirement*)

General Education Requirements* (continued)

1 capstone An approved experience in which the student integrates the components of his or her undergraduate training to perform at a professional level. The capstone experience is usually completed during the senior year in consultation with the student's academic advisor.

**All UMaine students must complete these general education requirements, which are counted in the total credit hours required for graduation and may be contained in the Major Requirements previously listed.*

Specialized Information

All of the core Women's Studies (WST) courses are interdisciplinary and (as much as possible) multicultural, recognizing the diversity of women in such areas as race, class, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnicity. Introduction to Women's Studies, WST 101, satisfies several general education requirements and the senior seminar, WST 480, is both the capstone for the major and a writing intensive course in the major. Students can design field placements and internships as well as independent study projects using the WST 298 and WST 498 course numbers. In fact, internships, Study Abroad, and National Student Exchange opportunities are strongly encouraged.

In addition to the courses listed in the University of Maine undergraduate catalog, departments occasionally offer topics courses on women's issues which may be approved for Women's Studies credit. The Women's Studies program publishes a list of available courses during course registration periods. Call the office for a copy or check our web site.

Besides the Women's Studies major and minor, the program offers a Women's Studies concentration in the International Affairs major. In addition to the core courses required for all IA majors, this concentration requires four specific Women's Studies courses and four more from a list of Women's Studies electives with a global focus.

Academic Programs 2008-2009

Please refer to the web site (<http://factsheets.umaine.edu/>) for the most updated version of the fact sheets.

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.