

Women and Gender Studies

Contact Information

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Students in Women and Gender Studies at UIS explore the construction, experience, and questioning of gender and sexuality as key facets of human identity. Students investigate history, culture, society, psychology, science, communication, or art to see how human activities are produced, experienced, and interpreted by gendered subjects of different races, classes, nationalities, sexual orientations, religions, generations, and historical periods. Our interdisciplinary approach works well in combination with majors and master's degrees. The particular strengths of our department are our feminist and queer approaches to women's studies; critical men's studies or masculinities; LGBTQ studies; critical race studies; and social class studies from both US and global perspectives.

In the classroom, WGS faculty are committed to creating participatory learning environments. We emphasize student-centered and cooperative learning, critical thinking, openness to ideas and discussion, and respect for others. Students are encouraged to make connections between thought and action, the academy and the community, and theory and practice. The department provides interested students with opportunities for internships, community-based projects, and research.

Degree Opportunities

Students can design their own degrees focusing on sex, gender, and sexuality through the Liberal Studies Department (B.A.). Students create their own curriculum by working with a degree committee that includes WGS, LIS/LNT, and other faculty and peers. Students have designed degrees combining the study of gender and sexuality in areas such as media, arts, social services, law, criminal justice, and mental health.

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES MINOR

- Women and Gender Studies Minor