

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

BIRDSONG SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary program that presents students with diverse perspectives for understanding and interpreting the historical and contemporary experiences of women and men in the United States and throughout the world. Students will examine how concepts of gender operate in conjunction with issues such as race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, age, appearance, and ability; and how they shape beliefs, values and experiences.

THE PROGRAM

The objective of the women's and gender studies program is to analyze the practical and theoretical manifestations of gender as a determining category in social, cultural and political systems. Students majoring or minoring in women's and gender studies will become familiar with numerous feminist, gender and sexuality theories and utilize them in understanding and contextualizing varied forms of structural and cultural oppressions, interactions, and solutions.

THE MAJOR

A student majoring in women's and gender studies at Virginia Wesleyan is required to complete a minimum of 36 hours in specified coursework in disciplines such as English, history, theatre, biology, psychology and sociology. Students may also choose to increase their opportunities in the workforce and graduate study by double-majoring or minoring.

THE COURSES

Classes at VWU are small and interactive. Courses in the women's and gender studies program include: Women in Culture & Society, Feminist & Gender Theory, History of Women, Human Sexuality, Psychology of Eating Disorders, Psychology of Gender, Feminist Political Thought, LGBTQ Literature, American History of Sexuality, Queer Cultural Studies, and Sex, Gender, and Global Security. Courses in this program focus on the critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills that are central to a liberal arts education.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH

Students may elect to complement the classroom experience with an internship opportunity. Internships allow students to gain supervised experience in applying knowledge from the major in real-world settings and in developing the professional skills, providing students with the opportunity to expand their intellectual horizons. Internships provide students a "competitive edge" in the job market or when applying for admission in postgraduate degree programs.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students earning a degree in women's and gender studies will gain skills that employers seek in an array of fields such as law, medicine, business, the arts, education, counseling, community work, journalism, social services and public health. Graduates of the program have gone on to work at University Women's Centers, the LGBTQ Life Center, and the Samaritan House, which aids victims of intimate partner violence. The study of women and gender also provides graduates with an understanding of the roles of gender and diversity in an increasingly interconnected world.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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