

HARRIET TUBMAN DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

College of Arts and Humanities

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Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry analyzing structures of power, especially as they are grounded in gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, ability, and other inequalities, and as they configure historical and contemporary struggles for social change. The department and faculty enjoy a global reputation for innovative theoretical and methodological interventions and for their attention to curriculum transformation and global women's studies institution building. With a core faculty of eight and more than 80 affiliate faculty from across the campus, the program offers a B.A. in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, three undergraduate minors (Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Black Women's Studies; and LGBTQ Studies), and two certificates (Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; LGBTQ Studies).

PROGRAMS

Major

- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Major (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/womens-gender-sexuality-studies-major/>)

Minors

- Black Women's Studies Minor (ARHU) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/black-womens-studies-minor/>)
- LGBTQ Studies Minor (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-studies/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-studies-minor/>)
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Minor (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/womens-gender-sexuality-studies-minor/>)

Certificates

- LGBTQ Studies Certificate (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-studies/LGBTQ-studies-certificate/>)
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Certificate (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/womens-gender-sexuality-studies-certificate/>)

[humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/women-gender-sexuality-studies-certificate/](https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/women-gender-sexuality-studies/womens-gender-sexuality-studies-certificate/))

ADVISING

Advising is mandatory for all majors each semester. Please email wgss@umd.edu or call 301-405-6880 for assistance scheduling an appointment.

Undergraduate minors and certificate students are also encouraged to consult with the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies academic advisor prior to registration while completing the program requirements.

To review the academic plan for this major, go to <http://arhu.umd.edu/academicsadvising/academic-plans/>.

OPPORTUNITIES

Experiential Learning

As part of the undergraduate program, students have the option to complete a hands-on, practical learning experience. They may do so through a teaching assistantship, an undergraduate internship, or a research or creative works assistantship.

The Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship (UTA) is an opportunity to work closely supporting a member of the department faculty in an undergraduate course. This structure allows UTAs to build expertise, develop pedagogical competencies, and strengthen their knowledge base in the areas of feminist, critical race, and queer pedagogical debates and approaches. This is especially relevant for students interested in careers in teaching or academia. UTA positions in WGSS are unpaid and credit bearing, students are required to enroll in 3 credits of WGSS358. Priority for teaching assistantships is given to students who have successfully completed the course they wish to TA. Positions are advertised during the registration period for the semester in which they occur and assistants are chosen by the faculty member who they will support.

The Undergraduate Internship experience is designed to provide students with the opportunity to combine theory and practice and get hands on experience with women's, gender, and sexuality issues in a workplace or organizational setting. The course has two components: work at the internship setting developing practical skill sets applicable to that environment, and work with a faculty mentor to prepare readings and/or research that provide a framework to think about the internship experience and an opportunity to reflect on the pragmatic and political issues. Internships can be taken for 3 - 6 credits of WGSS368 based on the combined number of hours worked at the internship site and on associated academics. Students seek internship opportunities in local, state and federal governments, non-profit organizations, policy and research institutions as well as agencies committed to social change. Past internship sites have included: MCASA-Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, NAACP Maryland State Conference, National Organization for Women, Institute for Women's Policy Research, HIPS, League of Women Voters of Maryland, Sinister Wisdom lesbian literary and art journal, Jewish Women International, Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project, D.C. Rape Crisis Center, the District Alliance for Safe Housing, the State of Maryland Lt. Governor's Office and other state and national legislative offices. To learn more about WGSS Internship credits visit <http://wgss.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate/experiential-learning/>.

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Assistant (URCA) provides an opportunity to work alongside a faculty mentor to develop an enhanced understanding of specific research methods and/or creative practices; the overall goal is to provide students with an understanding of how field contributions are made, either by crafting their own research contributions, or providing support for a faculty mentor's ongoing research. Positions are generally advertised during the registration period in which they occur and are chosen by the faculty member who will be directing them. All URCA students register for 3 credits of WGSS378.

Departmental Honors Program

The Honors Program (<https://wgss.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate/experiential-learning/>) is designed to give students the opportunity to pursue an area of passionate academic interest in greater depth than that allowed by formal classes. Honors students engage in rigorous interdisciplinary research under the close supervision and mentorship of a department faculty member. Students can be expected to gain a deeper understanding of some aspect of women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies and to develop habits of self-reliance, individual initiative, and critical analysis. The culminating thesis may be a sustained piece of writing or a substantial creative or activist project. Applications to the Departmental Honors Program are accepted in mid-Fall and mid-Spring.

Student Community

The Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) strives to build a vibrant community of students. Undergraduate and graduate students are given voice at the department level through the election of a student representative who participates in department faculty meetings. The department has a vibrant series of events held each year to bring together students and faculty from all our programs and the broader university community. To learn more about this community visit <http://wgss.umd.edu/current-students/>.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

For information about scholarships and financial assistance offered by the department, please visit <http://wgss.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate/scholarships-awards/>.

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit: <http://financialaid.umd.edu>.

Awards and Recognition

The department administers a variety of awards and grants to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship, research, leadership and service.

The Rodler/Wood Scholarship (<https://wgss.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate/scholarships-awards/rodler-wood/>) is awarded annually based on one or more of the following criteria: demonstrated financial need, academic interest in LGBTQ Studies, extracurricular activities on behalf of LGBTQ issues, and hardship based on sexual orientation. The Rodler/Wood Scholarship is presented at the annual Lavender Graduation Ceremony each Spring.

The Laura Nichols Award (<https://wgss.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate/scholarships-awards/laura-nichols-award/>) recognizes undergraduate students who exemplify her commitment to feminist principles and social change through their scholarship, service, activism

and/or creative endeavor. WGSS majors and certificates, Black Women's Studies minors and LGBTQ Studies certificates and minors are all eligible. Applications may be for activist, service or creative projects that reflect a commitment to social change and the values of equality, inclusion and justice. Applications are accepted through Scholarship Universe and are due April 1 each year.

The department also recognizes graduating students who have excelled in academics or in service to the campus and community at our end of the year celebration

For information on any of these awards, including how to apply, contact the department at wgss@umd.edu or visit <http://wgss.umd.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate/scholarships-awards/>.