Major Possibilities:
Feminist Studies

Career Services
Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas
Prothro Center 1st Floor, 512.863.1346, 512.863.1270 fax
career.services@southwestern.edu
www.southwestern.edu/careers
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Summary

- The Feminist Studies major does not merely explore gender, but race, class, sexuality, disability, age, religion, and nation, as well.
- Paired majors with Communication Studies, English, History, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, and Theatre are also available.
- According to the United States Department of Labor, women are projected to account for 51 percent of the increase in total labor force growth between 2008 and 2018. This means that businesses and corporations are finding more need for awareness of women's issues in the workforce and students of Feminist Studies have become more valuable.
- Many Feminist Studies majors campaign for equality and justice around the world. In some cases, students can volunteer or even gain jobs with international rights organizations that monitor the treatment and the advancement of women.

Feminist Studies major synopsis

The Feminist Studies program exposes students to the growing body of knowledge that falls under the broad rubric of feminism, including feminist theory and its critics, and it seeks to revise the findings of traditional disciplines to include this new knowledge and variety of feminist methodologies. The Feminist Studies major is a flexible major that requires students to take classes from each of the following Areas of Concentration: Theory and Method; Historical Perspectives; Representation and Aesthetics; Difference, Power, and Resistance in the US; and Transnational Perspectives. In addition, two extra courses must be taken in one of the above Areas of Concentration so that students gain a better understanding of the area of Feminist Studies that interests them most. Introduction to Feminist Studies, Intellectual Histories of Feminism, and Capstone are required as well.

Sample occupational areas

Human Rights Organizations
People passionate about helping others, whether locally or abroad, will find a degree in Feminist Studies rewarding, and may be interested in the following occupations: Human Rights Advocate, Victim's Advocate, Battered Women's Center Director, or Rape Crisis Program Director. Because women in some foreign countries do not enjoy the same liberties as women in the United States, many Feminist Studies majors campaign for equality and justice around the world as a Human Rights Advocate. A Victim's Advocate can make a difference from home, pursuing a career that puts them in direct contact with the victims of domestic abuse, hate crimes, or other acts of violence. Battered Women's Center Directors and Rape Crisis Program Directors must be able to assure women of their safety, while facilitating meetings with attorneys and law enforcement professionals during divorce proceedings or criminal prosecution.

Students can also work in AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps. AmeriCorps enables people to help fellow Americans by teaching, fighting illiteracy, improving health care, and helping communities respond to disasters. Volunteers for the Peace Corps travel to aid foreign countries and work in education, health and HIV/AIDS, business, environment, youth, agriculture, and more.

Labor Unions
Though women have made tremendous strides in business over the last century, many women still work in substandard conditions for unacceptable salaries. Feminist Studies majors that work with labor organizations identify employers that exploit women or otherwise fail to provide mandatory health and welfare benefits for their female employees. These activists have successfully lobbied for day care facilities in factories, extended maternity leave, and other important benefits.

Social Service Agencies and Health Care Agencies
A variety of jobs in social service and health care are suited to people with Feminist Studies majors. A few of the occupations possible are social worker, Health Clinic Coordinator, Health Clinic Medical Assistant, nurse, midwife, or Hospital Foundation Executive Director.
Some of the organizations that hire social workers are public welfare agencies, private social service agencies, schools, hospitals, clinics, and recreation and rehabilitation centers. Many work with juvenile courts. A small number are employed as teachers or researchers. Generally, a Master's degree is required, and licensing varies from state to state, in order to become a social worker.

Counselors and other clinical social workers benefit from integrating a Feminist Studies major or minor into their professional development. Understanding the history and development of women's roles in society can help clinical social workers provide perspective for their clients. Working in health clinics allows Feminist Studies majors to combine their understanding of the social and political aspects of women's health with their innate organizational and leadership skills. Also, as more women seek medical treatment at dedicated women's clinics, medical assistants and nurses who enroll in women's studies programs gain a powerful advantage over other trained professionals.

More options
Today, Feminist Studies majors have the ability to go into any field that interests them. Their unique advantage is that they are competent in the job because of their liberal arts education, but they see issues from a perspective that allows them insight into oppression and diversity in the work force, not merely gender-related, but race- and religion-related as well. Someone with a degree in Feminist Studies can go on to become a journalist, archivist, lawyer, casting director, artist or musician. A Feminist Studies perspective would provide a journalist with a valuable and unusual perspective regarding current events. An archivist could bring their perspective to archivist positions by assuring future generations that the roles of women are not overlooked or understated. A lawyer could build a strong specialty practice dealing with sexual harassment, discrimination, and domestic violence. Casting directors, by selecting actresses that can accurately represent the lives of women, can make important decisions and recommendations that enhance the authenticity of movies and plays. Finally, artists and musicians use their Feminist Studies degrees to inspire powerful songs or works of art.

Sample job titles

Advertising Executive
Artist
Archivist
Casting Director
Case Manager
Communications Executive
Consultant
Counselor
Diversity Trainer
Editor
Entrepreneur
Exhibit Coordinator
Grant Writer
Health Administrator
Human Rights Advocate
Journalist
Lawyer
Lobbyist
Manager
Marketing Executive
Media Planner
Musician
News Programmer
Patient/Victim Advocate
Producer
Project Director
Public Relations Manager
Reporter
Sexual Equality Advocate
Social Worker
Union Organizer
Women's Studies Programmer

Sample internship employers of SU students

KROX 101x Morning Show
Institute for Women and Work – Cornell U.
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Ms. Magazine
National Coalition against Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Women's Health Network
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Women's Campaign Fund
Women's Center
Women's Policy Inc.
YMCA
NARAL

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Assistant Media Planner (Tracy Locke)
Book Seller, Feminist Reference (Book Woman)
Case Worker (CPS)
Community Relations Director (A & A Home Health Services)
Counselor (Fairmount Center)
Education Reporter (*Williamson County Sun*)
English Teaching Assistant (U.S. Dept. of State Fulbright Program)
Legal Clinic Coordinator (DL Employment Justice Center)
Patient Advocate (Brookside Women's Medical Center)
Political Campus Organizer (Iowa Public Interest Research Group)
Volunteer and Community Engagement Specialist (Family and Protective Services)

Professional associations

American Association of University Women: www.aauw.org
American Civil Liberties Union: www.aclu.org/
Center for Women's Global Leadership: www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/
Coalition of Labor Union Women: www.cluw.org
Equality Now: www.equalitynow.org/english/index.html
Feminist Majority Foundation: www.feminist.org
International Alliance for Women: www.tiaw.org/
Mona Foundation: www.monafoundation.org/
National Council for Research on Women: www.ncrw.org
National Network to End Domestic Violence: www.nnedv.org/
National Organization for Women: www.now.org
National Women's Law Center: www.nwlc.org/
National Women's Studies Association: www.nwsa.org

Additional Web resources

The Advocates for Human Rights: www.mnadvocates.org
AmeriCorps: http://www.americorps.gov/
Center for Research on Women: www.wcwonline.org
Feminist Jobs: http://jobs.feminist.org/
Feminist Studies: www.feministstudies.org
Global Fund for Women: www.globalfundforwomen.org/
Feminist Women's Health Center: www.fwhc.org
Peace Corps: www.peacecorps.gov/
Women Watch: www.un.org/womenwatch/
Women's Learning Partnership: www.learningpartnership.org/
World Wide Learn: www.worldwidelearn.com/online-education-guide/social-science/womens-studies-major.htm

Career Services resources

101 Careers in Social Work
An Insider's Guide to Political Jobs in Washington
Career Compass for Women
Career Opportunities in Politics, Government and Activism
Career Opportunities in the Non-Profit Sector
Career Opportunities in Writing
Careers for Born Leaders and Other Decisive Types
Careers in Nonprofit and Government Agencies
International Jobs
Careers in Social & Rehabilitation Services
Idealist Guide to Non-Profit Careers
Making a Living While Making a Difference: Conscious Careers In an Era of Interdependence
Many Paths, One Purpose: Career Paths for Social Work and Human Services Majors
The Nonprofit Career Guide: How to Land a Job that Makes a Difference
Opportunities in Social Work Careers
Philosophers at Work: Issues and Practice of Philosophy
Social Work Career Development: A Handbook for Job Hunting and Career Planning
Speak for a Living
Wetfeet Insider Guide to Careers in Non-Profit and Government
Vault Guide to Conquering Corporate America for Women and Minorities