

Major Possibilities: Feminist Studies



Career Services

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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.
- Many Feminist Studies students obtain double or paired majors in other disciplines, such as English or Anthropology.
- According to the United States Department of Labor, women are projected to account for 49 percent of the increase in total labor force growth between 2006 and 2016. This means that businesses and corporations are finding more need for awareness of women's issues in the workforce and Feminist Studies majors 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.

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 could 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's 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

Government, Service, and Edu.	Human Rights Advocate	Consultant	Casting Director
Case Manager	Lawyer	Diversity Trainer	Communications/Marketing
Director, Women's Studies	Lobbyist	Entrepreneur	Editor
Program	Sexual Assault Prevention	Management	Exhibit Coordinator
Researcher	Program	Marketing	Grant Writer
University or college professor	Social worker	Public Relations Manager	Journalist
Counselor	Project director	Union Organizer	Media Planner
Health Clinic Coordinator	Victim's Advocate		Musician
High school teacher		Arts, Media, and Entertainment	News Programming
Hospital Foundation Executive	Industry and Commerce	Advertising Executive	Reporting
Director	Archivist	Artist	Production

Sample internship employers of SU students

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

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Assistant Media Planner (Tracy Locke)	Education Reporter (Williamson County Sun)
Book Seller, Feminist Reference (Book Woman)	Legal Clinic Coordinator (DL Employment Justice Center)
Case Worker (CPS)	Second Grade Teacher (Round Rock ISD)
Community Relations Director (A & A Home Health Services)	Volunteer and Community Engagement Specialist (Family and Protective Services)
Counselor (Dallas, TX)	

Professional associations

American Association of University Women: www.aauw.org
 Coalition of Labor Union Women: www.cluw.org
 Equality Now: www.equalitynow.org/english/index.html
 Feminist Majority Foundation: www.feminist.org
 National Council for Research on Women: www.ncrw.org
 National Organization for Women: www.now.org
 National Women's Studies Association: www.nwsa.org

Additional Web resources

The Advocates for Human Rights: www.mnadvocates.org
 AmeriCorps: www.americorps.gov
 Center for Research on Women: www.wcwonline.org
 Feminist.com: www.feminist.com
 Feminist Career Center: www.feminist.org/911/jobs/911jobs.asp
 Feminist Studies: www.feministstudies.org
 Feminist Women's Health Center: www.fwhc.org
 Peace Corps: www.peacecorps.gov/
 Women Watch: www.un.org/womenwatch/
 Women's Issues Resource Sites: research.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html
 World Wide Learn: <http://www.worldwidelearn.com/online-education-guide/social-science/womens-studies-major.htm>

Career Services resources

101 Careers in Social Work	Politics, Government, and Activism
Career Compass for Women	Red, White, and Blue Jobs: Making a Difference
Careers in International Affairs	The Good Girl's Guide to Negotiating
Equal Opportunity	The Smart Woman's Guide to Business Travel
Federal Jobs The Ultimate Guide	Vault Guide to Conquering Corporate America for Women and Minorities
Good Works: A Guide to Careers in Social Change	Work, Sister, Work
Great Jobs Abroad	Work Worldwide
Opportunities in Overseas Careers	

