



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Major Possibilities: Feminist Studies

Quick Facts

- 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.
- As more women take part in the labor force, organizations' need for awareness of women's issues in the workforce grows, and students of Feminist Studies are valuable contributors.
- 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.
- Internships shape professional identities, develop 21st century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.

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

Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Austin Film Festival	National Organization for Women
Bike Texas	National Women's Health Network
Georgetown ISD	Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Institute for Women and Work, Cornell University	Whole Woman's Health
Institute for Women's Policy Research	Women's Campaign Fund
KROX 101X Austin	Women's Policy Inc.
Ms. Magazine	Working Chance
National Coalition against Domestic Violence	NARAL

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

AML Analyst (Gabriel Partners)	Job Coordinator (Goodwill)
Assistant Media Planner (Tracy Locke)	Legal Clinic Coordinator (DL Employment Justice Center)
Book Seller, Feminist Reference (Book Woman)	Literacy Coordinator (Arlington Public Library)
Case Worker (CPS)	Patient Advocate (Brookside Women's Medical Center)
Community Relations Director (A&A Home Health Services)	Political Campus Organizer (Iowa Public Interest Research Group)
Counselor (Fairmount Center)	Program Assistant (Sierra Club)
Education Reporter (<i>Williamson County Sun</i>)	Teacher (The Goddard School)
English Teaching Assistant (US Dept. of State Fulbright Program)	Volunteer and Community Engagement Specialist (Texas Family and Protective Services)
Health Center Assistant (Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas)	

Professional Associations

American Association of University Women

American Civil Liberties Union

Center for Women's Global Leadership

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Equality Now

Feminist Majority Foundation

International Center for Research on Women

Mona Foundation

National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Organization for Women

National Women's Law Center

National Women's Studies Association

The International Alliance for Women