Introduction to the Major

Gender and sexuality pervade every aspect of our lives. The Gender and Women’s Studies undergraduate program introduces students to the intersectional analysis of gender, women, and sexuality, focusing on the workings of power in social and historical life. Students learn to apply methods derived from the social sciences, the humanities, and the interdisciplines to the study of gender. They explore a growing body of feminist and queer theory that revises our understanding of gender, sexuality, society, and culture.

The Department of Gender and Women’s Studies offers a major and minor in Gender and Women’s Studies, as well as a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies.

The Major Curriculum

The Gender and Women’s Studies department offers an introduction to feminist theory as well as more advanced courses that seek to expand capacities for critical reflection and analysis and to engage students with varied approaches to feminist research. The program curriculum draws students into interdisciplinary and intersectional analysis of specific gender practices through investigating areas such as feminism in a transnational world, the politics of representation, feminist science studies, gender and work, gender and health, and queer visual culture.

Advancing Your Major

- Consider completing the GWS Honors Program.
- Join a student organization such as the GWS Undergraduate Student Association.
- Apply to the GWS Student Research Fund or URAP and work with GWS faculty.
- Get involved with campus issues as a Gender Equity Center intern or volunteer.

How to Use This Map

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Advising

Students can contact the major advisor, Eric Cheatham to schedule an appointment or ask questions by emailing eric_cheatham@berkeley.edu.

Advising Drop-In Hours

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10am - 12pm
- Thursday - working remotely (available via email and Zoom)

Gender and Women’s Studies taught me a way of thinking which expanded my intellectual/cultural/ethical horizons tremendously.

– Cathie Nelson, GWS major