

## Reflections from Alumni

“Being an intern at Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois has been one of the best experiences of my college career at Illinois State University.”

-Sarah Vogler

“My internship made the issues we discussed in WGS 120 come to life. Sure, we read about and researched different populations for class, but the nature of domestic and sexual violence really began to hit me when I worked with families that utilized the Family Visitation Center.”

-Jessica Surd

“This internship [at the State’s Attorney’s Child Support Office] has given me a chance to leave the classroom and prepare for life after graduation. I would encourage all of you to take the same opportunity.”

-Rita Bourell

“Studying women’s and gender studies at Illinois State allowed me to converse easily and intelligently with the permanent staff at Feminist Majority. Women’s Coalition gave me similar gifts of role models and confidence, especially as the president. I felt far more prepared than any of the interns, and far more experienced in activism.”

-Molly DiRago,  
Feminist Majority Intern  
in Washington, DC

**Rachel Cooper Hall**

**Second Floor**

**Campus Box 4260**

**Normal, IL 61790**

Phone: 309.438.2947

**WGS.IllinoisState.edu**

Alison Bailey, Director

Stacia Kock, Assistant Director & Advisor

Jamie Anderson, Administrative Clerk

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## WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

Professional Practice:  
WGS 398



WOMEN’S AND GENDER  
STUDIES PROGRAM  
*Illinois State University*

## Requirements

The WGS 398: Professional Practice opportunity provides supervised work experience with agencies, institutions or organizations focusing on gender and its intersections with race, class sexuality and ability.

### Internship Qualifications

- Be a WGS minor
- Completed 75 hours of coursework
- Completed 12 hours of WGS coursework
- GPA of 2.5 (3.0 in WGS minor)

### Application Process

- Discuss the proposed internship with the WGS advisor.
- Secure the internship proposal, student information form, and the health insurance certification form from the WGS advisor.
- Complete the proposal form in consultation with the internship agency supervisor and return the form to the WGS advisor.
- Complete and return the student information form and insurance certification form to the WGS advisor.

### Credit Requirements

Students may receive one semester per hour of credit for every 50 hours of work related to the internship, up to six semester hours. In order to receive credit, students must complete the following requirements:

- Complete a weekly log of activities, which must be emailed to the WGS advisor.
- Write a short article about your internship for the WGS website.
- Self-evaluation and reflection of internship experience.
- Write a 10-15 page paper which includes:
  - An overview of the organization and its objectives.
  - A description of your role and duties and an analysis of how your internship work fits the organization's objectives.
  - An analysis of how your WGS course studies and activities prepared you for or were relevant to your internship.
  - A discussion of how your internship has influenced your academic or career plans.

## Sample Internship Opportunities in the Bloomington-Normal Community

### McLean County Museum of History

The award-winning McLean County Historical Society and Museum offers formal (for credit) and informal (no credit) internships to WGS students interested in local history. The museum is involved in a series of on-going projects involving research, exhibition production, working with artifacts, cataloging and writing. Focus must be on a Women's and Gender Studies topic.

Contact **Deborah VanAntwerp** (309) 827-0428 or [dvanantwerp@mchistory.org](mailto:dvanantwerp@mchistory.org)

### Children's Home and Aid

The Children's Foundation provides support and referral services to families in crisis. The foundation offers students internship opportunities related to the center and its activities. Some internships include work in the child care center, crisis nursery, early start program for at-risk parents, foster care, parenting education program, family visitation center, transitional living program for troubled teens and parenting support groups. Internship programs can be discussed with the director and are based on current needs of the foundation.

Contact **Tiffany Powell**, (309) 827-0374 or [tpowell@childrenshomeandaid.org](mailto:tpowell@childrenshomeandaid.org)

### Stepping Stones: Sexual Assault Awareness Program

The YWCA program is a free and confidential advocacy service for sexual assault survivors and their loved ones. Volunteer advocates are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The advocate's role is to assist survivors and their loved ones through the recovery process by connecting them with local resources and services. Stepping Stones works through PATH to provide counseling, medical and legal support services for sexual assault survivors. Students are required to attend 40 hours of training and carry a pager for the duration of their internship.

Contact either **Kara Alt**, (309) 662-0461 ext. 275 or [kalt@ywcaclean.org](mailto:kalt@ywcaclean.org), or **Hilary Pacha** (309) 662-0461 ext. 272 or [hpacha@ywcaclean.org](mailto:hpacha@ywcaclean.org)

### Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women

Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women is a not-for-profit organization that provides long term supportive services to women from McLean County returning from jail/prison or who have been involved with the legal system. The program's goal is to help stabilize these women through case management and counseling as well as collaborate with other resources to help reduce recidivism. Opportunities reflect the current needs of the organization.

Contact **Kristin Manzi**, (309) 831-6491 or [Kristin@labyrinthoutreach.org](mailto:Kristin@labyrinthoutreach.org)

## Sample Internship Opportunities Continued...

### Neville House

Neville House is a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The shelter staffs a domestic violence hotline and offers domestic violence education legal advocacy, outreach counseling victim support groups and children's support groups to women transitioning from violent relationships. Student internships are based on the current needs of the shelter. (e.g., doing research for grants and public presentations, or helping to organize local events).

Contact **Senna Adjabeng**, (309) 828-8913

### Planned Parenthood of Illinois: Mclean County

Planned Parenthood has strong ties to the Illinois State University community through Advocates for Choice. Interns must complete an eight-hour community volunteer training program in outreach education through the organization. Interns will be involved in fundraising, event planning, public awareness campaigns, and outreach education. Opportunities reflect the current needs of the organization.

Contact **Luisa Gomez** (309) 827-4014 ext. 8014 or [volunteer@ppil.org](mailto:volunteer@ppil.org)

### Girls Building Empowerment and Uniqueness (Girls Be U)

The YWCA's mentoring program inspires young women to explore their own uniqueness and positive qualities through an open and creative curriculum addressing health and wellness, relationships, finances and other topics. Interns will be involved in curriculum and event planning and mentoring activities. Contact either **Nicole Kirstein**, (309) 662-0461 ext. 271 or [nkirstein@ywcaclean.org](mailto:nkirstein@ywcaclean.org), or **Hilary Pacha** (309) 662-0461 ext. 272 or [hpacha@ywcaclean.org](mailto:hpacha@ywcaclean.org)

### Habitat for Humanity: Women Build

Habitat is a nonprofit international ecumenical organization dedicated to the elimination of substandard housing around the world. Habitat homes are built by volunteers and by partner families who receive their new home at cost with a no-interest affordable loan. The Program sponsors teams of women on homebuilding projects. visit:[www.habitatmclean.org/womenbuild](http://www.habitatmclean.org/womenbuild) Contact **Lindsey Probst** (309) 827-3931

*The above listing is not exhaustive; students wishing to work elsewhere should consult the WGS Advisor.*

NOTE: Internships must be arranged with either the WGS program advisor or director. To make an advising appointment, please contact the WGS advisor at [WGSadvisor@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:WGSadvisor@IllinoisState.edu) or call the program office at (309) 438-2947.