Requirements for the WGS minor

The WGS undergraduate minor requires 21 credit hours of coursework (seven classes), which include four core classes and three electives.

The core classes are:

- WGS 120: Women, Gender, and Society
- ENG 160: Introduction to Studies in Women’s Writing
- PHI 246: Feminist Philosophies
- HIS 261: History of Women in the U.S. to 1865, or HIS 262: History of Women in the U.S. since 1865

Three electives may be chosen from our list of 30 regularly offered electives. For a complete list of electives, visit our website at WGS.IllinoisState.edu/academics.

How do I add the WGS minor?

Email or call the WGS academic advisor to schedule a meeting:

WGSadvisor@IllinoisState.edu
(309) 438-2947

For more information, please visit our website:

WGS.IllinoisState.edu

What our students say about WGS

“The WGS Program provided me a place where I fit. They encouraged me to set my goals higher.” – Brooke Barnhart

“My WGS classes opened my eyes, and I could never close them again.” – Amanda Karvelaitis

“I credit the start of my career to an on-campus internship with a national non-profit organization. The WGS Program was an academic sponsor for that internship that led directly to my first professional position in Washington, DC.” – Diana Onken
What is the Women’s and Gender Studies Program?

Women’s and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry that analyzes structures of power, especially as they are grounded in gender, sexuality, race, class/caste, ethnicity, nationality, ability, and other social inequalities. We understand our program as a positive force for change in the community, one that encourages students to achieve intellectual freedom and to work toward social justice and equality.

We are a vibrant community of scholars committed to the University’s mission to provide a high-quality liberal arts education to students interested in questions of social justice. We do this by offering nearly 40 courses in more than 10 departments, extensive extracurricular programing, internship opportunities, and partnerships with on-campus student groups. Our faculty are engaged and productive scholars in their fields.

Explore our vibrant community!

Internships

Many students complete a community internship for credit toward their minor. Our WGS 398: Professional Practice course offers students the chance for supervised work experiences in local, state, national, or international businesses, agencies, institutions, or organizations focusing on women’s and gender issues.

Partnering agencies include:
- Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women
- Save the Children Action Network
- Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Awareness Program
- Students are also free to design and arrange their own internships.

For more information about our internship opportunities, please visit our website: WGS.IllinoisState.edu/involved.

Scholarships

Our community offers three competitive scholarships and one emergency grant opportunity.
- The Luellen Laurenti Scholarship is given to an outstanding undergraduate in the WGS minor.
- The Dorothy E. Lee Scholarship and Grants assists women 25 years of age or older with a demonstrated financial need; grants for emergency expenses are also available.
- The Anne M. Semlak Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduate or an undergraduate student active in WGS.

For more information and for applications, please visit our website: WGS.IllinoisState.edu/scholarships.

On-Campus Involvement

WGS students are involved in a variety of dynamic student organizations including:
- The Feminist Led Activist Movement to Empowerment (FLAME), promoting awareness and activism around issues of gender and its intersections.
- ISU Pride, promoting and preserving a safe political, social, and educational forum for LGBTQ+ students, faculty, staff, and members of the community.
- My Sister’s Keeper, a women-led registered student organization focused on advancement in minority communities.
- Hisy Fit, an online, student-run artistic ‘zine’ to inform and advocate for feminism and social justice.