Why Study Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UMD?

The Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Maryland, newly named in honor of the legendary Marylander’s tireless efforts for liberation and justice, offers an undergraduate major that provides students with the tools to understand, critique and challenge all forms of social inequity. Students will engage with pressing issues such as gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, nationality and disability—bringing an interdisciplinary approach and an intersectional critique to the study of history, culture, politics, the economy and transnational activism and organizing. Our graduates work in fields like nonprofit management, education and social justice advocacy. Many pursue graduate work in law, health, public policy and student affairs.

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Curriculum

The WGSS curriculum examines the history, contributions, experiences and creative works of people marginalized by patriarchal structures. Students sharpen their tools to understand, critique and challenge social inequity beginning with introductory courses focused on power and society, art and culture, Black women’s studies, or LGBTQ studies, before moving on to studies of feminist, critical race and queer theory; research projects and internships focused on social change. Thematic concentration areas, often complementing studies in other programs, provide interdisciplinary pathways to developing particular interests in topics such as health, advocacy, law, education, art and more.

Ways to Study WGSS at UMD

- Introduction to Black Women’s Studies
- Feminist, Critical Race, and Queer Theories
- Transgender Studies
- Girlhood: A Transnational History

For a full listing of our courses and programs, please visit wgss.umd.edu.
WGSS PREPARES YOU FOR THE WORKFORCE AND POST-GRADUATE STUDY

Our alumni have studied:

- **Law** at Harvard University; University of California, Berkeley; George Mason University and more
- **Social work** at the Ohio State University, Catholic University and more
- **Higher education and student affairs** at the University of Maryland, the Ohio State University and more.

Our alumni have worked at:

- The New York City Department of Education
- District Alliance for Safe Housing
- American Association of University Women
- The Feminist Majority Foundation

TIPS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

It's never too early to start planning for your career after graduation. Make an appointment with the University Career Center @ARHU where advisors will work with you to assess your skills, values and interests and find opportunities that meet your goals. Academic and career advisors will help you incorporate internships, living-learning programs, global experiences, research and more into your academic plan to help you build a career-ready resume. Additionally, an internship fulfills the WGSS experiential learning requirement. Learn more at careers.umd.edu.

BE WORLDWISE. GET WORLDERDY. CAREER INITIATIVE

The "Be Worldwise. Get Worldready." initiative prepares students to adapt and thrive in the workplace and shapes the kind of global citizens they can become. It creatively integrates career development in the ARHU academic experience by offering strategic career preparation and academic advising; engages faculty to develop new and reimagined courses, majors and minors; and provides opportunities to apply scholarship to practice. Students learn to communicate the real-world value of their arts and humanities degree through this initiative.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES (ARHU)

ARHU is home to 14 departments and 79 bachelor’s degrees, minors and certificate programs, so you can tailor your degree (or double major) across various fields of study, including performing and visual arts, languages, literatures and cultures. With an 8 to 1 student to faculty ratio, ARHU offers you the benefits of a tight-knit community with access to the resources of a large, public research institution near the nation’s capital. 97% of recent ARHU graduates are either working full time, interning or pursuing graduate studies.*

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*Placement rate is based on the May 2019 university graduation survey.