Women's and Gender Studies

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Academic Program

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The program embraces the intellectual perspectives of faculty and students across the spectrum of Cal Poly’s majors and colleges.

The Minor is housed within the College of Liberal Arts, and its courses are offered by the departments of Art and Design, Communication Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Kinesiology, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology and Child Development, Social Sciences, Theatre and Dance, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Undergraduate Program

Women's and Gender Studies Minor

The Women’s and Gender Studies Minor provides an interdisciplinary background in feminist history, activism, and theory, empowering students to question and contribute to knowledge from multiple perspectives. The minor encourages active student learning and sophisticated engagement, and a critical understanding of how genders and sexualities shape and are shaped by social, political, ethical, economic, legal and cultural institutions in historical and contemporary contexts. Areas of exploration include femininities, masculinities, and other gender identities. The Women’s & Gender Studies minor promotes scholarly inquiry, education and activism that utilizes an integrative perspective, exploring the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, class, religion, dis/abilities, and other social categories within both national and transnational contexts.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Students will develop skills in critical thinking, writing, and oral communication.
2. Students will demonstrate substantial knowledge of foundational and contemporary research and theoretical literature in the field of Women's & Gender Studies.
3. Students will gain an understanding of how the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies creates new knowledge and draws upon and utilizes the perspective of multiple fields, such as the humanities, arts, and social and behavioral sciences.
4. Students will understand the ways in which genders and sexualities shape and are shaped by social, political, ethical, economic, legal, cultural, scientific and technological factors and institutions in historical and contemporary contexts, with special attention paid to the intersections of gender, race, and class, and sexuality in national and transnational contexts.
5. Students will employ key concepts in Women’s & Gender Studies scholarship to conduct independent research and analyses on a variety of topics.

6. Students will develop skills that allow them to identify and engage with issues of social justice.