WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

To help students better understand the historical factors that play a key role in the status of gender in America, and the means by which women and other social groups have tried to achieve equality, Eastern offers a Women’s and Gender Studies major.

Eastern is the only public university in Connecticut with a major in Women’s and Gender Studies. Grounded in the liberal arts, the Women’s and Gender Studies program provides an interdisciplinary approach as we consider how factors such as race, class, culture and sexuality work together to impact the complexity and challenges of women and other groups. Students majoring in this program take 36 credits from a wide range of academic departments, and incorporate research and experiential learning components as they complete their B.A. degrees. Both a major and minor are offered in this field.

The mission of the Women’s and Gender Studies program at Eastern is to offer students a quality undergraduate education in gender scholarship. The field of Women’s Studies includes activism and academic work in areas that include social inequalities. For some scholars, this work can include looking at issues of representation to understand how various people and populations are presented through cultural artifacts and products, as well as in academic settings. Others are interested in how the lives of women and other historically disenfranchised groups are shaped by environmental, social, economic, political and cultural debates. Students are given a range of models to consider as they design their own academic and activist work.

CAREER OPTIONS

Women’s and gender studies students graduate with skills that prepare them for future careers in such fields as:

- Law
- Social work
- Public health
- Media
- Public policy
- Creative arts
- Nonprofit organizations
- Academia
- Grant development
- Public relations
- Journalism
At Eastern more than 20 faculty members in a range of academic disciplines teach within this interdisciplinary program. Their courses allow students opportunities to think about social change in informed ways, and to develop an intellectual community that integrates a range of experiences. Students in this program analyze the significance of gender and other forms of identity, like sex, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, nationality and location.

The gateway course and prerequisite to the major is Introduction to Women Studies, which gives students a sound theoretical overview and orientation to women and gender studies. Feminist Theories, an upper-level requirement for the major, asks students to consider how all of our lives are shaped by a range of social, economic and political structures. The capstone course, a writing-intensive 400-level course, allows students to pursue individually designed research projects in a sustained way.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

Current grads work at youth development agencies, women's centers and community wellness programs, as well as in information studies, academic settings, the legal field and in the media. A number of our graduates have chosen to continue their training by pursuing master's degrees in Women's Studies at Southern Connecticut State University.