

Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies

Learning Goals

1. To cultivate competencies in interdisciplinary and transnational approaches to the creation, meaning, function, and perpetuation of gender and sexuality in societies, both past and present.
2. To analyze gender always in conjunction with other categories of difference.
3. To become proficient in critical theories of race and sexuality, as well as postcolonial, global, and transnational feminisms.
4. To appreciate and understand the interrelationship of activism and intellectual inquiry.
5. To forge connections between personal experiences and larger social institutions and practices.
6. To develop a nuanced understanding of the events that shape contemporary culture's portrayal of feminism, both in the U.S. and as a global discourse about women and social change.
7. To gain competence in applying theory to practical experience for social transformation and citizenship that is both engaged and global.

About the major

The Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (GSFS) is a dynamic interdisciplinary field that examines the social construction of gender and sexuality. GSFS courses utilize gender and sexuality as modes of inquiry and analysis, and we pay particular attention to the ways in which gendered ideologies are produced in relation to race, class, ability, geography, and other ways through which people experience the world.

Students in GSFS courses can expect to examine how power operates in the social world and informs our own place within it. Feminist studies includes queer theory, gender theory, and critical race theory, and is always working within both historical and global perspectives.

Thus, we might consider what U.S. history looks like from a queer perspective; how contemporary globalization processes affect people differently depending on their race, class, gender, where they live, or how the global media presents highly racialized and sexualized subjects. Our courses highlight that there is no singular gendered experience.

“I think pursuing a non-science major was really important for me, despite the fact that I ended up in medical school. As a women’s studies major I learned to see the world differently. I plan to try to explore some gender issues in my current safety work, as gender still has a very clear influence on medicine as a whole.”

—Dr. Kate Kellogg, MD '04
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Georgetown University

Reasons you might choose this major

- You have an interest in how gender intersects with other forms of power, such as race, class, and nation.
- You are interested in further developing your knowledge of the history of justice movements.
- You are interested in a particular field of study like history or art and want to be able to approach it with a feminist, gender, or sexuality perspective.
- You are particularly passionate about social movements and other major societal issues and want to be able to engage in them critically.
- You are looking for a foundation built upon your passions and rooted in traditional liberal arts learning that will set you up for a variety of career and educational paths.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where gender, sexuality and feminist studies majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Reclaim Childhood	Working Families Party
Los Angeles Christian Health Center	Intersport
Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center	LIFT Communities
Voice of America	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Project Healthcare	Community Health Alliance of Pasadena
Gardens for Health International	Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund
Metropolitan Center for Women and Children	Wellington Management
Transformative Justice Law Project	The White House
The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp	Community Water Solutions
Energy in Depth	Geriatric Research Program at McLean Hospital
U.S. Mission to Guatemala	Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
U.S. Department of State	Independent Thought and Social Action International
Shelburne Museum	Undergraduate Research at Middlebury
Casa de Los Amigos	
Columbia University	
University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Office of Community Health	

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](#)

Beyond the Green, <i>Cofounder and Developer</i>	Bronx Defenders, <i>Civil Legal Advocate</i>
Seattle Arts & Lectures, <i>Business Manager</i>	Deutsche Bank, <i>Associate (Consultant)</i>
The Nielsen Company, <i>Recruiter</i>	NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, <i>Evaluation Specialist</i>
Adams County Social Services (Colorado), <i>Intake Caseworker/Child Protection</i>	The Architects, <i>Founder/Dancer</i>
Western Oregon University, <i>Instruction Librarian</i>	South Shore Natural Science Center, <i>Executive Director</i>
YMCA, <i>Program Coordinator</i>	IDEXX Laboratories Inc., <i>Sr. IT Business Analyst</i>
Judge Baker Children's Center, <i>Clinician</i>	Ketubah-Arts, <i>Founder & Owner</i>
Food Network, <i>Digital Producer</i>	JSA Advisors, <i>COO</i>
Legal Solutions, <i>Team Lead, Hosting Litigation Technology Services</i>	JCC Human Resources, <i>Director of Benefits</i>