WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES?
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MYSELF MORE MARKETABLE?
WHERE CAN I FIND CAREER INFORMATION?

CAREER PLANNING • SUNY POTSDAM • 206 SISSON
Web Site: www.potsdam.edu/career TEL: 315-267-2344

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES?
1. Study the ways in which women and minorities have been excluded from, and have transformed workplaces, history, literature, healthcare, and the arts and sciences.
2. Participate in local, national and international internships on women and gender; including non-profit and human rights organizations; environmental, women’s and consumer groups; as well as organizations in health care, youth and elderly, and social services.
3. Participate in independent student research and/or research with faculty.
4. Attend the annual Women’s and Gender Studies-Anne Righton Malone Lecture Series; sponsored by the Associated Colleges & SUNY Potsdam Women’s & Gender Studies.
5. Participate in the SGA recognized “Students for Gender Equality” student organization.
6. Attain an online Masters of Social Work degree (MSW) through the SUNY Potsdam WGS program + Univ. of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work Program.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES MAJORS:
2. Non-Profit Organizations (National and International) 5. Social Services 9. Research Organizations
3. Arts and Entertainment Industries 7. Government

SAMPLE JOB TITLES OF WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES MAJORS:
* Advertising Manager  * Director of Battered Women Shelters  * Lawyer
* Marriage and Family Therapist  * Human Services Administrator  * Writer
* Director Human Resources  * Recreational Therapist  * Union Organizer
* Public Relations Manager  * Social Justice Employee  * Psychologist
* Advocate for Crime Victims  * Refugee Counselor  * Museum Curator

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS:
1. Advocate: Works to advance the interests of women and gender causes. Analyzes effectiveness of current policies and helps plan future operations.
2. Recreational Therapist: Provides treatment services and recreational activities for individuals with illness or disabilities.

ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY:
1. Get involved in the career development process early, freshman year.
2. Select minors or elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objectives.
3. Get career related experience: INTERNSHIPS, summer and/or part-time employment, volunteer. Join a career-related association or organization.
4. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume writing, cover letter writing, create a portfolio and self-marketing brochure, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
5. Skills to develop: strong critical thinking, persuasive writing and speaking skills; research skills and theoretical knowledge, interpersonal skills, and ability to implement projects. Develop a strong knowledge of women’s and gender issues involving sexuality, education, sex trafficking, domestic violence, AIDS, reproductive rights, family, the workplace, literature, history, medicine, dance and more.
SAMPLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES:
* Women’s Institute for Policy Studies
  - Conducts research and sponsors public education.
  - Writes and engages in administrative tasks as well as special projects.

* D.C. Rape Crisis Center
  - Offers hotline and one-to-one counseling for sexual assault survivors, community education and self-defense classes for metropolitan D.C. residents.
  - Gains exposure to counseling, community outreach and organizing, educational outreach, fundraising, administrative and newsletter operations.

PREPARING FOR THE JOB SEARCH MARKET
* Write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
* Learn job search strategies
* Network with employers at Career/Job Fairs
* Prepare for an interview
* Borrow resources from SUNY Potsdam’s Career Planning Library
* Visit SUNY Potsdam’s Career Planning Web Site at: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career
* Seek advice from faculty
* Design a portfolio and self-marketing brochure
* Develop Networking Cards
* Prepare for an interview

SOME EMPLOYERS OF WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES MAJORS:
* New Paltz Middle School
* Blue Shield
* Dutchess Horizons
* U.S. Department of Labor
* Family House
* Ulster County Alcohol Day Treatment
* Women’s Council on AIDS
* Planned Parenthood
* Ulster County Mental Health
* Hunger Action Network
* Westchester Medical Center
* YWCA
* Scenic America
* Legal Aid Society
* St. Luke’s Hospital
* Columbia University

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:
1. WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES DEPT., SUNY POTSDAM, MOREY HALL 104
   * Talk with Faculty
   * Talk with Students
   * Talk with Alumni
   Dr. Jacqueline Goodman, Director:  267-2116;
   Ricky Bonner Murray, Dept. Secretary:  267-3187
   http://www.potsdam.edu/academic/interdisciplinary/genderstudies

2. CAREER PLANNING OFFICE, SUNY Potsdam, 206 Sisson Hall
   * Individual Career Assistance
   * Workshops/Seminars
   * Employer Literature
   * Career Assessment Programs
   * Career and Job Fairs
   * Networking Assistance
   * Alumni Mentor
   * Job Vacancies
   * Summer Jobs
   * Reference file
   * Career Planning Web Site
   * Career Library
   * A Major Affair
   * Free Handouts Available

WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?
RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:
* On-Campus Graduate School Fair
* Graduate School handout
* GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins
  (GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
* Graduate books - listings of schools and programs
* Financial aid information about graduate school
* Peterson’s Graduate Programs  (G7F, G7G, G7H, G7I, G7J, G7K)
* Web Site: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate
RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS & CAREER INFORMATION:
RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:
* Job Hunter’s Sourcebook (R26G)
* College Grad Job Hunter (HJ7)
* Summer Jobs Worldwide (S2A)
* Jobs and Careers with Non-Profit Organizations (R35B)
* Women’s Studies Graduates: The First Generation (C50B)
* The Directory of Women Entrepreneurs (R49A)
* Career Planning Job Search Internet Links: www.potsdam.edu/jobsearch/index.cfm
* Additional material found by using Career Planning Library Bibliography

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:
* National Organization of Women
  1000 16th St. NW
  Suite 700
  Washington, DC 20036
  (202)331-0066
  www.now.org

* National Forum for Executive Women
  1101 15th St. NW, Suite 400
  Washington, DC 20005
  (202)857-3100
  www.ewf-usa.com

* Feminist Majority Foundation
  1600 Wilson Blvd Ste. 801
  Arlington, VA 22209
  (703)522-2214
  www.feminist.org

* 9 to 5 National Organization of Women
  614 Superior Ave. NW
  Suite 852
  Cleveland, OH 44133
  (800)245-9865
  www.9to5.org

* Federally Employed Women
  1010 Vermont Ave. NW
  Washington, DC 20005
  (202)638-4404
  www.few.org

* National Women’s Studies Association
  7100 Baltimore Ave. Ste. 301
  College Park, MD 20740
  (301)403-0525
  www.nwsa.org

"Being curious takes energy.....What is distinctive about creating a feminist curiosity?...a feminist curiosity finds all women worth thinking about...because in this way we will be able to throw into sharp relief the blatant and subtle political workings of both femininity and masculinity..."  –Cynthia Enloe, Author of The Curious Feminist)