Women's and Gender Studies
Women’s and Gender Studies at Carleton University provides you with a unique and exciting opportunity to examine the diverse ways in which gender shapes our lives and the world around us. The Pauline Jewett Institute of Women’s and Gender Studies offers a stimulating, supportive and culturally inclusive environment in which to explore questions such as:

- How do popular culture and the media shape our ideas about gender?
- How does our gender affect our experience of race, class, sexual orientation, disability and age?
- Do women still face a “glass ceiling” in the workplace?
- What influences how masculinity and femininity are constructed in societies?
- How do we achieve global gender equality?

Our interdisciplinary programs will encourage you to question accepted notions and interpretations of the roles of women and men in society, as well as analyze the multiple ways in which gender affects our local, national and global environment.

Women’s and Gender Studies not only opens new perspectives on women’s experiences, but also challenges the parameters of traditional scholarship, employing new research methods and conceptual tools.

**The Carleton advantage**

**Diverse areas of research and expertise**

Established in 1987, the Pauline Jewett Institute of Women’s and Gender Studies at Carleton conducts research, sponsors workshops and speakers, and promotes discussion and debate among faculty and students across the campus and in the community.

Faculty members in various departments across the university are engaged in researching diverse areas concerning gender, including but not limited to:

- women and the arts;
- women and the legal system;
- sexuality and sexual practices;
- gender and international affairs;
- the history of women; and
- gender and the family.

In addition, Carleton University and the University of Ottawa jointly hold one of the five Research Chairs in Women’s Studies granted to Canadian universities by the Secretary of State Women’s
Program in 1985. Carleton also hosts, in conjunction with the University of Ottawa and the International Development Research Centre, the Visiting Scholar in Feminist Perspectives on Globalization.

The activities of the Joint Chair and the Visiting Scholar are designed to enhance students’ interest in gender and in international development. Incumbents organize panel discussions and symposia. They also offer courses in these topic areas.

The capital advantage
Located in Canada’s capital, Carleton University is ideally situated to offer you unique research opportunities. As a student in Women’s and Gender Studies, you will have access to the research facilities of:

- the Canadian Women’s Movement Archives;
- Library and Archives Canada;
- the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women; and
- numerous federal government departments dealing with women’s issues.

Choosing the right program

Bachelor of Arts (General)
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours)

The Bachelor of Arts (General) program requires a total of 15.0 credits and allows you to develop knowledge of the interdisciplinary field of women’s and gender studies, as well as another arts or social sciences discipline.

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) program requires a total of 20.0 credits and is for those students who want a comprehensive grounding in women’s and gender studies. Students should choose this program if they are considering going on to graduate work in this field. The program also offers the opportunity to complete an Honours research project in this area of study.

The Combined BA (Honours) program requires a total of 20.0 credits and offers an in-depth exploration of the topics in women’s and gender studies. You must also meet the requirements for a Combined Honours program in the other discipline that you choose to study.
Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies
The Institute also offers a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies. Typically this requires completing 4.0 credits in Women’s and Gender Studies.

Core courses
Women’s and Gender Studies students must take the following required courses as part of their program:

*Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies* is a survey course designed to provide you with an overview of the major issues and topics in women’s studies. Topics include the social construction of femininity and masculinity, violence, sexuality, gendered representations, the treatment of women in the workplace and in education, women and the performing and visual arts, and women’s health.

*Intersectional Identities* examines the ways in which gender, as a relation of power and social identity, intersects with (neo)colonialism, racism, poverty, ableism and heterosexism in a globalized world.

*Activism, Feminisms and Social Justice* offers a comparative, interdisciplinary examination of women’s efforts to achieve social and political change in the modern era. *Feminist Thought* is a required 0.5 credit course for all third-year students in Women’s and Gender Studies. This course uses an interdisciplinary approach in introducing students to emerging feminist literatures in the humanities and in the social, natural and applied sciences.

*Feminist Research in our Contemporary World* is the second required 0.5 credit course for third-year students. This course examines feminist methodologies and prevailing approaches to the construction of knowledge. Feminist epistemology, subjectivity and ethics in feminist research are central themes of the course.

Electives
You can choose electives from a wide range of courses from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Public Affairs to complete your program. Selected topics in Women’s and Gender Studies are also offered through the Institute. Course topics have included:

- women and health;
- indigenous women;
- women and violence;
- gender, science and technology;
- third-wave feminism; and
- women and public policy.
Applied work experience

Fourth-year Honours Women’s and Gender Studies students can take advantage of practicum placement opportunities in public, private and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in order to gain valuable experience by applying their women’s and gender studies training in the workplace.

Your first-year experience

First-year Seminars

First-year BA students are strongly encouraged to include a First-year Seminar (FYSM) in their first-year course load. Our First-year Seminars will get you away from the lecture hall and give you the chance, in a small class of no more than 30, to discuss and debate topics with your classmates and your professors. You will also get early and frequent feedback on class assignments and instruction in research, writing and study skills.

Although some FYSMs count as courses leading to a major, you do not have to choose a FYSM in your major discipline and students are limited to one FYSM.

A student may choose to take one of the First-year Seminars in Women’s and Gender Studies as their first-year requirement for the program, but Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies is recommended.

A sample first year

- 1.0 credit in Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
- 1.0 credit in Introduction to Psychology I and Introduction to Psychology II
- 1.0 credit in Introduction to Sociology I and Introduction to Sociology II
- 1.0 credit in any First-year Seminar (FYSM)
- 1.0 credit in an elective

Future opportunities

The workplace

An understanding of women and gender has become an important asset that can be offered to potential employers. Combined with another discipline, graduates bring a unique background to positions in:
■ labour relations;
■ government and the private sector;
■ education;
■ health and counselling;
■ community service;
■ law;
■ the arts; and
■ the media.

Graduate studies
The Honours and the Combined Honours BA program offers a solid foundation for graduate work either in women’s and gender studies or in another discipline including Canadian studies, sociology, law, political science, English, history and cultural studies.

If you think that you may wish to pursue advanced studies, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early in order to ensure that your program is tailored to meet requirements at the graduate level.

Professional programs
Many professions, including law and teaching, encourage well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds to apply. Women’s and Gender Studies can provide a strong foundation for a number of professional programs and you are encouraged to pursue your interests in these fields after completing your undergraduate degree.

FAQs
Why would I choose an Honours program?
Honours or four-year programs have many advantages including offering more courses in your chosen field and access to co-op and internship opportunities where available, as well as preparing you for graduate studies, professional programs and employment.

When do I have to declare a major?
You will need to choose a major by the end of your first year. Course registration is generally easier for students who have declared a major, so even if you are not 100 per cent certain, it is best to choose a major upfront and change it later if needed.

Where can I go for academic advice?
Once you are studying at Carleton, you can consult the Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the Pauline Jewett Institute of Women’s and Gender Studies or visit our Student Academic Success
Centre, which offers a range of services including academic advising and free study-skill development workshops. carleton.ca/sasc

Admission requirements
For admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies program, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. Your six 4 U/M courses must include 4U English (or Anglais).

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment.

Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary. Please refer to our website at admissions.carleton.ca/requirements for the current admission requirements.

Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Women’s and Gender Studies
The Post-Baccalaureate Diploma (PBD or “post-bac”) program in Women’s and Gender Studies is designed for students wishing to enter a master’s program in Women’s and Gender Studies but who do not yet have adequate background preparation; and those seeking knowledge and a credential in Women’s and Gender Studies to enhance their skills and employability.

To be eligible for admission to the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Women’s and Gender Studies students must normally have 1) an undergraduate degree with a GPA of 8.0 or higher, and 2) permission of the Institute of Women’s and Gender Studies. Students may be granted advanced standing to a maximum of 1.0 credit. Advanced standing does not negate the 3.0 credit residency requirement. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

For more information
...about Carleton’s program in Women’s and Gender Studies, please visit our website at carleton.ca/womensstudies or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc.
Do you want more information? Please contact us at:

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This document is available in a variety of accessible formats upon request. A request can be made on the Carleton University website at: carleton.ca/accessibility/request.
For more information on all of Carleton’s undergraduate programs, visit

admissions.carleton.ca

where you can browse program descriptions, career possibilities, and electronic versions of all of our program guides. You can also check out financial aid options, book a tour, sign up for our monthly newsletter, watch Carleton videos, and connect with us on social media.

You may also wish to consult our current

Admissions Viewbook

We look forward to hearing from you!