

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN

WOMEN'S STUDIES

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

Concordia University's Simone de Beauvoir Institute offers a BA Specialization in Women's Studies, BA Major in Women's Studies, a Minor in Women's Studies and a Certificate in Women's Studies. Students can pursue graduate studies with the Institute through the Individualized Program (INDI) or through the PhD in Humanities. Among the interdisciplinary Institute's aims is that of promoting the study and accurate assessment of women's role and contributions to society from a historical as well as current perspective. The Institute also aims to advance the creative potential of women. For the latest information on programs, go to the Simone de Beauvoir Institute's website at: <http://wsdb.concordia.ca>.

Women's Studies provides graduates with expertise regarding gender issues, women's history, oppression, sexualities, discrimination, social problems and related issues. The program prepares students to work in a leadership role helping women, children, families and others in a broad range of fields, capacities, and work settings. Such liberal arts, interdisciplinary and culturally inclusive studies develops an appreciation for diversity which can be very attractive to employers. Graduates often pursue advanced degrees in such fields as business, management, human relations, health sciences, anthropology, counselling, law, medicine and psychology.

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY
CONCORDIA GRADUATES**

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>

- Area Coordinator for NGO (0314)
- Assistant Employment Equity Officer (1121)
- Campaign Worker
- Director of Women's Housing
- Editorial Assistant (1452)
- HIV Educator (4165)
- Legislative Assistant (1222)
- Market Research Assistant (4163)
- Minority Women's Outreach Coordinator (4212)
- Policy Officer, Visible Minorities (4164)
- Program Coordinator, Women's Rights Centre (4166, 4164)
- Research Assistant (4122, 4164)
- Social Services Worker (4212)
- Union Organizer (1121)
- Women's Centre Coordinator (4212, 0314)
- Women's Shelter Program Coordinator (4164)
- Women's Shelter Supervisor (4212)

CELEBRATED NAMES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

Oyeronke Oyewumi. Nigerian. Leader in Gender

Studies.

Joan Wallach Scott. Renowned Pioneer of Gender

Studies.

Nadje Al-Ali. Founder of Act Together: Women's Action for Iraq.

Naila Kabeer. Social Economist. Prolific Author of Books on Gender.

Mair Verthuy. Concordia Professor. Governor General's Award (Feminist Causes).

Judy Verlyn LaMarsh. Canadian. Established Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

Lillian Robinson. Feminist Theorist/Scholar. Principal Simone de Beauvoir Institute (Concordia)

- Community Services Director (0314)
- Criminologist (4169)
- Director of Program for InnerCity Teenagers (0314, 4167)
- Domestic Violence Program Coordinator (4212)
- Early Childhood Educator (4214)
- Equal Opportunities Officer (4164)
- Fundraising Evaluation Coordinator (5124)
- Gender Consultant (4166)
- Health Policy Officer (4165)
- Hospital Administrator (0014)
- Human Resources Administrator (0112)
- Human Rights Officer (4164)
- Journalist (5123)
- Lawyer (4112)
- Market Research Analyst (4163)
- Ministerial Worker (4154)
- Planned Parenthood Counsellor (4153)
- Policy Consultant, Women's Employment (4164)
- Program Associate for Human Rights Organization (4164)
- Psychologist/Psychotherapist (4151)
- Public Relations Specialist (5124)
- Rape Abuse Counsellor (4153)
- Research Assistant (4164, 4122)
- Secondary School Teacher (4141)
- Sexual Assault Educator (4166)
- Social Worker (4152)
- Sociologist (4169)
- University Professor (4121)
- Women's Issues Lobbyist (4164)
- Women's Program Co-ordinator (4164)
- Women's Status Policy Consultant (4164)
- Writer/Editor (5121, 5122)

MORE JOB TITLES

Graduates go into a wide range of fields related to business, education, health, law, journalism, film making, human relations, education, marketing, applied research, social work, political advocacy, marketing, publishing, social policy, personnel management, politics, the arts, civil service and consulting. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which Women's Studies Majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For more details, go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>

- Admission Counsellor (4143)
- Advocate for Domestic Violence Victims (4112)
- Anthropologist (4169)
- Assistant Personnel Officer (1223)
- Battered Women Centre Director (0314, 4212)
- Biographer (5121)
- Business Manager, Non-profit Organization (0114, 0314)
- Career Counsellor (4213)
- Child Welfare Worker (4212)
- Community Health Educator (4165)

POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

Women's Studies offers students the insight needed to work successfully in community service agencies involved with domestic violence, women's health, counselling, social work, rape crisis and human rights. In addition, it prepares them to work for a wide range of public, private and non-profit organizations. Opportunities exist in all levels of government with departments such as Health Canada's Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis, Status of Women Canada and the Secrétariat à la condition féminine Québec. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Advertising Agencies
- Book Publishers
- CEGEPS
- Community Service Organizations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Childcare and Adoption Agencies
- College Alumnae Associations
- Consumer Groups
- Economic Development Councils
- Economic Research Foundations
- Environmental Protection Agencies
- Feminist Foundations
- Financial Service Firms
- Government Bodies
- Health Organizations
- Housing Projects
- Human Rights Organizations
- Insurance Companies
- Internet Job Banks
- Judicial Systems
- Labor Unions
- Law Firms
- Legal Aid Services
- Lobbying Groups
- Management Consulting Firms
- Market Research Firms
- Mental Health Agencies
- Newspapers/ Magazines
- Policy Organizations
- Public Interest Groups
- Public Policy Institutes
- Public Relations Firms
- Radio Stations
- Research Organizations
- Service Organizations
- Sexual Assault Centres

- Shelters
- Social Service Agencies
- Television Industry
- Trade Associations
- Universities
- Women Rights Organizations
- Women's Services Organizations
- Youth Organizations

SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Graduates of this liberal arts program develop an awareness of women's and other minority issues, multiculturalism, social consciousness and ethical standards. Skills which are particularly marketable to employers are a capacity for critical analysis, holistic thinking, curiosity, problem solving, communication, teamwork and research. In addition to these skills, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in the field.

- Ability to Resolve Conflicts
- Adeptness at Active Learning
- Building Community
- Creativity
- Empowerment
- Inductive Reasoning
- Insight into Group Dynamics
- Interpersonal Communication
- Knowledge of Community
- Knowledge of Women's Contribution to Society (Past and Present)
- Resources and Social Structures
- Learning Strategies Know-how
- Listening
- Negotiation
- Oral Expression
- Persuasion
- Self-confidence
- Sensitivity to Diverse Cultures
- Service Orientation
- Social Perceptiveness
- Social Personality
- Sound Judgment
- Speaking Skills
- Understanding Oppression
- Written Comprehension

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

CANADIAN

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

<http://www.awid.org/>

With a commitment to gender equality and women's rights, AWID promotes alliances and aims to influence international institutions. Assists those in the field with keeping up with worldwide trends. Start by exploring options under Get Involved.

Canadian Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs (BPW)

<http://bpwcanada.com/en/>

Fosters equality for women and supports their professional and leadership aspirations. Explore the Young BPW which offers training and activities for young members.

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) <http://www.cfuw.org/>

Aimed at women university graduates in Canada with the goal of advancing their rights with special emphasis on their legal, social, political and economic status. Start by exploring Get Involved and Fellowships.

Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes

<http://www.wgsrf.com/>

Members are predominantly academic faculty but also include others such as students, community activists and policy researchers. Membership fees vary depending on individual's economic and student status. Includes a job board.

INTERNATIONAL

Feminism and Women's Studies

<http://feminism.eserver.org>

A very well-known women's studies site. Connects users to good links for information on activism, gender and sexuality, health statistics, historical documents, feminist theory, academic papers and much more. Try clicking Workplace.

National Women's Studies Association

<http://www.nwsa.org/>

Offers a great variety of information and services for those in the field. including a job board, mailing list, annual conference, journal and other publications. Provides information on gender and women's studies programs and financial aid.

CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER – CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.

- Career Bliss: Secrets from 100 Women Who Love Their Work
- Careers for Good Samaritan & Other Humanitarian Types
- Careers for Scholars & Other Deep Thinkers
- Careers for Writers & Others Who Have a Way with Words
- Careers in International Affairs
- Careers in Law
- Careers in Political Science Panel Discussion
- Directory of Community Services of Greater Montreal
- Folles de la politique! Les Filles et les Carrières
- Introduction to Careers in Health, Physical Education, & Sport
- Life After Graduate School in Psychology
- Mediation Career Guide
- Ms. Mentor's Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia
- On Being a Therapist
- 101 Careers in Social Work
- Smart Moves For Liberal Arts Grads
- Success Strategies for Women in Science