

HOW TO MARKET YOUR GENDER STUDIES DEGREE

Gender Studies takes two aspects of life we frequently take for granted – gender and sexuality – and explores how they have been constructed and understood through time and across cultures and how these ideas in turn shape human development, behavior and the processes of justice.

Students explore how gender and sexuality influence constructions of human identity and interactions historically, institutionally and culturally. They learn to examine gender and sexuality from a broad variety of perspectives. Unlike other disciplines that offer one method of looking at multiple problems, *Gender Studies offers multiple methods to critically analyze sex and gender – historical, political, biological, sociological, anthropological, psychological ... you name it, we use it.*

Gender Studies not only teaches these multiple methods but integrates them as well – becoming a unique interdisciplinary field. Employers look for graduates who are excellent communicators (written and oral), adept at research, analytical and creative thinkers and problem solvers, able to prioritize in the moment and good at interacting with a variety of diverse people. Gender Studies fits this bill!

SKILLS TO EMPHASIZE FOR JOB, GRADUATE OR LAW SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

We teach students to engage with the world by promoting analytic rigor, versatility, personal reflection and growth. Through critical reading, discussion-driven classes, and experience critiquing and designing evidence-based research, students learn:

- To identify and examine problems critically and intersectionally, from a variety of perspectives
- To solve problems with different methodological tools
- To develop independent inquiry, self reflection, ethical and critical thinking

When applying for employment, graduate or law school students can emphasize their skills in:

- Evaluating outcomes
- Using multiple methods to collect data, examine and analyze evidence, make decisions and convey ideas
- Comparing cultures and societies in particular around issues like oppression, justice and social change
- Research, writing and oral presentation
- Critical thinking, self-reflection and analysis
- Synthesizing ideas and themes
- Translating theory to action
- Assessing different cultural needs and responding effectively
- Engaging successfully with people from diverse backgrounds

Students may have to educate interviewers or graduate or law schools about why Gender Studies matters. Remember:

Gender applies to every aspect of our lives, from the perception of what counts as knowledge to the options we see as available to us in our day-to-day lives, careers, and roles as members of communities.

The ways societies understand genders and sexualities are fundamental to the organization of human relations and justice. Today, intersectional analysis is fundamental to the study of gender, therefore a degree in Gender Studies makes you that much more equipped to locate and identify how issues are often linked to each other in ways that are difficult to untangle. In sum, a degree in Gender Studies prepares you to identify how gender works within complex social structures and within our personal lives.

Transferring Skills to Careers: The above skills prepare students for a range of professional degrees and career options. *Some examples are below.* Some careers require further schooling or certification but the Gender Studies degree provides a unique and invaluable foundation.

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| <u>Law enforcement</u> Special victims unit Domestic violence unit Detective Probation, corrections and more | <u>Human rights / Social justice</u> Advocate Lobbyist Attorney Non profit organizations like <i>Human Rights Watch, Madre, Sylvia Rivera Law Project</i> and many more | <u>Human services</u> Victims services Crisis management Psychologist Counselor Social worker Patient representative |
| <u>Law and government</u> Lobbyist Researcher Community relations specialist Information analyst | <u>Business and marketing</u> Foreign relations specialist Actuarial assistant Sales representative Industrial analyst Consultant | <u>Education and more</u> Teaching School counselor Higher education administrator Student activities specialist Title IX or violence prevention specialist Journalist / Writer Research assistant |

Strategies for Professional Development

As a Gender Studies graduate you will stand out from the crowd! But with a minor or double major you will wow potential employers and graduate and law school admissions.

- Explore the many minors offered at John Jay and remember you can double major! Think about what you want to end up doing. Meet with a Gender Studies faculty or the advisor and talk about what major or minor will complement GS to provide an even more diverse educational background.
- Look for internship/volunteer experiences that will provide you with a larger professional network and will provide the opportunities to apply the skills you are learning.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest to ask them what they recommend for you to get your foot in the door.
- Get involved in student organizations. There are many interesting and active clubs on campus. Find one that will provide you with extracurricular experiences for learning and developing friendships and social networks.
- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in fields of interest.
- Don't be shy with your professors. If you are particularly interested in a topic, reach out. Go to office hours to get to know your teachers. They are there to work with you and help you grow.
- Join a professional organization. Most majors and minors have professional organizations with special rates and benefits for students. Check out the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA.org) for more information about careers, graduate and law schools, and how to utilize your Gender Studies degree.

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 Advisory faculty – Professors Carmen Kynard (English), Antonio (Jay) Pastrana, Jr. (Sociology), Tara Pauliny (English), and Brett Stoudt (Psychology)