What Can You Do With a Minor in Women's and Gender Studies?

Women's and Gender Studies Career Paths

Clinical Social Worker
Counselors and other clinical social workers benefit from integrating a women's studies major or minor into their professional development. Understanding the history and development of women's roles in society can help clinical social workers provide perspective for their clients. Graduates can use the knowledge from their degree programs to connect clients with the most effective and appropriate resources in their communities.

Health Clinic Coordinator
Working in health clinics allows women's studies majors to combine their understanding of the social and political aspects of women's health with their innate organizational and leadership skills. Health clinic coordinators often handle everything from scheduling medical personnel to appealing for funding. At the same time, they must manage relations with neighborhoods that often face conflict with politicians and religious groups.

College Professor
Some women's studies students use their degrees to launch a career in academia. As a burgeoning specialty, many colleges and universities are growing their women's studies departments to meet growing student demand. Likewise, many women's studies professors enjoy the opportunity to publish their work in the commercial press instead of solely in academic journals.

Human Rights Advocate
Because women in some foreign countries do not enjoy the same liberties as women in the United States, many women's studies majors campaign for equality and justice around the world. In some cases, students can volunteer or even gain jobs with international rights organizations that monitor the treatment and the advancement of women.

Victims' Advocate
Some women's studies students pursue a career that puts them in direct contact with the victims of domestic abuse, hate crimes, or other acts of violence. Victims' advocates bridge the gaps between law enforcement, the legal community, and medical professionals. Experienced victims' advocates can help confused and frightened women receive critical medical and legal attention. Victims' advocates also help their clients remain committed to pursuing criminal prosecution for their abusers, especially in situations where they feel intimidated or shamed for doing so.

Journalist
A women's studies degree or concentration can provide a student with a valuable and unusual perspective regarding current events. Women's studies majors can use their writing, interviewing, and research skills to report on issues facing women, as well as on the ways that women impact society. Today's journalists must assure their audiences that issues facing women deserve as much respect and attention as issues facing men.

Lawyer
Attorneys who complement their law school studies with a concentration or a degree in women's studies can unlock the potential to work with a variety of specialized cases. As the general public becomes more aware of long-term challenges such as sexual harassment, discrimination, and domestic violence, attorneys who build a reputation for handling sensitive cases can build strong specialty practices.

Women's Shelter Director
Shelters or abused women face a unique set of challenges that women's studies majors can use their skills to overcome. Not only must a center director find funding and support for their facilities, they must do so in ways
that protect the privacy of their clients. Many women's shelters operate in undisclosed locations so that abusive men cannot cause further harm to shelter residents.

**Nurse-Midwife**
The converging trends of high malpractice insurance and the desire for more traditional childbirth experiences have created job opportunities for midwives. Whether helping to deliver children at their patients' homes or operating from comfortable maternity facilities, women's studies graduates use their strong communication skills to coach women through this joyous but challenging ritual.

**Legislative Aide**
As politicians work harder to court the votes of women, many elected officials have recruited women's studies majors to their research teams. By viewing current laws and proposed legislation through the filter of women's history, these specialists can help their representatives to really understand the impact of law on women in their districts.

**Public Relations Manager**
Women tend to make most of the buying decisions in America, often selecting the kinds of goods they bring into their households. As mothers and wives, women also influence the purchasing decisions of the men in their lives. Recent studies show that most single men often purchase the same brands of goods that their mothers chose.

**Rape Crisis Program Director**
Because they understand the challenges facing victims of sexual abuse, women's studies graduates make ideal leaders for rape crisis programs. Their knowledge of women's health gives them the ability to help clients understand the psychological and physical trauma of rape. In addition, women's studies majors possess the organizational and communications skills to train teams of volunteers and staff members. Program directors must also communicate the importance of seeking treatment to victims who are too afraid to ask for help. To do so, they write articles and make media appearances that encourage victims or their family members to seek confidential assistance.

**Health Clinic Medical Assistant**
As more women seek medical treatment at dedicated women's clinics, medical assistants and nurses who enroll in women's studies programs gain a powerful advantage over other trained professionals. Women visit these clinics to get a level of care and concern that they cannot find at other doctor's offices and care facilities. By understanding the wants and needs of their patients, women's studies graduates can provide a higher level of holistic care.

**Union Organizer**
Though women have made tremendous strides in business over the last century, many women still work in substandard conditions for unacceptable salaries. Women's studies majors that work with labor organizations identify employers that exploit women or otherwise fail to provide mandatory health and welfare benefits for their female employees. These activists have successfully lobbied for day care facilities in factories, extended maternity leave, and other important benefits.

*Source: http://www.worldwidelearn.com/online-education-guide/social-science/womens-studies-major.htm*