The Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota is committed to an inclusive study of gender and sexuality, informed by differences such as class, ethnicity, citizenship, disability, race and age. The gender, women, and sexuality studies major provides you with an opportunity to ask critical questions, reimagine society, and be a leader and agent of change in the world. You’ll go further than studying society and culture by transforming it.

While studying gender, women, and sexuality studies, you’ll get a deep understanding of issues, approaches, and methods related to your degree. You’ll grow to understand your participation and practical application of gender, women, and sexuality studies to social justice issues in your own community and the world.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
Meet Our Students

A promising young academic with a knack for research, undergraduate Colin Walker Wingate traveled to Atlanta to present on race, gender, and slavery at the National Women’s Studies Association Conference.

Read more about Colin's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Student Experiences

Learning Abroad Options in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

“Our ideas, visions, passions, and dreams for a more just and nonviolent world can take shape only through dialogues across worlds. Study abroad is an invaluable tool to learn how to participate respectfully in creating such dialogues.”
—Richa Nigar, Professor, Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

Learn more about study abroad for Gender, Women, and Sexuality majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader
Internships: Gain Valuable Experience in the Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? CLA Career Services has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Undergraduate Research: Shape Your Curiosity into New Knowledge

The University has funding opportunities available for undergraduates who wish to gain research experience. Programs such as the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) gives undergraduate students the chance to work closely with faculty members on research projects. Full information about this can be found in Undergraduate Research Opportunities.

Meet Our Faculty

Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies Rachmi Diyah Larasati reflects on her time as a dancer during Indonesia’s Suharto dictatorship. How does dance affect politics, society, and government?

Read more about Professor Larasati's work.
How is it possible to know something you don’t know? Oracles are the answer for Alexis Pauline Gumbs, CLA’s Winton Chair, residing in GWSS. She creates performances that help artists move from confusion to greater clarity in their lives and practices.

Read more about Professor Gumbs's work.

Meet Our Alumni

2017 graduate Clemesha Jāmilah Grayer shares how her undergraduate research experience has helped her find her place in the world. She reflects on how GWSS prepared her to meet the challenges of her new job by talking about difficult topics, empowering students through questions, and being aware of the world and its identities.

Read more about Clemesha's story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine,
business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore

Political Science
Sociology

Associated Careers

Child, Family, and School Social Workers; Government Executives and Legislators; Health Educators; Postsecondary Teachers; Public Interest Advocates; Sociologists

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information
TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments