Gender & Women’s Studies

CAREER GUIDE

What to do with a degree in ... GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre

dal.ca/cldc
Overview of Major and Job options

What is Gender & Women’s Studies?

Gender and women’s studies critically examines how gender affects the world around us, including: history, social dynamics, culture, belief systems, language, and how we organize knowledge. By studying this you will gain the ability to think critically, challenge inequalities, and create positive change in the many places it is needed. [Dalhousie Gender and Women’s Studies Department]

Like many degrees, gender and women’s studies does not prepare you for a single career path. Instead it provides you many options. The career options available to you will likely depend on what transferable skills you have developed, and your career interests and goals. When considering where to start keep in mind any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

Though you can end up in a variety of jobs with this degree the skills you have developed may make you especially competitive in the following areas:

-Social work
-Teaching
-Research
-Activism

-Government Programming
-Policy Analysis
-Writing
-Health Care

-Law
-Financial Planning
-Counselling
-Human Resources

It is also important to identify positions outside of your field but within your skill set. In your studies you will have developed a number of transferable skills that can be used across multiple fields. These skills include:

-Cultural Understanding
-Critical Thinking
-Political Understanding
-Interpersonal Skills

-Research
-Oral Communication
-Persuasive writing
-Teamwork

-Critical analysis
-Meeting deadlines
-Giving presentations
-Examining Trends

Many graduates seek additional education after their degree. By doing so they can better target a specific area of employment that pairs well with their degree. Whether you seek a graduate degree, undergraduate degree or certificate program additional education can opens up a variety of other options. Here are some options available to a gender and women’s studies graduate who has completed additional training:

-Teacher
-Lawyer
-Government Administration

-Counsellor
-Professor/Instructor
-Child and Youth Worker

-Librarian
-Market Researcher
-Health Care Worker

With the plethora of options a you can choose, it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Developing your skills, experience and network

Opportunities in the Program

Research - Directed reading courses allow you to explore an area of interest with a professor. It gives you the opportunity to conduct your own research.

Study Abroad - Dalhousie Student Exchange Services provides students with information about study abroad programs available to Dalhousie students.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. Consider joining a program like the ones listed:

- Gender and Women's Studies Student Collective
- Dalhousie Gets REAL
- DalOUT
- DALConnects
- DAL Action
- Girls Take Initiative

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteering are great ways to gain experience, develop specialties, and discover what you like in a job. Check out these resources:

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

Talent Egg
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

Volunteer Halifax
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

Fusion Halifax
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to network with professionals in your field. This is especially true for graduate students. Below is a sample listing of professional associations that may be worth examining.

A Bold Vision http://aboldvision.ca/
Women In Leadership http://womeninleadership.ca/
Women’s and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes http://www.wgsrf.com/
Gender and women’s studies is a dynamic and rapidly expanding interdisciplinary area of study. An alternative to the traditional curriculum, Dal’s Gender and Women’s Studies program provides you with the opportunity to examine history, social structures, the sciences, language, literature, and culture—from critical and illuminating perspectives.

Studying gender and women’s studies at Dal will encourage you to develop the critical and analytic thinking skills you’ll need for a wide variety of careers. You will learn more about women’s contributions to societies both past and present. And you’ll be introduced to theories about the social construction of gender, and the factors that come into play in women's and men's identity construction.

Areas of Study

The gender and women's studies program has a number of great courses you can take. Some interesting areas you will get to explore are:

- Women and the Economy
- Human Sexuality
- Philosophical Issues of Feminism
- Gender and Health
- Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe
- Women, Gender and Music
- Women in North America
- Film Theory

Program Options

Students can currently choose from four degree options in Gender Women’s Studies:

- 90-Credit Hour BA / Minor in Gender & Women’s Studies
- 120-Credit Hour BA, Major in Gender & Women’s Studies
- 120-Credit Hour BA, Double Major in Gender & Women’s Studies
- 120-Credit Hour BA, Combined Honours in Gender & Women’s Studies

[Dalhousie Gender and Women's Studies webpage]
There are many other established gender and women's studies programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable gender studies programs:

**University of Toronto**
Location: Toronto, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  

**University of Western Ontario**
Location: London, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Feminist Theory, Sexuality Studies, Health, Queer and Legal Issues, Philosophy, Violence Against Women, Equity in the Workplace, Women and the Creative Arts.

**University of Ottawa**
Location: Ottawa, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Globalization, Transnationalism, Sexualities, Colonialism, Racism, Class, Disability, Art and Gender, Politics.

**Simon Fraser University**
Location: Burnaby, British Columbia  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Gender and Popular Culture, Gender and International Development, Canadian Women's History, Queer Genders, Race, Class.

**University of British Columbia**
Location: Vancouver, British Columbia  
BA, MA, PhD  

**Queens University**
Location: Kingston, Ontario  
BA, MA  
Subject areas: Racism, Colonialism, Feminist Thought, Sexual Diversity, Gender Diversity, Popular Culture, Social Justice, Political Economies, Indigenous Cultures.
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a gender studies degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that gender studies students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni, it appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Education
- Community and Social Services
- Media and Communication
- Research
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Operations
- Human Resources
- Consulting
- Sales
- Legal
- Administrative

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For jobs with a 4 digit number you can use that number on Job Bank to look up additional information on the field.

For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Good Outlook ★★★
(3 out of 3 stars)

The best career outlooks for individuals with a gender and women’s studies degree are: Managers in Health Care (0311), Financial Auditors and Accountants (1111), Retail Trade Supervisors (6211), Sales Representative and Wholesale Trade (6411).

Fair Outlook ★★★
(2 out of 3 stars)

Jobs for gender and women’s majors in Nova Scotia with a fair outlook include: Human Resources jobs (0112, & 1121), Social Workers (4152), Community and Social Service Workers (4212), Post-Secondary Administrators, Managers in Social, Community and Correctional Services (0314), Family Counsellors (4153), Multiple Government Manager positions (Health, Social Policy Development, Economic Analysis and Program Administration) (0411, 0412), Senior Financial Managers (0013), Sales, Marketing and Advertising Managers (0611), Economist and Economic Policy Researcher (4162), Social, Education and Health Policy Researchers (4164, 4165, & 4166), Probation and Parole Officers (4155), and Authors and Writers (5121).

Limited Outlook ★★
(1 out of 3 stars)

Jobs with a limited outlook within Nova Scotia a gender and women’s graduate could pursue include: Government Program Officers (4168), Senior Government Managers and Officials (0021), K-12 Teachers (4141 & 4142), Managers in Publishing and the Arts (0512), Conservators and Curators (5112), and Journalists (5123).
Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada's labour market.

Print

The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory, Senor Media inc.
* Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

What Color is your Parachute: A practical manual for job-hunters and career-changers (2014)
* Located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

How to Find a Career With Your Humanities Degree in 126 Days (2009), James Mulvey

Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Program Administrator of the LGBTQ Student Center

Position: Full Time    -    Salary: $ 45,000-55,000    -    Hours: 40

Duties

Develop and implement programming services, resources, and special events designed to attract, retain, involve and assist lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students with multiple social identities (race, ethnicity, religion/spirituality, gender identity, international, socioeconomic status, etc.) with their intellectual, cultural, social and personal endeavors. Advise the LGBTQ Student Center and its initiatives regarding inclusive, multicultural and intersectional programming, services, and resources for emerging communities on campus as well as educate colleagues about changing trends and student needs. Become the Center’s main contact for gender and sexuality oriented programming conducted by student organizations and other departments. Represent the Center among multicultural student constituencies. Provide services and programming for transgender student populations and act as their advocate as needed.

Qualifications & Skills

• Bachelor’s degree in Student Personnel, Higher Education, Gender/Women’s Studies, or Social Sciences

• Experience working with students in a post-secondary setting.

• Experience developing or administering a social justice type of program.

• Ability to interact with a diverse population at all levels.

• Knowledge of presentation software.

• Excellent interpersonal, organizational, presentation, training facilitation and communication skills.

• Familiarity with standard Microsoft Office software, web design, graphic design, and film editing.

• Ability to multi-task projects and responsibilities and strong prioritization skills.

• Collaborative and team-oriented

Experience you can gain by being a Teachers Assistant or Residence Assistant.

This experience can be further developed in a summer job, or joining the international centre Buddy Program.

Skills you have developed throughout your education and can further develop by volunteering.

Don’t forget to list computer skills

Skills you will refine as a student

May want to join a society or varsity team to demonstrate this skill.
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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