

What is Women Studies?

Many people, students and parents combined, ask what can be achieved in a major that concentrates on women's issues. The Women's Studies major is an interdisciplinary program that offers students the opportunity to study the status and roles of women as individuals and as members of society. Courses emphasize both commonalities among women and differences according to race, ethnicity, class and sexual preference. Questions follow such as: What can I do with Women's Studies? Are there opportunities in the job market for Women's Studies? Can I make a living from this field of study, and does it provide career mobility?

Women's Studies as a discipline offers many things: critical analysis and awareness of socioeconomic, political, environmental, health, and international issues that shape women's experiences in society. Its practical value can be as great as the intellectual training it offers. It also offers in-depth analysis and skills for studying cultural, linguistic and aesthetic issues.

The Towson University Women's Studies Department offers an independent major in Women's Studies for the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science. There are 16 disciplines currently, aside from the Women's Studies Department itself, which offer courses included in the Women's Studies Program: Anthropology, Art, Biology, Economics, Education, English, Geography, Health Science, History, Kinesiology, Mass Communication, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. In 1999, the Women's Studies Department began offering a Master of Arts/ Master of Science degree in Women's Studies. The program offers students four Concentration choices: Women and Gender in the Workplace, Women and Health, Women in an International Context, and Women and Public Policy.

There is also a Master of Liberal Studies degree, for which students may create a Concentration in Women's Studies.

Currently over 700 Towson University students are taking Women's Studies (WMST) classes per semester, and an additional 400 students are taking courses offered by affiliated departments which are also approved for the Women's Studies major and minor.

Objectives of this Booklet

The goal of this Career /Internship booklet is to enhance students' interest in the field of Women's Studies and to inform students about career opportunities in this major/minor after graduation. Women's Studies affords students the scope to make contacts and to network while they are in college; these contacts will be valuable for them as they search for jobs. The Women's Studies internship is an excellent resume builder and provides as well as sharpens the theories and skills learned in the classroom. Internships offer a valuable experience that can bring to life socioeconomic and humanistic concepts and theories.

Success of Towson Alumnae

It is important for students to know that when they graduate from Towson University with a degree in Women's Studies they will be able to find jobs in their field. The following is a list of positions that Women's Studies alumnae have held, or currently hold:

- Lawyer, and former director of the Women's Law Center, Baltimore;
- Head children's Librarian, Philadelphia library system;
- Director, Battered Women's Shelter, Baltimore County, Maryland;
- Environmental Consultant for a national environmental consulting firm;
- Teacher of English literature, including women's literature, University Magdeburg, Germany;
- Admissions Coordinator, Health Professions Programs, Occupational Therapy and Nursing Department at T. U.;
- Fundraiser for a non-profit organization;
- Business owner and craftswoman: jewelry.

This list demonstrates a wide variety of professional accomplishments; it shows that students can venture into a wide range of areas. These professions are represented in the list of internships that will follow. Students can be assured that the approved internships will prepare them for the working world.

History of Women's Studies At Towson University

The success of our alumnae would not have been possible without the people who struggled to make it happen. In 1971 a group of women faculty and students began to address the need for childcare services, a women's center, women's studies courses, and a stronger presence of women faculty and administrators. A committee co-chaired by Elaine Hedges and Sara Coulter was established to address these needs, and out of this union a Women's Center was opened, a Student Day Care Center was made available, and Women's Studies classes began to be offered. According to the Towson University Women's Studies 20th anniversary booklet, the Women's Center was established in 1972; it was the second of its kind in the United States. The pioneers of the first interdisciplinary Women's Studies class were Judy Beris and Elaine Hedges in 1973, but departmental courses on women were offered as early as 1971. By 1974 the Women's Studies Department brought into existence a concentration under General Studies. In 1993 Towson University's Women's Studies major became the first independent major in Women's Studies in the University of Maryland System. At the same time a national clearinghouse, the National Center for Curriculum Transformation Resources on Women, became established as a project of ITROW at Towson University. ITROW, the Institute for Teaching and Research on Women, was founded in 1990. Under its Director, Beth Vanfossen, it conducts research with faculty members on issues related to women, curriculum development, and public education.

At Towson University, there has been strong support for the Women's Studies Department from faculty and administrators alike, particularly from the College of Liberal Arts deans. Recently there have been important new initiatives for women started in the College of Science and Mathematics which has set up a "Women in Science" Program; this includes a group of faculty willing to mentor women students, a Women in Science Resource Center in Smith Hall, and a Women in Science Forum each semester. In 2002, the Women's Studies Program officially became a Department at Towson University.

The Women's Studies Major and Careers

The uniqueness of Women's Studies' interdisciplinary approach to social, economic and political issues that affect families in general, and in particular women, is valuable in any field. Its emphasis on skills application offers several crucial skills which are applicable to a very broad audience and meet urgent needs. Inherent in Women's Studies is flexibility in the job market. The Women's Studies Graduate Program and its concentrations offer such flexibility. For instance, "Women in an International Context" prepares students to become more skilled in multi-level matters, while "Women and Gender in the Workplace," along with "Women and Public Policy," will provide broader knowledge that pertains to gender issues in the workplace and public policies affecting women. Furthermore, "Women and Health " can provide training and skills in the growing field of health care.

Careers in the Global Economy

Given the demand for interdisciplinary knowledge in the global economy, there are many opportunities in the job market for students with a Women's Studies background. The following list represents some of the many opportunities in the field:

ECOFUND

1709 New York Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20006
Tel: (202) 628-5637
Fax (202) 628-5637

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1889 F Street, NW
Washington DC 20006
Tel: (202) 289-3812
Fax: (202)289-4267

Organization of American States

Inter-American Commission on Women
17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20006
Tel: (202) 458-6195
Fax: (202) 458-6090

Pan American Health Organization
Women in Health and Development
525 23rd Street, NW
Washington DC 20037
Tel: (202) 861-3311
Fax: (202) 861-8462

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
One United Nations Plaza
44 Street, DCI 1106
New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 963-5684
Fax: (212) 963-2978

United Nations Environment Programme
1889 F. Street, NW
Washington DC 20006
Tel: (202) 289-8674
Fax: (202) 289-4267

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
1718 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20009
Tel: (202) 387-8546
Fax: (202)387-9038

The World Bank
Environmentally Sustainable Development
1818 H Street, NW
Room J-3073
Washington DC 20433
Tel: (202) 473-4502
Fax: (202) 473-3112

Clean Water Action
4455 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite A300
Washington DC 20008
Tel: (202) 895-0420
Tel: (410) 235-8808 locally
Fax: (410) 235-8816 locally

African Development Foundation
1400 Eye Street, NW
Tenth Floor
Washington DC 20005
Tel: (202) 673-3916
Fax: (202) 673-3810

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)
New York Office, United Nations
No. 2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-0950
New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 963-4200
Fax: (212) 963-8721

United Nations Population Fund
220 East 42nd Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 297-5141
Fax: (212)297-5145

United Nations Development Fund for Women
304 East 45th Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 906-6442
Fax: (212) 906-6705

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1213 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19107
Tel: (215) 563-7110
Fax: (215) 563-5527

Requirements for the Women's Studies Internship (WMST 496) *Effective Fall 2002*

There is a three-step process involved in order to register for the Women's Studies internship:

1. **first**, students must have a *conference about their planned Internship with the Women's Studies Internship Coordinator*;
2. **next**, students must *sign up for it officially through the TU Career Center*; the Career Center is located at 7800 York Road, Suite 370 (phone: 410-830-2233); students must *follow the procedures* established by that office; the Career Center will provide requirements/procedures and deadlines for the internship process;
3. **finally**, students must register for the credits for the internship when they register for classes.

Prerequisites:

3.2 GPA in women's studies courses, 3.0 overall GPA, WMST 231, 232, 233, or 234, and 21 upper level credits; no "I" grades on transcript; consent of Women's Studies internship coordinator or director in advance of semester in which student intends to do the internship.

Requirements for the internship:

- work at least 100- 120 hours at the work site
- keep a journal of your work experience*
- write a paper (25pp.) on:
 - a: the structure of the organization / institution
 - b: a description of your work (collected from your journal)
 - c: an analysis of your work and/or work of the organization
 - d: what you learned [what the value of this internship was for you]
 - e: the paper is due the last day of classes of the semester of your internship
- provide a letter from your on-site supervisor evaluating your work; due the last day of classes also.
- at least three conferences with the internship coordinator over the semester; two of these **must** be in person, one may be a phone conference.

* Students required to turn in journals for review at least two times over the semester (at the end of the fourth week and at the end of the eighth week), and at the end.

Internships in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. Area

The Women's Law Center of Maryland

30 West Chesapeake Ave, Suite 201
Towson, MD 21204

Contact: Rebecca Saybolt Bainum

Phone Number: (410) 321-8761 **Fax Number:** (410) 321-0462

Company's Mission, Product or Service: The Women's Law Center, a non-profit organization established in 1971, advocates for an equal playing field in the law for women and children. For more than a quarter century, the WLC has fought and won many battles to protect and preserve the rights of women – by educating the public and the judiciary on the effects of legal decisions affecting women, by monitoring compliance with the law, by seeking to change unjust laws and unjust lawmaking, and by implementing innovative programs to pave the way for systemic change.

Specific Duties of Intern:

Interns will work on a statewide research project exploring the legal trends of divorce and custody cases in Maryland. Specifically, the project is investigating property distribution, division of finances and how custody decisions are made when couples divorce. As part of this project, the WLC is writing a resources manual for women. Interns will assist with the preparation of the manual, including compiling resources, fact checking and research. Interns will also have an opportunity to participate in other WLC projects, including preparation for the legislative session, drafting alerts, summaries or articles relating to targeted legislation; and updating the resource manual used by our Family Law Hotline.

Course Background or Skills Needed: Law or undergraduate students.

Hours Per Week: Varies

Compensation: Unpaid

Glenwood Life Counseling Center

516 Glenwood Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21212

Contact: Nancy Carrey-Beaver, PA-C

Phone Number: (410) 323-9811 x208 **Fax Number:** (410) 323-5303

Company's Mission, Product or Service: Provide holistic health services to adult substance abusers and their families.

Specific Duties of Intern:

1. Pregnant Patients—provide counseling and education on parenting skills and mother/infant nutrition, empower patients to access community resources.
2. Women Patients—facilitate support group for women newly admitted to treatment, develop and implement women's health curriculum.
3. Family Planning and Safe Sex Practices—provide counseling and education on family planning and safe sex practices to female clients.
4. AIDS/HIV+ Patients—provide wellness training and information for clients who test positive (nutrition, stress reduction, exercise, etc.).
5. Community Resources—develop a manual of available community resources for women.

Course Background or Skills Needed: Knowledge of women's health oriented issues.

Hours Per Week: 8

Compensation: Unpaid

Personal Characteristics: Compassionate, empathic, flexible.

International Human Rights Law Group

1200 18th St., NW, Suite 6C

Washington, DC 20036

Contact: Ms. Mitzi Bowen, Internship Coordinator

Phone Number: (202) 822-4600 **Fax Number:** (202) 822-4606

Email: HumanRights@HRLawGroup.org

Company's Mission, Product or Service: Our mission is to support and help empower advocates around the world to promote and protect human rights in their own countries, and to develop standards and procedures for the protection of human rights at the international level.

Specific Duties of Intern: Women's Rights Advocacy Program (WRAP) intern will:

- Help with the U.S. focused campaign to urge ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, (which requires outreach, legal research and analysis and campaigning skills)
- Research supporting gender-specific prosecutions under the War Crimes Tribunals
- Research and educate on "trafficking" and forced prostitution internationally, looking in particular at possible international force and the application of international instruments
- Perform some office work
- Represent WRAP at NGO meetings.
- Research and write

Course Background or Skills Needed: Excellent writing, research, and organizational skills, capability of a foreign language is helpful.

Compensation: Unpaid

Personal Characteristics: Demonstrate a commitment to human rights and international law.

Additional Comments: See coordinator for separate application.

Application Deadlines—Fall: August 31st

Spring: December 31st

Summer: March 1st

Please submit a cover letter, resume, three recommendations and a writing sample of approximately five pages. The writing sample may be on any topic, preferably related to the internship for which you are applying. We strongly discourage telephone requests regarding the status of your application. We promise to notify all applicants of their status as soon as possible. If you have any deadlines, make them clear on your application.

Maryland NARAL

National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League

817 Silver Spring Avenue, Suite 409

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Contact: Ms. Diana Onken, Maryland Regional Organizer

Phone Number: (301) 565-4154 **Fax Number:** (310) 588-5790

Company's Mission, Product or Service: Maryland NARAL's mission is to use the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion.

Specific Duties of Intern: Interns will have administrative responsibilities including answering phones, assisting with mailings, copying, faxing and drafting letters. In addition, interns will plan events, conduct research, recruit and train volunteers, assist with the implementation of local grassroots organizing campaigns and help build membership while learning the ropes of a small non-profit organization.

Course Background or Skills Needed: No specific course background required. Political Science, Women's Studies, or Public Policy ideal. Candidates must be committed to reproductive freedom, hard-working with writing skills and computer knowledge including Internet research and word processing programs.

Hours Per Week: Minimum of 20 hours

Compensation: Stipend available

Personal Characteristics: Commitment to women's reproductive freedom, outgoing and able to handle a fast paced office.

Planned Parenthood

610 N. Howard Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

Locations: Towson, Owings Mills and Annapolis

Contact: John Nugent

Phone Number: (410) 575-1400 **Fax Number:** (410) 837-7352

Company's Mission, Product or Service: To provide comprehensive, affordable health care to all.

Specific Duties of Intern: 2 types of positions available:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS- Assist with coordination and ongoing activities including but not limited to recruiting and organizing advocates through community outreach and phonebanks, help to prepare materials, distribute legislative action information at fairs, lobby elected officials and work with staff on current pro-choice legislative issues.

HEALTH CENTER VOLUNTEERS- Limited opportunities for receptionists and counselors on an as needed basis in Towson, Owings Mills, and Baltimore City.

Course Background or Skills Needed: All positions REQUIRE pro-choice belief.

Health Center Counselors- counseling background

Hours Per Week: Flexible

Compensation: Unpaid

Personal Characteristics: Self-motivated, responsible, flexible with strong pro-choice belief.

The Prejudice Institute Center for the Applied Study of Ethnoviolence

2743 Maryland Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21218

Contact: Howard J. Ehrlich, Ph.D., Director

Phone Number: (410) 366-9654 **Fax Number:** 410-243-6987 (call first) **Email:** prejinst@aol.com

Company's Mission, Product or Service: The Prejudice Institute is a "think tank" which focuses on all issues of group prejudice, discrimination, hate crimes, ethnoviolence and social policy. The Institute's programs encompass race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and deviance. We do policy research on these issues, publish a bimonthly newsletter, and provide organizational consultations, seminars, and workshops.

Specific Duties of Intern: Interns have the opportunity to work directly with the Institute's director, as well as with other interns and out network of consultants. Projects vary. Here's a capsule version:

RESEARCH – assist at all levels of ongoing research projects and/or the initiation of new projects. The research is basically sociological and social psychological in orientation and applied in perspective. Interns will have the opportunity to learn about research design, interviewing and questionnaire construction as well as data analysis. We also do archival and library research, content analyses, and maintain an extensive file on discrimination and ethnoviolence.

DESIGN – we maintain a website (www.prejudiceinstitute.org), publish a bimonthly newsletter, and we produce regular reports and brochures. Opportunities include desktop publishing, design, editing and writing.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – For students who want to learn how a small non-profit organization works, we can easily provide the full range of opportunities and experiences from database management through fund-raising.

WRITING – For journalism, writing, and public relations majors, you can join us in the production of our bimonthly newsletter and in a variety of other writing projects.

All internships are tailored to your specific talents and goals. You can look forward to an intensive experience, not only in skills learning, but also in a solid learning of the issues of race/ethnic and other intergroup relations in the U.S. today.

Application Process: Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. Send us a letter describing your interests and past experiences. Include your email, phone, the best time to call, and we will respond to set up an in-person or telephone interview.

TurnAround, Inc.

Locations:

Towson
6229 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8111

City
330 N. Charlest St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 837-7000

Contact: Ms. Shelly Apple, M.S., Program Director

Phone Number: (410) 377-8111 **Fax Number:** (410) 377-6806

Company's Mission, Product or Service: TurnAround, Inc. provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including counseling, hotline and shelter. We also provide community education and Outreach.

Specific Duties of Intern: Intern will:

- Work in ER Companion Program – go through training, then co-lead meetings, write articles for the newsletter, assist in stats, and show on calls.
- Work with Community Education Department by learning dynamics of sexual assault and domestic violence, keeping materials and stats up to date, and shadowing presentations.
- Assist with seasonal projects such as Take Back the Night
- Assist with administrative tasks

Course Background or Skills Needed: Helpful: Women's Studies, Social Work or Psychology

Hours Per Week: Flexible (8-12)

Compensation: Unpaid

Personal Characteristics: Demonstrate reliability, initiative, flexibility, comfort in public speaking.

Selected Resources

Boxer, Marilyn. 1998. "Thinking Anew About the World and Women" & "Knowledge for What?" in When Women Ask the Questions (Boxer).

Bowles, Gloria. 1983. "Is Women's Studies an Academic Discipline?" Theories of Women's Studies.

Luebke, Barbara F. and Reilly, Mary Ellen. Women's Studies Graduates: The First Generation. New York: Teachers College Press, 1995.

Musil, Caryn McTighe. Women's Studies and Student Learning. American Assoc. of Colleges and NWSA, 1992.

Video: Not Just a Job: Career Planning for Women. 35 minutes (length). Available in Cook Library.

NWSA Journal

Women's Studies Quarterly

Contacts at Towson University

Karen Dugger, Chair

Women Studies Department
Director, National Center for Curriculum Transformation Resources on Women and
The Institute for Teaching and Research on Women
Lida Lee Tall, Room 317
Towson University
Towson, MD 21252-0001
t. 410-704-5456
f. 410-704-3469
email: kdugger@towson.edu

Jo-Ann Pilardi

Internship Coordinator and Professor
Linthicum Hall, Room 201F
Towson University
Towson, MD 21252-0001
t. 410-704-2860
f. 410-704-3753
email: jpilardi@towson.edu

Career Center

Towson University
7800 York Road
Suite 370, Room 315
Towson, MD 21252-0001
t. 410-704-2233
f. 410-704-3459

Revised-March 2004