Founded in 1972, UNCG’s program in Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) is one of the oldest in the nation. The program offers an interdisciplinary liberal arts education that critically engages students in considering the complexities of gender identity and women’s lives historically and in the contemporary moment. WGS coursework further helps students understand how gender intersects with other important social identities, like nationality, sexuality, race, class, ethnicity, and ability.

Degree Outcomes

- The degree prepares students for careers in politics and law, social work, psychology, human relations, sports and recreation, sociology, administration, the arts, business, education, health sciences, media, and more.
- Graduates have pursued advanced degrees at such institutions as University of Southern California, Boston University School of Law, Emory University, University of Texas at Austin, and UNCG’s Women’s and Gender Studies program.

The Student Experience

- Study with faculty members recognized for outstanding teaching.
- Educational experiences that lead students to become critical and independent thinkers who seek creative and ethical ways to pursue knowledge and inspire social transformation.
- Internships at such places as American Friends Service Committee; Bayard Rustin Center for LGBTQ+ Activism, Awareness and Reconciliation at Guilford College; UNCG Office of Intercultural Engagement; Women’s Workforce WEB; and YWCA.
- The freedom to design a concentration within the major, to take courses in multiple departments with WGS content, and to double major in other fields.
- Annual scholarship and special project awards for eligible students.
- A program mindful of UNCG’s historical identity as the Woman’s College of the University of North Carolina that works to maintain and revisit that history as it carries on the tradition of fostering social awareness and intellectual and personal development.

Accolades & Accomplishments

- Faculty awards include the John Hope Franklin Best Book in American Studies, the American Educational Association’s Choice Best Book Award, the Conference on College Composition Association’s Outstanding Book Award, the Southeastern Medieval Association’s best first book award, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American
Council of Learned Societies, and the National Humanities Center.

- Faculty author and contribute to books on topics including transnational feminism, the relationship between human rights discourse and visual representation, eroticism in medieval Christianity, trans performance and critical ecology, the role of gathering in African American art, social movements, Latin American women’s activism, and gender and European musical modernism.