

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Why Should I Major in Women Studies at Albright College?

At Albright, the women's studies program focuses on two important goals:

- To allow students – female and male – to identify and understand how the forces of gender, race and class shape women's lives and determine their work
- To develop the leadership potential of students by exposing them to the range of women's experiences, from repression to liberation (albeit limited), and to the historical impact and achievements made by women in various fields

According to Dr. Mary Jane Androne, chair of the department, Albright's women's studies program goes beyond these goals. "The program teaches how to live life and how to negotiate your position as a woman." In fact, she adds, "Many graduates comment on how this education helped them make their own life decisions."



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Emily Dickinson, Maya Angelou, Sandra Day O'Connor, Georgia O'Keefe, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sacagawea, Madame Curie, Amelia Earhart, Margaret Thatcher, Mother Theresa... from literature and art to politics and the sciences, women have contributed in many ways to today's world.

Majoring in women's studies at Albright College will not only open your eyes to the contributions these women have made, it will provide you with a better understanding of the female experience — one in which race, gender and class often play a major role.

The Program

Students interested in women's studies will combine the women's studies major with another discipline such as English, history, political science, psychology, theatre or sociology.

The women's studies department offers a series of courses on women, gender and the family that provide a coherent grasp of women's trials, tribulations and achievements throughout history. With a focus on interdisciplinary education, faculty from 10 different departments teach women's studies' courses. Some of the courses include:

- Science & Gender
- Men & Women: Debating the Difference
- Women's Work
- Women & the Arts
- Psychology of Gender
- Women & the Bible
- Women Writing in America
- Men In Transition

A growing number of courses on male gender roles are also included. This reflects the growing body of scholarship centered on how men are perceived in American society.

Although the majority of women's studies courses emphasize gender in western societies, one of the goals of the program is to provide a global context and to offer students courses that will define the roles and issues of women and men in non-western societies.

The women's studies program allowed me to examine myself as both a woman and as a creative writer. It influenced my choices and emphasized my potential. I was even able to continue my studies abroad in Paris at the Sorbonne, where I studied under Helene Cixious, renowned feminist and author.

— **Bonnie MacAllister '99**, vice president of operations,
Philadelphia Realty Works

Many students also participate in conference presentations of their research and honors projects. Students have had the opportunity to present research at the Lehigh Valley Undergraduate Women's Studies Conference and the Central Pennsylvania Women's Studies Conference.


Recent Albright students have presented on topics such as:

- Surviving the Holocaust: The Strength of the Female Bond
- The Effect of Absent Fathers on African-American Women
- What Do You See When You Look at Me: Documentation and Evaluations of the Creative Process for a Wearable Art Piece
- A Question of Sex: An Analysis of Gender Bias in Death Penalty Sentencing Among Female Offenders

Outcomes

Graduates of Albright's women's studies department have gone on to further their education at institutions such as:

- Bryn Mawr College's School of Social Work
- New York University School of Law
- Rutgers University School of Law
- Syracuse University—graduate program in international studies
- University of Maryland—graduate program in English and women's studies
- University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School
- University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education
- University of Virginia School of Law



Albright graduates have also gone on to careers in fields such as business, entertainment and advocacy. They are employed with organizations and corporations such as:

- Upward Bound Program, Stanford University - director
- Florence Child Guidance Center - psychotherapist
- Tyrone Guthrie Theater - actress, star in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and roles in “Law & Order” and “Hope & Faith”
- Accenture - organization & human performance analyst
- Turning Point (Indiana) – children’s advocate
- State of New Jersey - law clerk
- *Sports Illustrated for Women* - fashion editor
- Planned Parenthood of Pennsylvania – clinical associate
- University of California - post-doctoral fellow in veterinary medicine
- Palm Beach Community College - reading & learning specialist
- Berks County Visiting Nurse Association - medical social worker
- Miller Freeman Publications – apparel editor
- Batt Learning Center (Florida) - teacher

The basic discovery about any people... is the discovery of the relationship between its men and women.

— **Pearl S. Buck**, Pulitzer Prize winner and founder of Pearl S. Buck International, an assistance organization dedicated to improving the lives of children.

For more information about the women’s studies program, contact Dr. Mary Jane Androne, professor and chair, at 610-921-7808, or mandrone@alb.edu. You can also find information on our website:

www.albright.edu/catalog/womens.html.