

Majoring or minoring in women and gender studies can be an eye-opening experience that may just end up changing your life and the lives of others. Students in our program use gender to examine a variety of human rights issues such as poverty, human trafficking, pay inequality and more. Not only do students gain critical thinking skills, but they also make life-long friendships as they work together to solve problems and to make the world a better place. Our program teaches students to explore and assess human experiences through the lens of contemporary scholarship on women and gender. The program focuses on issues of diversity and emphasizes student-centered pedagogy and critical thinking. Women and gender studies graduates are strong writers, excellent speakers, and know how to collaborate to promote justice and human rights for all people.

## Ambrose Advantages

**A tradition of service and social justice.** Our program is grounded in the St. Ambrose University tradition of service and social justice and offers numerous opportunities for students to build leadership skills as community activists. They learn about local and transnational human rights problems and work to develop gender sensitive solutions. St. Ambrose women and gender studies students have the chance to attend national conferences and to meet internationally recognized leaders, such as Native American activist Winona LaDuke, who visited our campus for our annual Ambrose Women for Social Justice conference.

**Supportive community.** Students in our program will find a supportive community of faculty, students, and staff, who will inspire them to become courageous learners. Students in our practicum class have the opportunity to work one on one with their professors and experts in the field to explore career options and to serve our community.

**Internships.** Many of our students participate in internships at local agencies including:

- > serving as an advocate for survivors of violence through Family Resources
- > working to educate pregnant mothers about prenatal care at Edgerton Women's Health Center
- > assisting survivors of violence at the shelter at Winnie's Place
- > helping students at Annie Wittenmyer School
- > developing a curriculum about healthy relationships for students at Davenport Central High School
- > developing a fitness plan for women at the Center For Active Seniors (CASI)
- > working with homeless youth at The Place 2 B



**Community events.** Women and gender studies students help plan events for our campus and the community such as:

- > letterwriting for the UN Day of Peace and Justice
- > creating events to raise awareness about body image and eating disorders
- > participating in the Clothesline project to raise awareness about intimate partner violence and sexual assault
- > planning events for Multicultural Week
- > presenting a V-Day show to raise money for local women's shelters

## BA-MSW Program Option: 2 Degrees, 5 Years

St. Ambrose University offers Women and Gender Studies majors a path to complete both their bachelor's degree and a master's degree in social work (MSW) in just five years. Some of your classes will overlap with graduate courses as well as satisfy general

education requirements. In just five years you'll earn a BA and MSW, and have a well-integrated program that wraps your major into a career.

Individuals interested in justice, counseling and community activism find that the Women and Gender Studies major provides a framework for supporting human rights by working with people, locally and globally, and for being strong social justice advocates, which resonates strongly with the mission of social work. The empowerment model is a hallmark of the St. Ambrose MSW program, and helps students gain broader perspectives on the human condition preparing them to be advocates for justice in a rapidly changing global society.

## Alumni Success Stories

Our women and gender studies grads have been extremely successful. All of our graduates from 2010 to 2013 are currently employed or have been admitted to the graduate school of their choice. Many students have received scholarships or fellowships to attend programs such as the Master of Criminal Justice program at St. Ambrose; the Master of Social Work program at Washington University, St. Louis; and the Master of Social Work Program at DePaul University, and the St. Ambrose Doctor of Occupational Therapy program.

- > Two of our recent graduates, Bernadette Muloski (SAU 2012) and Jessica Pera (SAU 2013), have served in Americorps working to support social justice for immigrants and survivors of violence in the United States.
- > During a women and gender studies practicum, Stephanie Burns worked with counselors at Davenport Central High school to create a curriculum to teach teens about healthy relationships. She received the Kokjohn Foundation Scholarship to continue her project in her hometown.
- > Our first women and gender studies graduate, Laura Craft (SAU 2010), recently returned from serving in the Peace Corps in the Philippines, and is headed to California to start a job working as a ranger in a national park.
- > Several recent graduates work in computer technology, for example, Emily Block (SAU 2012) works for the federal government in Maryland.
- > Kelsey Rentfro, who minored in women and gender studies, teaches at an area high school, and several other recent women and gender studies grads also teach in Peoria and in the Chicago area.

## Where Some of Our Graduates Work

A few of the companies that employ St. Ambrose Women and Gender Studies graduates, and their job titles:

- > Child Abuse Council, doula
- > Next Gen Climate Iowa, campus organizer
- > SafePath Survivor Resources, Family Resources, community educator/DV advocate
- > SafePath Survivor Resources, Family Resources, shelter advocate

## Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. With its rich history and people from many cultures, the Quad Cities offers a diverse population and experiences for students. St. Ambrose and the Quad City community at large are known for activism and volunteerism in the areas peace and justice. Students have a number of opportunities to become involved in activities and organizations that can foster networking, internships and jobs.

## Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu), or go online to [www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu).

*St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Women and Gender Studies degree. A minor in the discipline is also offered. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog).*

09.16