

Women's Studies

Program Overview

The interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program at Langara is designed to introduce students to a diversity of perspectives on women's histories, contemporary experiences, analyses and movements for change. Women's Studies builds on evolving knowledge and methodologies to integrate the many forms of feminist scholarship and activism. The core courses provide a thorough overview of critical concepts for understanding how change in and maintenance of the status quo impact the lives of women personally and collectively, locally and globally. Through course content and teaching methodologies, Women's Studies focuses on the concerns and experiences of those women traditionally outside the scope of mainstream thought, and therefore makes visible a wide range of female experience. This 'centering the margins' is part of our ongoing commitment to broaden and deepen understandings of gender.

Self-Study

Women's Studies launched its program review in academic year 2025/26 with a Self-Study. The primary Self-Study writer was Manisha Singh, Women's Studies Coordinator. Additional support was provided by:

- Darren Bernaerdt (Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- David Wright (Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Tess MacMillan (Division Chair, Humanities)
- Mike Smith-Cairns (Department Chair, Interdisciplinary Studies Programs)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Academic Excellence)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Elise Ng (Department Assistant, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Integrated Planning and Accountability analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Integrated Planning and Accountability-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey

The Self-Study was completed in November 2025.

External Review

Women's Studies' external review took place on December 10th, 2025. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Rana Ahmad, Instructor, Philosophy, Langara College (External Review Chair)
- Dr. Davina Bhandar, PhD, Associate Professor, Chair, Gender Studies, University of Victoria
- Dr. Sally Mennill, PhD, Faculty, History, Douglas College
- Dr. Ilya Parkins, PhD, Associate Department Head, Professor, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, Power, Conflict and Ideas, University of British Columbia

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Women's Studies created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Create a plan to expand recruitment of prospective students
- Goal 2: Strengthen the program's identity by updating its name to reflect its gender and justice-orientated curriculum to support student enrolment, clarity, and transfer.
- Goal 3: [Delivery] Enhance students' work-related competencies and clearly linking classroom learning to relevant career pathways. Expand experiential learning to provide practical, career-relevant experience. Explore student preferences for course delivery.
- Goal 4: [Curriculum] Update Learning Outcomes, revitalize second-year offerings, and implement strategic curricular changes
- Goal 5: [External Relationships] Explore block transfer opportunities with research universities and expand community partnerships

Examples of Post-Review Successes

Please contact Academic Quality Assurance.