

*W*omen's and Gender Studies Program

*Professional Practice: WGS 398*

*spring 2007*

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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*T*he WGS 398: Professional Practice opportunity provides supervised work experience in local, state, national, or international businesses, agencies, institutions, or organizations focusing on women's issues.

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### **Internship qualifications**

To be eligible, students must

- Be a Women's and Gender Studies minor
- Have completed 75 hours of coursework (i.e., be at least a second-semester junior)
- Have completed at least 12 hours of Women's and Gender Studies classes
- Have a GPA of 2.5 overall (3.0 in the minor) or higher at Illinois State University

### **Application process**

Students who are interested in an internship opportunity must complete the following four steps for the application process:

- Discuss the proposed internship with the Women's and Gender Studies Program advisor
- Secure the internship proposal, professional practice student information form, and health insurance certification form from the Women's and Gender Studies advisor
- Complete the proposal form in consultation with the internship agency supervisor and return the form to the Women's and Gender Studies advisor
- Complete and return the professional practice student information form and health insurance certification form to the Women's and Gender Studies advisor

### **Credit requirements**

Students may receive one semester hour of credit for every 50 hours of work related to the internship, up to six semester hours. In order to receive the credit, students must complete the following requirements:

- Complete a weekly log of activities, which must be e-mailed to your Women's and Gender Studies advisor

- Write a 10–15 page paper, due at the end of the semester, which includes
  - An overview of the organization and its objectives
  - A description of your role and duties and an analysis of how your internship work fits the organization's objectives
  - An analysis of how your Women's and Gender Studies courses and activities prepared you for or were relevant to your internship
  - A discussion of how your internship has influenced your academic or career plans
- Write a short article about your internship for the *Gender Matters* newsletter

## *I*nternships in the Bloomington-Normal community

### **Local opportunities**

#### **McLean County Museum of History**

The award-winning McLean County Historical Society and Museum offers formal (for credit) and informal (no credit) internships to Women's and Gender Studies students interested in local history. The museum is involved in a series of on-going projects involving research, exhibition production, working with artifacts, cataloging, and writing.

*Contact Mary Ann Schiermen, (309) 827-0428*

#### **Stepping Stones: Sexual Assault Awareness Program (YWCA)**

This YWCA program is a free and confidential advocacy service for sexual assault survivors and their loved ones. Volunteer advocates are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The advocate's role is to assist survivors and their loved ones through the recovery process by connecting them with local resources and services. Stepping Stones works through PATH to provide counseling, medical, and legal support services for sexual assault survivors. Students are required to attend 40 hours of training, and to carry a pager for the duration of their internship. Spring training is held January 22–26 and 29–31, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

*Contact Vicki Smith, (309) 662-0461 ext. 272*

### **The Bloomington-Normal Safe Schools Project**

The project is looking for a student assistant with good interpersonal skills who is interested in education.

Interns will help to coordinate educational activities related to making schools safer and more supportive for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, family members, their friends, and school staff. Activities include speaking engagements at local businesses; workshops with teachers, parents, and counselors in schools; and speaking with Illinois State teacher education faculty about incorporating issues about sexual orientation and gender identity into their courses.

*Contact Paula Ressler, (309) 438-7798, [pressle@ilstu.edu](mailto:pressle@ilstu.edu)*

### **Habitat for Humanity: Gaia Build**

Habitat is a nonprofit international ecumenical organization dedicated to the elimination of substandard housing around the world. Habitat homes are built by volunteers and by partner families who receive their new home for the cost of a no-interest affordable loan. The Gaia Build Program sponsors teams of women on homebuilding projects. Visit [www.habitatmclean.org](http://www.habitatmclean.org) for details.

*Contact Becca Rossi, (309) 451-8744*

### **Neville House**

Neville House is a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The shelter staffs a domestic violence hotline and offers domestic violence education, legal advocacy, outreach counseling, victims support groups, and children's support groups to women transitioning from violent relationships. Student internships are based on the current needs of the shelter (e.g., doing research for grants and public presentations, or helping to organize local events).

*Contact Deborah White or Tricia McCarty, (309) 828-8913*

*Students are free to set up their own internships.*

“Being an intern at Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois has been one of the best experiences of my college career at Illinois State University.”

**Sarah Vogler '06**

“My internship made the issues we discussed in WGS 120 come to life. Sure, we read about and researched different populations for class, but the nature of domestic and sexual violence really began to hit me when I worked with families that utilized the Family Visitation Center.”

**Jessica Surd '04**

“This internship [at the State’s Attorney’s Child Support Office] has given me a chance to leave the classroom and prepare for life after graduation.... I would encourage all of you...to take the same opportunity.”

**Rita Bourell '04**

“Studying women’s studies at Illinois State allowed me to converse easily and intelligently with the permanent staff at Feminist Majority.... Women’s Coalition gave me similar gifts of role models and confidence, especially as the president. I felt far more prepared than any of the interns, and far more experienced in activism.”

**Molly DiRago '98, Feminist Majority intern in Washington, D.C.**

## **Women's and Gender Studies Program**

Rachel Cooper  
Second Floor  
Campus Box 4260  
Normal, IL 61790-4260

Telephone: (309) 438-2947

Facsimile: (309) 438-5104

Web site: [www.womensandgenderstudies.ilstu.edu](http://www.womensandgenderstudies.ilstu.edu)

Alison Bailey, director	(309) 438-2947
Becca Chase, assistant director and academic advisor	(309) 438-2947
Rozel White, secretary	(309) 438-2947
Kate Smith, graduate assistant	(309) 438-2948
Annaliisa Ahlman, undergraduate assistant	(309) 438-2948