

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM PRACTICUM INFORMATION

What is a practicum?

In order to obtain a degree in Women's Studies, you must complete six credit hours of WS 409, an "experiential learning" course. The purpose of the course is to apply knowledge to experience and to gain skills through working in either a paid job or as a volunteer. While many students choose to work with community organizations or groups that serve women, are involved in women's issues, or address a variety of social justice issues, there are also opportunities for practicum on campus. Some students become teaching assistants for the Introduction to Women's Studies course or the Workshop for Returning Women. Others work in the Women's Resource Center on various projects, such as planning special events or community outreach. Students may work in schools, hospitals, community organizations, or any other setting in which they may find an appropriate project, such as directing a feminist play or educating men about sexual violence.

How do I arrange my practicum?

❖ **Choose an organization**

If you need ideas, please check the Practicum Notebook in the Women's Studies office. If your organization is not listed in the notebook, talk to a Women's Studies advisor to determine if it is an appropriated placement. You will need to identify an individual in the organization who will be responsible for supervising your work, and who will agree to complete an evaluation for you at the end of the term. In some cases, you might be working more independently, with supervision and evaluation by the Women's Studies Chair or other Women's Studies faculty.

❖ **Number of credit hours**

Practicum credits are earned by working a set number of hours per week or for the term. The following is a guide for determining credit hours:

Hours Worked per term	Hours per week for 10 wk term	Credit Hours
30	3	1
60	6	2
80	8	3
110	11	4
140	14	5
160	16	6

❖ **Registration**

Practica are considered credits "by-arrangement," and you must complete a By Arrangement form in order to register for these credits. To complete the form, make an appointment with a Women's Studies advisor during pre-registration or during the first two weeks of the term.

❖ **Grading**

Practicum credits earned off campus are taken Pass/No Pass only. (If you are being supervised by a faculty member, you may receive a grade for the credits if your faculty supervisor agrees.) In order to receive a passing grade, you must return two evaluation forms (one from you and one from you supervisor) to the WS office by the end of finals week. The forms are available in the Women's Studies office or as a downloadable pdf from the WS website: ws.pdx.edu. If we do not receive the evaluation forms by the end of finals week, you will receive and Incomplete.

