



Undergraduate Certificate in Diversity Studies



PennState
World Campus

A world of possibilities.
Online.



Online Learning Through Penn State World Campus

To help you balance your commitments to family, career, and studies, the Undergraduate Certificate in Diversity Studies is offered online through Penn State World Campus. Your learning experience will be enhanced by frequent faculty interaction, collaborative group projects, access to instructional resources, and dedicated academic advising and support services.

Courses are offered with fixed start and end dates. You can complete course work at the time that best fits your schedule; however, there are weekly deadlines. You must take the courses sequentially unless you receive prior approval to do otherwise.

Upon successful completion of the program requirements, you will receive a formal certificate identical to those received by resident Penn State students.

What Is Diversity Studies?

Diversity studies examines social differences defined by race, class, gender, religion, ethnicity, age, and other markers of identity. It focuses on human experiences and how our perception of identity influences personal and cultural interactions—especially our own. It explores the systems of power organizing schools, workplaces, health care systems, the criminal justice system, and media.

Diversity studies exposes, critiques, and confronts historical and contemporary sources of social and cultural conflict so we can examine them head-on to discover common ground, develop empathy, and become better citizens.

In this 12-credit Undergraduate Certificate in Diversity Studies program, offered online through Penn State World Campus, you will explore the differences and similarities we share with others in our global society. By acquiring a deeper understanding of cultures and human interaction, you can lay the groundwork for better communication and enhanced relationships in all facets of your life.

Who Should Apply?

You can benefit greatly from this program if you want to:

- › translate your curiosities, experiences, passions, and interests into actionable and meaningful work
- › seek out inclusive environments—with people of different backgrounds, cultures, and races—to better understand diverse points of view
- › delve more deeply into the subjects of gender equity, human rights, and social justice
- › explore how gender and sexuality play a role in culture, the arts, health, politics, the sciences, and education
- › become a change agent in your world

Curriculum

Take this required course:

Living in a Diverse World

Use literature, film, and scholarly texts to explore how conceptions of social difference—such as those linked to gender, race, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and disability—shape society and everyday interactions.

Choose one of these courses:

Living While Black: Themes in African American Thought and Experience

Explore what it means to be Black in America by engaging with questions about identity and authenticity, freedom and unfreedom, radicalism and reform, gender and sexuality, and the role of music in African American life.

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Review scholarly theories and research pertaining to women's experiences and women's status in contemporary American society.

Representing Women and Gender in Literature, Art, and Popular Cultures

Explore scholarly theories and research pertaining to women and gender while experiencing examples of contemporary women's creative practice through the visual arts, media, and popular culture.

Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

Learn about the dominant themes in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies, with an emphasis on both literary and cultural studies.

Take 6 additional credits:

Select from an extensive list of supporting interdisciplinary courses.

For more details about the certificate, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/diversity



Begin Your Application Today

To apply for this program, you must be a high school graduate or have completed your GED.

If you are already enrolled in a Penn State World Campus degree program, you can complete this certificate concurrently. Talk to your assigned academic adviser to learn more.

If you are not enrolled in a World Campus degree program, you may still pursue this certificate as a nondegree student. (Nondegree students do receive full college credit for all courses taken in nondegree status; however, financial aid is not available to nondegree students.)

Applying for admission to the Undergraduate Certificate in Diversity Studies program is easy. On the website, click on the "How to Apply" link from the program overview page.

Why Penn State World Campus?

- › Learn from Penn State faculty who are nationally recognized leaders in education.
- › Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus.
- › Penn State World Campus has enrolled students from all 50 states and all 7 continents.

Contact Us

Program Questions

Laura Spielvogel

*Director for the Undergraduate Certificate
in Diversity Studies*

*Teaching Professor of Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies*

lts5125@psu.edu

814-863-4025

worldcampus.psu.edu/diversity



PennState
World Campus

The Pennsylvania State University
128 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802

 @psuworldcampus

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