



Spring 2021 Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships

Deadline: February 19, 2021

Online application: https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d0d7yvBcoJXtgmV

Please contact your references as soon as possible and request that they submit their letters by February 19th via email to wgssugprogram@psu.edu.

The Carolyn Sachs Feminist Leadership Award recognizes an undergraduate student who has demonstrated sustained feminist leadership on the Penn State campus and in the broader community. This award celebrates the legacy and commitment of Dr. Carolyn Sachs, whose exemplary research, community engagement and activist leadership has changed women's lives at Penn State, throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and around the globe. The Sachs award is open to undergraduate majors in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) who show great promise as a feminist leader, as well as a commitment to living a feminist life, as evidenced through undergraduate scholarship, service, and activism. Declared majors with 21 hours toward the major completed by the time of application are eligible. The awardee will receive a monetary award.

The Wietlisbach Family Award in the Department of Women's Studies was established by Binney H.C. Wietlisbach and Bruce Wietlisbach. Consideration for this scholarship shall be given to all undergraduate students enrolled in the College of the Liberal Arts and majoring in WGSS who have demonstrated academic excellence. This award may be made to a student, regardless of their enrollment status, so long as the recipient is in good academic standing and intends to continue their education in the College of the Liberal Arts. Recipients will receive a monetary award that will be disbursed to their bursar account and will have their name appear on a permanent plaque housed in the WGSS departmental area. Each award shall be for one academic year. Further extraordinary accomplishments by a recipient may enable that recipient to be considered again for this award.

The Laura Richardson Whitaker Memorial Award in Women's Studies was established by the family of Laura Richardson Whitaker ('95) to encourage and recognize outstanding undergraduate scholarship focusing on women. Applicants may submit essays, term papers, theses, art exhibits, and video projects and other forms of scholarship. No matter the topic or specific field, a significant portion of the submitted work should address a historical perspective. Entries will be evaluated for originality and excellence. The recipient receives a monetary award, disbursed to their Bursar's account, and their name is added to an awards plaque in the WGSS departmental area. This award is open to all Penn State undergraduates who have taken a WMNST course (not just WGSS major and minors). Each recipient is encouraged to further develop their work for publication or other public presentation.

The Mimi Barash Coppersmith Endowed Scholarship in Women's Studies was established by Nan and Carol Barash and their families in honor of their mother, Mimi Barash Coppersmith. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student with a superior academic record who manifests promise of outstanding academic success. Women students who are full-time undergraduate students enrolled (or planning to enroll) in the College of the Liberal Arts are eligible to apply. To claim the scholarship, students must be enrolled in Spring 2021 semester.

The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award is presented each year to WGSS students who demonstrate an understanding of, and commitment to, feminist principles through scholarly work and feminist activism. Students who are currently enrolled in the undergraduate major or minor in WMNST and/or SGS are eligible. The student selected will receive a monetary award that will be disbursed to their bursar account and their name will be engraved on a plaque that is housed in the WGSS departmental area.

Judith Harges Fund in the College of the Liberal Arts was established in 2018 to provide financial assistance to outstanding undergraduates majoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies who demonstrate a strong interest in women's reproductive rights, health access, reproductive rights, and in policy-making relating to women's health. Eligible applicants must have a 3.00 overall GPA, and a WMNST GPA of 3.25. This award may be made to a student, regardless of their enrollment status, so long as the recipient is in good academic standing and intends to continue their education in the College of the Liberal Arts. Recipients of this award will receive a monetary award that will be disbursed to their bursar accounts. In addition, awardees will have their names appear on a permanent plaque housed in the WGSS departmental area. Each scholarship shall be awarded for one academic year.

Applications for THE CAROLYN SACHS FEMINIST LEADERSHIP AWARD should include:

- One recommendation from a faculty member in WGSS and one recommendation from the faculty supervisor of an established student organization (such as Triota but not limited to that). Testimonial of the leadership from a student group also welcome as supplementary recommendation. Please instruct your references to email their letters to wgssugprogram@psu.edu.
- A 500-word essay that describes your feminist principles and the issues that guide your feminist outreach and activism. Please describe the most significant leadership positions you have held, whether on campus, in the local community, or in national or international organizations. Be sure to highlight evidence of effective and creative leadership in mobilizing action. If you have firm career plans that will include feminist leadership in professional, personal, and civic life, feel free to describe those plans as well.
- A curriculum vitae or résumé, including GPA (which should be a minimum of 3.2 at the time of application)



Applications for WIETLISBACH FAMILY AWARD should include:

- A 300-400 word essay explaining which single concept you have learned about in WGSS classes that has changed your thinking about, and/or that defines your interest in, women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

Applications for THE LAURA RICHARDSON WHITAKER MEMORIAL AWARD should include:

- One paper (or other work) without identifying information to be shared with the committee.
- A separate title page that lists your name and the professor and course for which the work was originally submitted, if applicable.

Applications for THE MIMI BARASH COPPERSMITH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP should include:

- A statement of feminist scholarship (500 words) in which you discuss your philosophy of working in WGSS and address how you meet the established criteria for the award.
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which MUST come from a WGSS faculty member. Please instruct your references to email their letters to wgssugprogram@psu.edu.

Applications for THE OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD should include:

- A statement of feminist scholarship and activism (750 words) in which you discuss your philosophy of working in WGSS and address how you meet the established criteria for the award
- A current résumé
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which MUST come from a WGSS faculty member. Please instruct your references to email their letters to wgssugprogram@psu.edu.

Applications for JUDITH HARDES FUND IN THE COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS should include:

- A letter of recommendation from at least one WGSS faculty member or instructor;
- A current résumé
- A 500-word statement answering the following question: What do you see as the most significant obstacle(s) to reproductive rights and health today, either domestically or internationally? Explain how your WMNST coursework has illuminated the complexity of that obstacle, and possible solutions? (Note: if you do relevant service or volunteer work related to the women's health/reproduction, this is a good place to mention it).