



Spring 2017 Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships

Deadline: March 3, 2017

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 (not just WGSS major and minors). Each recipient is encouraged to further develop their work for publication or other public presentation.



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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 the Fall 2016 and/or Spring 2017 semesters.

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 WGSS 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.

For additional information about WGSS awards and scholarships, please contact:

Mindy Boffemmyer, Undergraduate Director, 125 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802
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Office: (814) 867-0367; Email: jaw55@psu.edu



Application Checklist

Applications for THE CAROLYN SACHS FEMINIST LEADERSHIP AWARD should include:

- The application cover sheet (see attached)
- 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.
- A 500-word essay that describes the feminist principles and issues that guide the applicant's history of feminist outreach and activism. Applicant should describe the most significant leadership positions held, whether on campus, in the local community, or in national or international organizations. Evidence of effective and creative leadership in mobilizing action should be highlighted. The essay may also describe firm career plans that will include feminist leadership in professional, personal, and civic life.
- 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:

- The application cover sheet (see attached)
- 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.
- A copy of your current academic transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable)

Applications for THE LAURA RICHARDSON WHITAKER MEMORIAL AWARD should include:

- The application cover sheet (see attached)
- One anonymous copy of the paper (or other work) to be considered for the award
- A separate title page (unattached) that lists your name and the professor and course for which the work was originally submitted, if applicable.



Application Checklist

Applications for THE MIMI BARASH COPPERSMITH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP should include:

- The application cover sheet (see attached)
- A statement of feminist scholarship (2 pages maximum) in which the student discusses their own philosophy of working in WGSS and addresses how they meet the established criteria for the award.
- A copy of your current academic transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable)
- Two sealed letters of recommendation, one of which **MUST** come from a WGSS faculty member

Applications for THE OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD should include:

- The application cover sheet (see attached)
- A statement of feminist scholarship and activism (3 pages maximum) in which the student discusses their own philosophy of working in WGSS and addresses how they meet the established criteria for the award
- A copy of your current academic transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable)
- A current résumé
- Two sealed letters of recommendation, one of which **MUST** come from a WGSS faculty member



Application Cover Sheet

Full Name: _____

PSU ID: _____

Local Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Current Major(s): _____

Current Minor(s): _____

Semester Standing: _____

Expected Semester and Year of Graduation: _____

I WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE FOLLOWING: *(check only one*)*

- The Carolyn Sachs Feminist Leadership Award
- The Wietlisbach Family Award in Women's Studies
- The Laura Richardson Whitaker Memorial Award
- The Mimi Barash Coppersmith Endowed Scholarship in Women's Studies
- The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award

**Applicants for multiple awards must submit a complete set of materials, including a separate application cover sheet, for each award for which they wish to be considered.*

Return completed application packets (with all materials in one envelope) by **4 p.m. Friday, March 3, 2017** to 133 Willard Building, c/o Mary Kilcoyne

By signing below I state that the information I have provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also authorize WGSS to publicize my name and photograph if I am selected as an award recipient.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____