

# Social Justice Studies



WASHINGTON  
& JEFFERSON  
COLLEGE

The Social Justice Studies (SJS) minor provides students with opportunities to develop **knowledge, framework, and skills** necessary to participate in the building of a just society. By introducing students to diverse social justice issues through the lens of multiple disciplinary perspectives and by providing opportunities for experiential learning, the SJS minor will help students become **active contributors to positive social change.**

## Minor Requirements

The SJS minor is available to students in any major; however, at least three courses in this minor must be unique to the minor and not be used to satisfy the requirements of any other major or minor.

The minor consists of **5 courses** (20 credits total) that must be taken from at least three different disciplines (course prefixes):

At least one course from the Core Courses group

Four electives (more than 50 options!) - two 2-credit courses or a credit-bearing internship or independent study may be substituted for one of the elective courses, with program coordinator's approval

Experiential learning requirement, which could be satisfied by an independent study, internship, research project, or course with a substantial experiential component, with prior approval from the program coordinator.

**Core Courses** include Moral Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, Theories of Justice, Global Ethics, Religion and Social Justice.

**Elective Courses** from over a dozen disciplines, such as:

- Dispute Resolution, Environmental Conflict Management, Human Trafficking (Conflict & Resolution Studies)
- Economics of Poverty & Discrimination (Economics)
- African American Literature, Gender and Sexuality in Literature (English)
- Global Environmental Issues (Environmental Studies)
- Theories of Gender (Gender & Women's Studies)
- The Underground Railroad in History and Culture, Latin American History (History)
- Foundations in Latin American Studies (Latin American Studies)
- Bioethics, Human Rights in Theory and Practice (Philosophy)
- World Politics (Political Science)
- Public Policy (Public Policy)
- Religion and the Environment (Religious Studies)
- Race & Ethnicity, Criminology, Juvenile Justice, Sociology of Wealth & Power (Sociology)
- Narconovelas: Migracion y Exilio, Voices for Change: Latin American & Latinx Artivism (Spanish)

## Program Co- Coordinators

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## Steering Committee

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Are you passionate about **environmental issues, racial and gender justice, immigration, or human rights**? Do you want to contribute to the building of **sustainable infrastructures and equitable economic systems**? The **Social Justice Studies Program** can help prepare you for professional success in these and many other fields as well as for a life-long path of **engaged citizenship**.

## Recent Experiential Learning Projects

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- AmeriCorps KEYS Program, Pittsburgh, PA
- SPHS CARE Center, Washington, PA
- Social Media/Intranet Coordinator, Conflict & Resolution Studies Program, Washington & Jefferson College

## Recent Major/Minor Pairings with Social Justice Studies

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- Accounting
- Environmental Science, Math Minor
- Environmental Studies and Gender & Women's Studies
- History and Public Policy
- International Studies, French Minor, Spanish Minor
- International Studies and Public Policy, Economics Minor
- Political Science and English
- Psychology, Conflict & Resolution Studies Minor
- Psychology and Spanish
- Public Policy

## Shayla Watkins '21 Psychology and Social Justice Studies



"The SJS minor allowed me to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the complexities and diverse disciplinary perspectives that underpin social justice and provided me with the valuable opportunity to build first-hand professional and practical academic experience through the AmeriCorps KEYS summer programs. The combination of historical, theoretical, and practical teachings and experiences enabled me to form my own conceptualization of social justice, and inspired me to align my career goals with the promotion of positive progress within this field, which opened the door for me to continue my education in Ireland at the University College Dublin where I completed my MSc in Humanitarian Action. This minor was the inspiration for the starting point of my career and has paved the way for continuous opportunities and conversations regarding social justice at both the local and global scale."



## Program Website

[washjeff.edu/social-justice-studies](http://washjeff.edu/social-justice-studies)