

Student Experiences

in Gender and Women's Studies

Michaela Gaughan

Class of 2017

"Gender and Women's Studies constantly challenges me to think of the lived experience of other women. True activists take an intersectional approach in their efforts, and Gender and Women's Studies helps me understand my work and activism."



Michaela (Kayla) Gaughan is a senior Gender and Women's Studies and Political Science major from Herndon, Virginia. Kayla is actively involved on and off campus. She has most recently interned for the Office of the Vice President as a scheduling intern for Vice President Joe Biden. She has also been a White House Advance Associate, an intern for the Finance Department of the Democratic National Committee, and an intern in Major Gifts for EMILY's List. Kayla is a dedicated Student Advisory Committee member for the ["It's On Us"](#) national campaign to end sexual assault.

Although she is busy interning and working for off-campus organizations, Kayla continues to be an involved member of the Saint Mary's community. She is a Student Advisory Committee member for the Awareness and Outreach Committee of the Belles Against Violence Office, she holds the Community Justice Chair for Student Government Association, and she is an active member in the Political Science Club, the President's Taskforce on Sexual Assault, and [Feminists United](#). In Feminists United, Kayla demonstrates many of the skills learned in GWS classes. She writes that in Feminists United, and GWS, "Students and faculty work to think critically and discuss what feminism looks like in the 21st century."

Kayla says that Gender and Women's Studies has been incredibly helpful in living out her ultimate goal of bringing gender equality to all policies. GWS helps her intertwine what she learns in Political Science and what she learns in Gender and Women's Studies. She writes, "Gender and Women's Studies constantly challenges me to think of the lived experience of other women. True activists take an intersectional approach in their efforts, and Gender and Women's Studies helps me understand my work and activism."

In the incredible chance that Kayla has free time, she enjoys reading, watching Netflix, and spending time with her family.