We are living in an exciting and critical historical moment with respect to leadership and social change, one that demands an influx of informed, visionary leaders to address the opportunities and challenges the world is facing. The women, leadership, and social change (WLSC) minor at Mills responds to this challenge by building informed leaders. Housed in the Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies department, this minor combines curriculum with a community internship to support students in making firm connections between their academic work and their social change passions.

Course offerings for the WLSC minor are interdisciplinary. Students apply feminist and critical race scholarship in the context of working with communities for social change. With an approach that is both theoretical and experiential, the WLSC minor is designed to ground learning within action, allowing students to work directly on issues they care about as they move through the program. The WLSC minor complements a wide range of majors. It grows out of the perspective that our society needs people in every sector—education, business, medicine, technology, art, etc.—who have been trained to think and operate from a social justice perspective. Thus, the WLSC minor builds a bridge between each student’s academic work and their passions to affect positive social change within their areas of interest. The minor also provides a strong foundation for graduate work in a number of different disciplines.