What is the Women’s Center?
The Women’s Center at Princeton was founded in 1971 as a resource for student activism on gender-related issues. The center is committed to fostering student leadership; broadening the role of women in our society; advocating for and educating students, staff, faculty, and administrators about gender equity and the impact of attitudinal and behavioral change on a range of issues.

The Women’s Center is a place to challenge and support one another... A place to explore gender-related issues of all kinds: political, social, intellectual, and personal... A place to work together to effect positive change... A place for you.

Why is there a Women’s Center?
In 1969, when women were first admitted to Princeton University, there were 8,992 men to every woman. Today, that ratio is about 1:1, but on the Princeton campus, as in other institutions of higher learning, there are still challenges for college-age women. For example, male students consistently are overrepresented in leadership positions, various academic departments are male-dominated, and sexual harassment and assault still occur.

In serving the Princeton community, the Women’s Center provides opportunities to address these challenges, and to effect positive change, affirming college experiences for all students.

What does the Women’s Center offer?
Throughout the academic year, the Women’s Center offers a diverse range of programming, such as speakers events, film series, and discussion groups. Located in Room 243 at Frist Campus Center, the Women’s Center has a conference room and a reading/resource room. It serves as a welcoming space for women of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, socioeconomic backgrounds, sexual orientations, spiritualities, and abilities.

How can I get involved?
Individual students and student organizations are invited to collaborate with the Women’s Center to plan and produce gender-related programs and events. We can help you figure out the logistics, identify sources of funding, and develop an action and publicity plan; join the center’s listserv for communications about all center events.

Staff and faculty members who would like to become involved may volunteer to share their intellectual work in informal luncheon discussions, and can participate in various networking and mentorship opportunities.

E-mail us at womenctr@princeton.edu to receive our weekly events bulletin about gender-related talks and other events on campus and in the local community. Or check out the center’s monthly calendar at www.princeton.edu/womenscenter.

1971 Students form the Women’s Center. Undergraduate enrollment reaches 19:1.

1972 Undergraduate women’s residence halls open on Granite Street.

1973 Women’s Resource Center established.

1975 First female student body president elected.

1977 Women and Men’s Resource Center established.

1979 Program in Women’s Studies established.

1981 Students form the Women’s Center. Women’s Center established.

1985 First female professor to receive tenure.

1989 Foundation for Women’s Initiatives for Academic Excellence established.

1993 Toni Morrison, on the Princeton faculty since 1989, is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

1995 Women’s Center for Research and Education (SHARE) founded. First annual Take Back the Night march.

1999 Women’s Study of Women and Gender changes name to Program in the Study of Women.

2001 Shirley M. Tilghman named president—first woman to hold this office.

2002 First female provost named (Amy Gutmann). First female dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science named (Maria Klawe).

2003 Anne-Marie Slaughter named dean of the Woodrow Wilson School—first woman to hold this position.

2005 Tenure clock stops for one year for junior faculty—women and men—who have or adopt a child. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Center opens.

2007 Women’s Center for Research and Education (SHARE) renamed to the Center for Women and Men.

2008 Woman-voted speaker at the 2008 Republican National Convention.

2009 Woman-voted speaker at the 2009 Democratic National Convention.

2010 Women’s Center for Research and Education (SHARE) renamed to the Center for Diversity and Identity.

2011 Woman-voted speaker at the 2011 Republican National Convention.

2012 Woman-voted speaker at the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

2013 Woman-voted speaker at the 2013 Republican National Convention.

2014 Woman-voted speaker at the 2014 Democratic National Convention.

2015 Woman-voted speaker at the 2015 Republican National Convention.

2016 Woman-voted speaker at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

2017 Woman-voted speaker at the 2017 Republican National Convention.

2018 Woman-voted speaker at the 2018 Democratic National Convention.

2019 Woman-voted speaker at the 2019 Republican National Convention.

2020 Woman-voted speaker at the 2020 Democratic National Convention.