4.12 Thinking About Gender in Your Major

Objectives
Develop an awareness of how a particular major or field is gendered.
Examine gender roles as they relate to that major or field.
Analyze factors affecting participation of women in the major or field.

Materials needed
Pen and paper, or copies of the handout
Reference materials

Time needed
Sixty minutes or more

Instructor directions
Ask your students to identify a gendered phenomenon in their major or field.
Have them research and write a descriptive report about it.

Variation
Have your students identify a racialized phenomenon in their major or field.
Ask them to research and write a descriptive report about it following the given directions.
4.12  Thinking About Gender in Your Major

Handout

**Directions**
Identify a gendered phenomenon in your major or field.
Research and write a descriptive report about it. Answer the following questions:
How does gender operate in your major or field?

What is the proportion of women to men?

What behaviors are expected of women and of men in this major or field?

What factors may have influenced women to enter or to avoid this environment?
How active or passive are the roles they play in this environment?

What are two positive and two negative aspects for this environment of having women present in this proportion?

**Variation**
Identify a racialized phenomenon in your major or field. Research and write a descriptive report about it. Follow the above directions.