Syracuse University’s Women in Science and Engineering program fosters current and future success of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through programs designed to address their unique strengths and challenges at every stage from entering freshman to accomplished professional.

Key Goals

- Positively impact persistence in STEM for undergraduate women through an emphasis on research.
- Support professional development, degree completion and/or career preparation for women graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.
- Increase resilience, support advancement and improve career and personal productivity and balance for women STEM faculty.
- Building a strong community and social network for women in STEM.
- Supporting continued efforts on campus to increase the number of women STEM faculty, foster inclusion and facilitate mentoring.

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Faculty Peer Mentoring & Networking

Since its conception in 1999 Syracuse University’s Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program has been at the cutting edge of gender inclusion providing bold support of equality, pipeline persistence, career capacity-building and interdisciplinary collaboration. WiSE’s core strengths lie in its informality, responsiveness, interdisciplinarity and community building approach, linking STEM women across campus and facilitating their ability to accomplish much more than they would as individuals. Women STEM faculty have a vehicle in WiSE to not only support each other but to also nurture women students in STEM. Programs offered include:

- Welcoming, interdisciplinary community
- Networking and mentoring
- Capacity building & Information sharing
- Work-Life balance & productivity
- Advancement and recognition support

WiSE Future Professionals Program

WiSE, the Graduate School, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and the College of Arts and Sciences collaboratively initiated the WiSE - FPP (Future Professionals Program) in 2007. WiSE - FPP provides academic and professional development support to women graduate students in STEM with the goal of supporting their persistence toward their degree and their ability to thrive professionally upon graduation. The program specifically focuses on doctoral students’:

- Career development and planning
- Job search preparation
- Work-life balance and productivity
- Professional development in key areas that promote success.
- Highlighting diverse role models, women scholars and expanding what success looks like for women in STEM

Over 100 graduate and doctoral students have been served with 93% still actively pursuing their degree or successfully graduated.

Undergraduate Research

WiSE supports the persistence of undergraduate women who are leaning toward or declared a major in STEM. Often, aligning with the Shaw STEM Residential College and undergraduate women organizations, WiSE works to engage students with women STEM faculty and peer mentors, as well as spark their interest in and build their capacity for research. Involvement in research has been shown to support continuation to a graduate degree program.

The Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize is awarded to undergraduates, most of whom are seniors, who excel in research as demonstrated in a published article, conference proceeding or other scholarly effort. Since 2004, twenty awards have been made in honor of Dr. Norma Slepecky.