

Applying & Transitioning to College as a Gender-Diverse Student

The college application process:

- College applications, including the “Common App,” will typically ask for your legal name and legal sex. The common application also has questions regarding gender identity, name, and pronouns with drop-down responses and custom fill-in options.
- If your name/gender marker has changed legally, make sure to update records with testing services and schools

Exploring Potential Colleges:

- As you develop your list of schools to apply to, consider reaching out to LGBTQ2IA+ student organizations to learn more and talk with current students about their experience on campus. Some schools may also have LGBTQ+ centers who can provide more information and resources.
- Check out the Campus Pride Index, which is a tool for prospective students to search a database of LGBTQ-friendly campuses
- Research state-level laws and legislation to understand the current political & legal landscape

Choosing an Inclusive College Environment

- Research resources available at each college/university. For example:
 - Gender-inclusive housing options
 - Procedures for updating name/gender markers and pronouns on IDs, email address, and student records
 - Non-discrimination policies
 - LGBTQ+ student organizations
 - Gender inclusive restrooms & facilities

Housing & Roommates:

- Many colleges and universities will have information online about gender-inclusive housing options. Connect with the housing office early to discuss options and preferences.
- If gender-inclusive housing is not explicitly listed, consider contacting the housing office to discuss potential options.
- Ask about single rooms or roommate matching

Accessing Gender-Affirming Healthcare & Mental Health Services

- Before enrolling in student health insurance, read through the policy to see what services are covered (based on your preferences and needs) and talk with the campus health center about options for medical care
- If interested in mental health services, look at on-campus counseling options and LGBTQ+ affirming therapists

Building Community & Finding Support

- Join LGBTQ+ student organizations or affinity group spaces. Many schools have student organization directories with contact information available.
- Attend welcome events, mixers, and resource fairs at the start of orientation
- Find local community organizations, events, and advocacy groups (for example, local PFLAG chapters)