

UNIVERSITY HOUSING: LGBTQ FRIENDLY OPTIONS

The Office of Student Life University Housing wants every student who chooses to live in the residence halls to feel safe and comfortable. The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and improve opportunities for all. The university is committed to equal opportunity and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law.

As such, Student Life University Housing supports the academic and social success of all its residents. Within our diverse community of residence halls, University Housing affirms that one's dignity and uniqueness should be recognized and respected regardless of distinctions in identity. One of the ways we achieve this goal is by offering a wide range of on-campus housing options for undergraduate and graduate students.

When you complete your housing application or renewal, here are the housing configuration options you will see:

- All Gender Room/All Gender Bathroom
- Same Gender Room/All Gender Bathroom
- Same Gender Room/Same Gender Bathroom
- Same Gender Floor/Same Gender Bathroom

For clarity:

Same Gender Room/All Gender Bathroom is described as:

A residence hall that will offer floors with gender-inclusive bathrooms. This is defined as having no male/female designation. Students of all genders will be able to use these bathrooms. These floors will have co-ed wings, which means that men and women will be living as neighbors on the same floor and wing, but not within the same room. The primary location for this option will be a new building, Houston House.

All Gender Room/All Gender Bathroom is Ohio State's Gender Inclusive Housing option.

See below for more information about this option.

Like the university as a whole, residence halls and apartments are composed of a wide variety of different identities such as nationality, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic groups, cultural, and religious background.

An additional question has also been added in this section:

Students are provided the opportunity to indicate if they would prefer to have a roommate who is LGBT or identifies as an ally.

What is Gender Inclusive Housing?

At Ohio State, we define the Gender Inclusive Housing as an arrangement whereby students who identify as LGBTQ, and other individuals with specific needs, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, are permitted to share an apartment in the South Campus Gateway apartments at 1620 North High Street. The two-bedroom apartments house four students, with two sharing each bedroom. There are two private bathrooms featured in the apartment.

Who can live in the Gateway Gender Inclusive Housing?

This is a voluntary housing option for full-time students at Ohio State University, inclusive of graduate and professional students. Students must be at least 18 years of age. A student will not be assigned to Gender Inclusive Housing unless they request it via choosing the “All Gender Room/All Gender Bathroom” option as listed above. This program is intended for LGBTQ students and other individuals with specific needs who wish to share an apartment with friends of a different gender. This program is effective during the academic year only. There are no summer-only gender-inclusive housing options.

What if I am a first year student over the age of 18 who identifies as transgender, or I do not feel comfortable living in a gender-segregated housing arrangement?

Transgender students, and other individuals with specific needs, are valued members of the on-campus living community at Ohio State. New, first year incoming students may utilize the Gender Inclusive Housing option by choosing the “All Gender Room/All Gender Bathroom” housing configuration as listed above.

To assist students in choosing the housing option that will be the most comfortable for each individual, the Director of Housing Administration, is available for phone and email consultations. The best time to have these dialogues is while completing the housing application *before* arriving to Ohio State. In meeting the needs of the incoming student, Student Life University Housing will recognize and respect the gender identity the student has established with Housing.

Staff will not ask for any more information than is required to meet the student’s housing needs, and all disclosed information will be kept strictly confidential. In order to provide support for the needs of current and incoming transgender students, University Housing strongly encourages potential and current residents to contact the Director of Housing Administration, Toni Greenslade-Smith, early in the housing request process so that we may offer the widest range of possible housing options. Students can do this by emailing: greenslade-smith.1@osu.edu. In an effort to be flexible and responsive to student needs, applications and requests are reviewed on a case by case basis.

Why does Ohio State offer gender inclusive housing?

The primary reason is to provide housing options that take into consideration varying identities and to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all students. The Office of Student Life University Housing is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and improve opportunities for all.

As such, Student Life University Housing supports the academic and social success of all its residents. Within our diverse community of residence halls, University Housing affirms that one's dignity and uniqueness should be recognized and respected regardless of distinctions in identity. One of the ways we achieve this goal is by offering a wide range of on-campus housing options for undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

We have historically been asked by students and parents to expand our housing options to accommodate LGBTQ students, and other individuals with specific needs, opposite sex siblings, opposite sex friends, and transgender students. We think this option mirrors the housing opportunities available to students off campus with the added convenience of on-campus life. Based on the diverse needs and preferences of our students, we are expanding on-campus housing options in ways that address these issues and preferences. This housing option is not intended – and in fact is highly discouraged – for romantic couples of any sexual orientation.

As we develop new housing options, it is important to remember that all of the options that have historically been offered will continue to exist. Follow [this link](#) to descriptions of available housing options.

Are other colleges and universities offering this type of housing?

Yes! There are currently at least 160 institutions offering some variety of gender inclusive living option inclusive of schools in Ohio as well as within our fellow Big Ten institutions. Follow [this link](#) for a complete list.

Does selecting this housing option result in additional costs?

No. The cost of living in the Gender Inclusive apartments in Gateway is the same price Rate One price as other 2 bedroom Gateway apartment options for an undergraduate contract which runs Aug – May. If you need a Gender Inclusive Housing accommodation, but have concerns about affording a Rate One residence, contact the Student Life Multicultural Center for assistance, and then seek out the Director of Housing Administration, Toni Greenslade-Smith, early in the housing request process in order to discuss your specific concerns. Students can do this by emailing greenslade-smith.1@osu.edu. Follow [this link](#) to review on-campus housing rates.

Why do people choose to live in Gender Inclusive Housing?

People choose to live in Gender Inclusive Housing for many reasons. For some students, it is based on their gender identity/expression or sexual orientation; others simply want to live with close friends of different genders. The decision to live in Gender Inclusive Housing doesn't necessarily mean anything about someone's identity or personal life.

How many apartments in the Gateway Residence Hall are designated as a part of Gender Inclusive Housing?

There are not a set number of apartments designated as Gender Inclusive. Supply is based upon demand. Gender inclusive units are clustered together within the building to promote community.

Is this housing option available only to students who identify as LGBTQ?

Gender Inclusive Housing exists to allow LGBTQ students, and other individuals with specific needs, the ability to live together, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression. This is a voluntary housing option for Ohio State students who are rising 2nd year students (or above) in rank, inclusive of graduate and professional students. Students must be out of high school and be at least 18 years of age.

Will I be assigned to live in Gender Inclusive Housing?

No. Students will not be assigned to Gender Inclusive Housing unless they have elected to live there.

What if I am a parent who doesn't want my student to live in Gender Inclusive Housing?

This is a conversation that needs to occur between parents and students. While we at Ohio State deeply respect parents' involvement in their children's lives, students are seen as adults with the ability to choose the housing configuration that they will feel most comfortable in. However, staff in the Student Life University Housing department would be happy to meet with your student to discuss and explore the ranges of available housing options, what each type of housing means with the goal of finding a housing option that is a good fit.

Who is available to be a resource to students living in Gateway Gender Inclusive Housing?

This housing opportunity is similar to other living arrangements in other residence halls available on campus. Community Assistants (CA's), and a Graduate Apartment Manager lives on site and is available for support and guidance. They also receive professional training from University Housing and the Student Life Multicultural Center as well as on-going professional development through Student Life.

How are roommates chosen?

Applicants are highly encouraged, but not required, to self-select their roommates. If you are unable to identify roommates and would like to live in the Gateway Gender Inclusive Housing, University Housing will pair you with roommates during the assignment process. When you fill out your housing application you will be asked for your gender identity/expression. Unless you self-select to live in Gender Inclusive Housing, you will be placed with roommates who identify as the same gender as you.

What if I have a roommate I'm uncomfortable living with because of their gender identity?

Since all housing selections are based on individual preferences designated on the housing application, every student should be assigned a roommate with whom they feel comfortable. If for some reason a student isn't comfortable with their roommate, they can talk to their CA or Apartment Manager, about different ways to address the situation. The first step may be conflict resolution/mediation, and if necessary, may include changing apartments/residence halls. All situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

How will the bathrooms work?

The Gateway apartment style residence hall features two private bathrooms. Students who live together within the apartment will have discussions with each other to determine how bathrooms will be shared.

What happens if one of the roommates cancels their assignment or leaves mid-year?

If one person moves out and the remaining roommates are of different sexes, then the apartment may remain a Gender Inclusive space. The student who remains in a Gender Inclusive apartment may elect to find a new roommate – even of the same sex – and still have the apartment be designated a Gender Inclusive space. If they are unable to find their own new roommate in the provided period of time, University Housing will assign a roommate who has also requested a Gender Inclusive space. If no such requests exist, a new roommate of the same sex will be placed in the apartment.

What if I still have questions?

Those who still have questions may contact Angie Wellman (wellman.63@osu.edu) in the Student Life Multicultural Center or University Housing at 614-292-8266 or housing@osu.edu