

Gender inclusive housing is a residential space in which roommates of any combination of biological sexes, gender identities, or gender expressions choose to live together. Wittenberg University offers this option in recognition that there are some students for whom traditional, same-sex room assignments are not ideal or appropriate. We believe offering gender inclusive housing options respects the diversity of our student population by giving students more options to find a rooming situation that better meets their needs.

## **POLICY DESCRIPTION** *(Please read carefully)*

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This policy specifically addresses residence hall spaces. The Witten'Burbs (campus houses and apartments) are inclusive by nature as they have no university-designated gender specifications. Gender inclusive housing will be available in all residence halls for returning students through the spring Housing Lottery process. The option is available to new students through requests coordinated with Residence Life. The following guiding principles apply:

- Students may choose to request a roommate of any sex or gender. If a single is necessary, the student may discuss those needs individually with Residence Life.
  - For the purposes of this policy:
    - Sex refers to physical biology, specifically the designation noted on a student's official University record.
    - Gender refers to a student's identity which may or may not be that same as their sex.
    - Use of these two terms is intentional throughout the policy and is meant to provide clarity about how Residence Life will handle roommate assignments. Because gender can change, it is important that students provide updated information as needed.
- This program is intended for students who wish to share a room or suite with friends of a different sex or gender. It is not intended for romantic couples.
  - Upperclass students will not be required to reveal their reasons for opting to live in gender-inclusive housing. First-year and transfer students will have a conversation with Residence Life so that we can provide housing that best meets the needs of the student.
  - Students will not be assigned to gender-inclusive housing unless they have elected to do so.
  - We encourage students to maintain an open dialogue with their families. Students over 18 are legally able to make decisions about their housing placements.
- There is no specific number or limit of gender-inclusive spaces on campus. The only location restrictions are that the area requested must have a gender inclusive (all-gender) restroom or an en suite bathroom or that the restroom facilities are able to meet the needs of both the community and the requesting student. This determination is made by Residence Life in consultation with the requesting student and community representatives in a way that individual student confidentiality is protected.
- Living space designation for a given academic year:
  - Any space on campus can be gender-inclusive. This avoids segregation and offers students gender-inclusive housing within all housing styles and at the various housing price points. Not all spaces have a designated all-gender restroom.
  - The default designation for a room, apartment, or suite will be single-sex unless the students selecting into the space opt to create a gender-inclusive pair/group.
  - Once a room is gender-inclusive that space will continue to be gender-inclusive as long as the residents can maintain the occupancy of the living space.
- If the room develops a vacancy at any point:
  - In a stand-alone gender-inclusive double, a roommate who is left behind may elect to pull in any new roommate. If the resident cannot identify a new roommate, the room will default back to single-gender status. In this case, Residence Life may place a student of the same gender in the room.

- In a gender-inclusive triple or quad, the residents may elect to pull in any roommate(s). All students in the space have to approve new resident(s) moving into the triple or quad. If the residents in a triple or quad, cannot fill the vacancies, Residence Life will first attempt to place students in the room who are interested in living in a gender-inclusive space. Current residents will be asked to approve the students interested in moving into the space.
- If Residence Life needs to maximize use of all available spaces on campus and the above is not possible, then Residence Life staff will work closely with the student group to determine next steps. Options may include: 1) Relocating the gender-inclusive group to another location that accommodates the group's new size; or 2) Split the group in order to create single-gender groups and fill vacancies with students of the same gender.
- If any student in a gender inclusive housing space becomes uncomfortable with the arrangement or if the group experiences roommate problems, the students would be expected to go through the normal room change process, including possible mediation or potential relocation if the problem cannot be resolved. We will work with the involved students to attempt to identify options to best meet the needs of all involved although we cannot guarantee availability of additional gender-inclusive spaces mid-semester.

#### **APPLICATION GUIDELINES** *(Please read carefully)*

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- **Applications are due February 15th** to Residence Life. Late applications may not be considered until the spring semester. (New entering students should contact Residence Life with their request no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>).
- While upperclassmen are not required to share their reason for requesting gender inclusive housing, we do encourage applicants to share any information that needs to be taken into consideration when making housing placements.
- Offers will be made based on the placement needs indicated in the application, taking into consideration facility and community fit. Placements are available in all residence halls where a gender inclusive restroom or an en suite bathroom are available, or where the restroom facilities are able to meet the needs of both the community and the requesting student.
- Although placements will occur ahead of Room Lottery, placements will follow Room Lottery number order as much as possible and proportions within a given hall will be limited in relation to normal class options. Groups are only eligible for spaces they can fill to occupancy.
- Everyone in the application must accept the offer. If anyone removes themselves from the group, the entire group's application will be removed from the process and lottery number recalculated on remaining membership. If you accept the offer, that means you forego the opportunity to select a room during normal Housing Lottery.
- Gender-inclusive offers will be made prior to room selection. Offers must be accepted by March 1st or the offer will be rescinded.

Please review the Housing Lottery and Campus Housing information available online at [www.wittenberg.edu/reslife](http://www.wittenberg.edu/reslife) before submitting your application. If you have questions, please contact [housing@wittenberg.edu](mailto:housing@wittenberg.edu).

If you feel that your situation or needs require an early release out to the Witten' Burbs or a release from campus housing entirely, you must complete a Housing Release Request online at [www.wittenberg.edu/reslife](http://www.wittenberg.edu/reslife) along with a rationale and meeting with the Associate Dean for Residence Life.

If you also would like to submit a request to change your preferred name with the University, please visit: <https://www.wittenberg.edu/administration/registrar/preferred-name-change>

**GENDER INCLUSIVE HOUSING REQUEST**

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender inclusive housing is a residential space in which roommates of any combination of biological sexes, gender identities, or gender expressions choose to live together. Wittenberg University offers this option in recognition that there are some students for whom traditional, same-sex room assignments are not ideal or appropriate. We believe offering gender inclusive housing options respects the diversity of our student population by giving students more options to find a rooming situation that better meets their needs. Gender inclusive housing is not intended for students who wish to live together with a significant other. Students living in gender inclusive housing must be a full time registered student and at least 18 years of age. Students living in gender inclusive housing are held to the same standards of behavior and follow the same policies as other residential students.

**APPLICANT INFORMATION** *(Please type or print legibly)*

Legal First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Pronoun: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Any space on campus can be gender-inclusive. This avoids segregation and offers students gender-inclusive housing within all housing styles and at the various housing price points. Not all spaces have a designated all-gender restroom. All-gender restrooms have been designated for the 2019-2020 academic year in Polis, Ferncliff, and New Hall. Students are encouraged to think through what type of environment would make them most comfortable in their living space.

Preferred occupancy:       Single       Double       Triple       QuadPreferred Residential Setting:    Ferncliff    Firestine    Myers    Tower    New    Polis**Type of Bathroom:**

- Single-gender community restroom** *(If you have a preference, what gender designation? \_\_\_\_\_)*
- All-gender community restroom**
- Semi-private restroom** *(e.g. low student ratio or individual use public restroom)*
- Private** *(en suite restroom – please note this is extremely limited)*

**What factors should we be keeping in mind when determining placement options? Please explain any particular room or community needs that should be taken into consideration when making a placement offer:**

**Please provide additional information you feel comfortable sharing about why you are interested in a gender inclusive housing assignment. Why is it important for you to live in a gender inclusive environment?**

**GENDER INCLUSIVE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT** *(All applicants must sign indicating their understanding & agreement)*

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Gender inclusive housing is available for students who are in the process of discovering their gender identity, students who do not wish to identify themselves by gender, and students who may identify with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or non-binary communities. Gender inclusive housing is not intended for students who wish to live together with a significant other. Students living in gender inclusive housing must be a full time registered student and at least 18 years of age. Students living in gender inclusive housing are held to the same standards of behavior and follow the same policies as other residential students.

All roommates must sign the Supplemental Agreement:

- I am requesting to live with other students who may be of a different biological sex, gender identity and/or gender expression. I confirm that I have carefully considered my decision to live in a gender inclusive assignment and am completely comfortable with this arrangement.
- I understand that gender inclusive housing is not intended for students who wish to live together with a significant other.
- I understand that due to limitations in available housing options and bathroom facilities, there is no guarantee that all of my preferences can be met or that a desired space will be available.
- I understand that Residence Life reserves the right to make changes to this program as it deems appropriate.
- I understand must participate in a meeting with Residence Life to discuss the request, review assignment options, and coordinate any pertinent documentation needs. Disclosed information will be kept confidential. Residence Life will review the request and determine the best option based on individual circumstances, need, and availability.
- I understand issues relating to room reassignments and vacancies will generally follow procedures set forth under Residence Life policies. If a roommate cancels their housing or moves out of the room for any reason, the remaining roommates must fill the vacant space or be subject to room rate increase, change of room, or loss of gender-inclusive status and consolidation as a gendered room. Residence Life reserves the right to assign an interested student to the vacancy or to relocate the remaining resident(s) to another vacancy. Room type and gender identity match cannot be guaranteed if Residence Life must assign a new roommate.

Students should communicate with roommate(s) about any plans to change rooms or cancel an agreement as soon as possible. The University does not generally communicate directly with families regarding housing placements. To establish open communication and support, it is expected and encouraged that students communicate with parents, legal guardians, and/or persons paying housing charges when choosing a gender inclusive assignment.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I understand the terms and conditions for living in gender inclusive housing and agree to be bound by them.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested Roommates (all requests must be mutual):**

**Roommate 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Lottery Number</b>
_____
_____
_____
_____

<b>Approved:</b> Yes _____ No _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Placement Offered:</b> _____	<b>Accepted: Yes / No</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____