

# gender inclusive living



**Oregon State** UNIVERSITY | University Housing  
& Dining Services

# WHAT IS GENDER I I

Gender Inclusive Living allows our residents to room with anyone of any gender identity or gender expression. This living environment can accommodate students who desire to live with friends and family, etc. as well as all gender identities including man, woman, and transgender, among many others. Gender Inclusive Living additionally serves as an ideal housing option for gender-variant students by upholding a community that is supportive of the diversity of gender identity and expression.

As a resident of the Halsell community, students are invited to live in a community committed to gender inclusivity. Whether students want same or different-gender roommates and gender-variant roommate pairings, the programming in Halsell hall is well suited for those interested in exploring how gender roles shape society, explore

gender identities outside of the male/female binary, and enjoy living among those who identify throughout the gender continuum.

Gender Inclusive Living is a community where different gender identities and expressions seek to enhance, not separate, relationships. You don't need to identify as gender variant or commit to live with someone of another gender. All that is needed is your willingness to live in a community where all strive to gain a greater understanding of gender expression and identity and how they influence our relationships with one another. Be a part of Gender Inclusive Living and help create a strong and supportive community at Oregon State University.



## How do I request Gender Inclusive Living?

While Halsell Hall is reserved for upper-division and transfer students, placement will be given to first-year students who require accommodations based on their gender identity and/or gender expression. Contact UHDS at 541-737-4771 or [uhds@oregonstate.edu](mailto:uhds@oregonstate.edu).

# R INCLUSIVE LIVING?

## Living amongst gender variance

We strive to create an environment welcoming of all gender identities and forms of gender expression. Gender Inclusive living is intended to create a home and sense of belonging, where all students can feel free and safe to express their whole self. If you want to support a community striving toward this goal, or if you have ever felt limited by socially created roles or categories of gender, Gender Inclusive Living may be for you. Gender can be self-denied, and many terms can be used (gender-variant, transgender, woman, man, and many more) to describe how one expresses their identity. In Halsell, it will be important to respectfully learn about how your suitemates and neighbors identify and how you will live well together.

## Effective communication when talking about gender identity and expression

### HOW DO I ASK QUESTIONS WITHOUT BEING INTRUSIVE OR OFFENSIVE?

Don't assume you can identify someone's gender simply by sight or sound. Instead, get to know the person as a whole being. If you are genuinely unsure what pronouns your suite-mate uses, ask with care and honesty. It is important to recognize the impact of language and support by respecting the language each person thoughtfully chooses to use.



## APPROPRIATE APPROACHES

If someone discloses as trans/gender-variant, it is appropriate to respectfully ask about pronouns and identity terms.

### APPROACH THIS BY SAYING:

“ I want to make sure that we do a good job communicating with you, would you be willing to share the pronouns and terms you use to identify? ”

OR

“ What would be the best terms and pronouns to use in communicating with you about your identity? ”



# QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

## For gender-variant students considering Gender Inclusive Living

We strive for Gender Inclusive Living to be a safe and supportive space for all gender identities and co-living across identity. Though a resident does not have to identify as gender-variant in order to live in GIL, each resident commits to contribute to this safe and supportive environment. The GIL community environment aims to support and educate residents on gender variance in identity and expression.

# GENDER INCLUSIVE LIVING COMMITMENTS

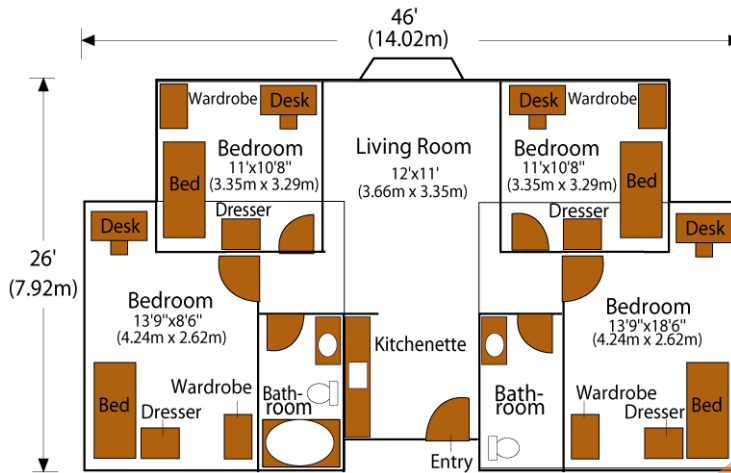
## UHDS Commitment to Inclusive Environments

University Housing & Dining Services staff members foster, support, and advocate for an increasingly inclusive environment and community through understanding, enhancing, promoting, and celebrating the uniqueness of our student residents and department staff. We will be inclusive of, but not limited to equity issues regarding the free and safe expression of

sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, ethnicity, sexual/affectional orientation, religious affiliation or lack thereof, disability status, socio-economic status, international students and culture, veteran students, older than average age students, and student parents.



# APARTMENT-STYLE LIVING IN HALSELL



## Effective Roommate Communication

### SET GROUND RULES:

On the day that you move in -- or, even better, just before you move in -- sit down and come up with a basic list of ground rules. Obviously, these rules will be different depending on your relationship. If you're close friends, the rules might not be as stringent as if you were living with a stranger. However, living with a friend of another sex or gender may be new to you. Decide together how your living situation will work. For example, you might want to have a rule that says you can't have girlfriends or boyfriends sleep over.

### SET BATHROOM SCHEDULE:

One of the problems that may occur when

you live with a friend of the another sex or gender is arguing over the bathroom. When you move in, designate different drawers and racks for each of you and respect one another's space. You might also want to set a morning schedule for the bathroom if you both get up at the same time.

### CONSIDER FOOD:

Decide how to split the grocery bill. Decide whether you will shop together or cook joint meals and determine how you will remember whose food belongs to whom. While this might not seem like a big issue at first, try not to let it become one. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/pTq5UP>.





## Additional Resources

- Pride Center ([pride.center@oregonstate.edu](mailto:pride.center@oregonstate.edu))
- ASOSU Queer Affairs Task Force ([queer.affairs@oregonstate.edu](mailto:queer.affairs@oregonstate.edu))
- Office of LGBT Outreach & Services ([LGBT.Services@oregonstate.edu](mailto:LGBT.Services@oregonstate.edu))
- University Housing & Dining Services ([uhds@oregonstate.edu](mailto:uhds@oregonstate.edu))
- SOL LGBT Multicultural Support Network ([oregonstate.edu/pridecenter/sol](http://oregonstate.edu/pridecenter/sol))
- Rainbow Contium ([groups.oregonstate.edu/rcosu](http://groups.oregonstate.edu/rcosu))

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