



Central Oregon Community College - Gender Inclusive Housing

What is Gender Inclusive Housing?

Gender Inclusive Housing allows students to share a suite-style living space regardless of a student's sex or gender. It provides rooming options for a variety of students: those who feel uncomfortable rooming with members of the same sex; supporting transgender, transitioning, and gender non-conforming students in their process of discovering their gender identity/expression; accommodating cultural living expectations; and students who do not want sex or gender to be a primary factor in choosing a roommate. **Gender Inclusive Housing is not intended for romantic couples.** However, in respecting the privacy of our students, we do not require disclosure of reason for specific roommate/suitemate requests.

Is Gender Inclusive Housing only for a particular community?

Gender Inclusive Housing is available to all interested students willing and able to adhere to the expectations and commitments of the Gender Inclusive Housing option. It is intended to be a welcoming, safe, and inclusive living environment regardless of a student's sex, sexual orientation, or perceived gender identity. Through Gender Inclusive Housing, students will be able to take part in a living environment that values the importance of understanding and providing a safe and welcoming place for students of all genders.

Why is it important to offer Gender Inclusive Housing?

Traditional, same-sex room/suite assignments are not ideal or appropriate for some students. The Housing and Residence Life Office at COCC believes it is important to evolve and adapt to meet the needs of students, today and tomorrow, in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment. Gender Inclusive Housing helps to create an environment that acknowledges, appreciates, and respects the diversity of the student body by providing options in finding roommates/suitemates that are truly compatible.

Who can live in Gender Inclusive Housing?

All students choosing to live in the residence hall are eligible for this living option. That includes all first-year, continuing, and transfer students. Interested students will need to complete an additional application and have a conversation with a Housing and Residence Life professional staff member to determine if this housing option is the best for that student.

How are roommates/suitemates chosen?

Roommates/suitemates are mutually selected, not assigned. All parties must be willing partners. Students can request a roommate/suitemate of any sex or gender. The living space is designated for the academic year.

Can students be randomly assigned to a roommate/suitemate of the opposite sex?

No. Students opt into Gender Inclusive Housing and roommate/suitemate arrangements as willing partners.

Are bathrooms gender inclusive too?

Yes. The residence hall features suite-style rooms comprised of either four single bedrooms or two double bedrooms sharing a common space and semi-private bathroom.