

Recommendations for Supporting Transgender Students

Submitted by the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals

Increasingly college and university students identify as transgender, but do not have the opportunity to indicate this identity on admission forms or other institutional documents. As a result, they do not feel welcomed or included, and institutions remain unaware of the presence and needs of these students.

Recommendation: Ask “Gender Identity” on College Forms and Surveys

Include the following when asking “gender” on admission forms and other documents:

- Ask “woman, man, transgender, another identity (please specify _____).”
- Offer the capability to select more than one option.
- Ask “sex” only in special situations (i.e., single-sex colleges).

Example

Gender Identity (select all that apply):

- Woman
- Man
- Transgender
- Another identity (please specify _____)

If you must legally ask sex (female/male) because of being a single-sex institution:

- Ask “sex” using the required binary of female and male.
- Additionally, ask “gender identity” as stated above.

Example

Sex (select one):

- Female
- Male

Gender Identity (select all that apply):

- Woman
- Man
- Transgender
- Another identity (please specify _____)

Recommendation: Enable Students to Use a Preferred Name on Campus Records and Documents

Revise software and processes to allow students who have not legally changed their names to have a preferred first name on course and grade rosters, online directory listings, identification cards, and other institutional records and documents.

Recommendation: Enable Students to Change Their Gender on Campus Records and Documents

Create a process by which students can change the gender on their campus records upon the request of the students or with only a letter of support from a therapist or medical professional.

This process means:

- Students are not required to have changed the gender on their birth certificate or driver's license prior to changing campus records.
- Students do not have to produce proof that they have modified their body.