

# Gender Inclusive Housing



HOUSING, RESIDENTIAL LIFE, DINING & CONFERENCE SERVICES

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is gender inclusive housing?

**A:** For the first time, academic year 2014-2015, housing and residential life will allow students to choose to live in housing with student(s) that are not of the same sex. Traditionally, housing assignments and placements were with students of the same sex and, in general, that will continue. However, we acknowledge that this does not work for everyone. This policy is being implemented to meet the needs of all students, by nurturing an atmosphere where students can be the most comfortable with those with whom they live. It is important that the residential community has an atmosphere that values diversity, social justice, and promotes the dignity of all people. Therefore, sophomore or other upper class students may choose to create their living group as single sex (male or female), or a mixed group, which will create a gender inclusive unit (GIH).

This option will be open to incoming transgender freshmen who contact us regarding their needs. These students will be assigned on a case by case basis.

### Q: Why is JHU offering this housing option?

**A:** It is important that the JHU housing community is a comfortable safe place for students to live. Not all students are comfortable living in units with other students that are assigned or chosen based solely on sex. The goal is for students to feel empowered and supported by the housing system. This option was developed to be offered in the same manner as our room selection processes, with nothing different required, thus it will not call attention to the living environment that students choose and will provide an inclusive climate.

Students in dating relationships are strongly discouraged from choosing to live together, regardless of roommate/suitemate choices.

### Q: Who is eligible for gender inclusive housing?

**A:** All residents are eligible. Freshmen and incoming transfer students will be accommodated on a case by case basis in consideration of the circumstances they present. Sophomores and upperclassmen will choose their housing through room selection or renewal process.

Rising sophomore students register for room selection in groups of 1-4 persons. Their living group may be all male, all female or a mix of male and female students. When choosing a unit based on their lottery number, if they are a group of male and female students, their living unit will be considered gender inclusive. Just like all male or all female groups, they must completely fill their living unit.

#### INCOMING FRESHMEN:

Incoming freshmen will see the following on their housing questionnaire:

**Sex**      **Male** \_\_\_\_\_ **Female** \_\_\_\_\_

*JHU housing policy is to assign students to rooms based on sex. Should this not meet your needs, please contact the Director of Housing and Operations at 410-516-8282.*

Transgender freshmen will be placed based on their specific circumstances on a case by case basis. In many instances, this will be a single for their freshmen year, and then, when they have settled into JHU housing, they can choose who they are most comfortable living with for their sophomore year, in the above rising sophomore room selection process.

### Q: Do I need to apply for gender inclusive housing?

**A:** There is no special application process for this housing option. Students choosing this option follow the same process as those who are choosing the single sex group option.

### Q: If I need gender inclusive housing, will I definitely get it?

**A:** Students choose their living group for sophomore year, based on comfort level. If when their lottery number is called, they can fill a unit, they will live in a gender inclusive unit. If their lottery number precludes them from choosing into a completely open unit or the group needs to split up, it is possible that they may not end up in a gender inclusive unit. Although the housing staff tries to keep all living groups together, there are times when groups with very high lottery numbers must split up to fill remaining space. Gender inclusive housing is not an exception to this rule.

### Q: Is there an area that is set aside for gender inclusive housing or can I live anywhere?

**A:** Students choosing gender inclusive housing may choose to live wherever their lottery number will allow them to live. It is important that gender inclusive housing be a part of the whole community. There are no wings, floors or houses that are exclusively gender inclusive.

### Q: Who decides who I will live with?

**A:** Rising sophomores chose their own living groups. Incoming freshmen are assigned space and roommates.

### Q: How will a vacancy in a gender inclusive unit be filled?

**A:** If a space opens up in a gender inclusive unit, the remaining occupants of the unit will be charged with finding a replacement. If the students are unable to find someone to fill the space, the housing or residential life

staff will try to find someone to move in, but both the potential roommate and the occupants of the unit must be comfortable living together. If this too is unsuccessful, it may be necessary for one or more residents of the unit to relocate, which would change the sex of the unit to male or female in order to utilize the open bed.