

Gender Inclusive Housing

HOUSING, RESIDENTIAL LIFE, DINING & CONFERENCE SERVICES

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is gender inclusive housing?

A: 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 was 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 live with whomever they choose regardless of biological sex or gender identity. However, you are strongly discouraged from living with someone you may be dating.

This option will be open to incoming freshmen who will be able to indicate an interest in GIH and locate other students who also expressed the same interest.

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.

Q: Who is eligible for gender inclusive housing?

A: All residents are eligible. Freshmen and incoming transfer students will be accommodated through the Housing Portal. Freshmen will be able to choose their roommate. 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. Students may choose a GIH unit including women, men, and trans* people. When choosing a unit based on their timeslot, their living unit will be considered gender inclusive. Just like all male or all female groups, they must completely fill their living unit.

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. Incoming freshmen check off the GIH box on their housing questionnaire and search for other freshmen who chose the same 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. During their timeslot, if they can fill a unit, they will live in a gender inclusive unit. If their timeslot 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 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 timeslot 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 choose their own living groups. Incoming freshmen are auto assigned to a space with their chosen roommate.

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.

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