

Welcome to the University of Cincinnati

Being a student can be stressful, but when you add navigating gendered restrooms, negotiating roommate situations and dealing with name changes, life can get pretty overwhelming!

Here is some quick and easy information for transgender and genderqueer students at the University of Cincinnati.

The Basics!

There are 3 LGBTQ student groups at UC

1. **GenderBloc** – a radical queer activist, support and social student group at UC for LGBTQA students focusing on gender issues including transgender and genderqueer activism.

Meetings are held on Thursdays at 7:00 pm (location found on website)

GenderBloc.org

2. **UC Alliance** – the social LGBTQ group, meetings are on Wednesdays at 7pm (location found on website) **ucalliance.org**

3. **Girls Like Us** – the LGBTQ Center's support group for queer women-identified students. Meeting times and locations found online at **uc.edu/lgbtq**

The LGBTQ Center is located in Steger 681. It is staffed by the full-time LGBTQ Center Director, a our part-time LGBTQ grad assistant and student volunteers.

Community Resources

Gay and Lesbian Community Center
4119 Hamilton Ave. Cincinnati,
Ohio 45223 | 513.591.0200
GlbCenterCincinnati.com

GenderQueer Coalition of Cincinnati
GenderQueerCoalition.org

TransOhio
TransOhio.org

Crossport Cincinnati
Crossport.org

Equality Ohio
EqualityOhio.org

QUEER BARS

Bronz Club– Northside, Cincinnati
Myspace.com/BronzBar

Club Nanta– Northside, Cincinnati
Yadda Club– Covington, Kentucky
Myspace.com/YaddaClub

The Dock– Downtown Cincinnati
TheDockComplex.com

Hamburger Mary's– Downtown Cincinnati
HamburgerMarysCincinnati.com

For more copies of this publication go to GenderBloc.org or contact us at GenderBloc@gmail.com

Trans Survival Guide

The ins and outs of college life for trans students at UC



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I officially change my name and gender marker with the registrar?

Yes, you can change your gender marker with the registrar by going to uc.edu/registrar. Click "policies and procedures" on the left-side menu and then click "gender marker changes" on the resulting page. A gender marker change does require a letter from an M.D., but does not require a diagnosis of gender identity disorder! Currently, a preferred name policy is in the works with the Office of the Registrar so that your preferred name as well as your legal name will show up on class rosters.

2. How can I change my legal name in Ohio?

Legally changing your name can be a long and expensive process (\$180+). The laws differ by state. In Ohio you must fill out an application with the probate court stating your reason for changing your name and the new name you are requesting. Before you can have a hearing, you must pay to put an ad in the newspaper for 30 days stating the name change (this is not included in the above \$180 estimate). This ad must contain both your old and new name. Then you can go to court, and as long as you have "reasonable and proper cause" for changing your name, the court will approve the change. For more detailed information go to NameChangeLaw.com.

3. What should I expect in the classroom?

In general UC's population is not very informed on transgender and genderqueer topics. It may be a good idea to get a feel for your classroom and classmates before outing yourself in class. Keep in mind that you have the right to discuss offensive language with you classmates, professors or department heads. If you need any help, feel free to contact GenderBloc. In addition, OMBUDs provides confidential, informal problem resolution for all UC students, faculty and staff. Contact them at (513) 556-5956. Also check out GenderBloc's "Supporting Transgender Students" pamphlet on our website, which you can share with teachers and classmates if you feel comfortable.

4. Can I get hormones from UC Health Insurance?

No, you have to go outside of UC in order to get this kind of service.

5. Can I change my name and gender marker on Blackboard?

Yes, you can:

1. Log into Blackboard.
2. Under "tools" click "personal information."
3. Click "edit personal information."
4. Type in your preferred name and choose your preferred gender. You can even choose "not disclosed."
5. Click "submit" and then "okay."

6. Can I change my name in my UC e-mail account?

Unfortunately you cannot change your name in your UC e-mail account, however you can change your Blackboard e-mail address to a personal e-mail account and use that to converse with teachers and classmates. (Follow the steps outlined in question 5).

7. Where can I get psychological services and counseling?

The Counseling Center on campus provides short-term counseling as well as emergency services for students with or without insurance; payments are done on a sliding scale. For more resources and queer friendly psychologists in the community, go to GenderBloc.org and look under "resources".

8. Are there gender-neutral restrooms on campus?

All multiple-user restrooms at UC are gendered, but most single-user restrooms should be marked gender neutral by fall 2010. For a list of single-user gender-neutral restrooms, go to GenderBloc.org and look under "UC resources."

9. What about names on degrees and transcripts?

When filing for graduation you will be able to choose what name goes on your diploma. Your legal name will be on your transcripts, but if you get your name legally changed you will have to contact the Office of the Registrar and give them documentation in order to get your new name on your transcript.

10. Are there gender-neutral locker rooms at the Rec Center?

There are four non-gendered single-use locker rooms in the Rec Center. Each has a toilet, sink, shower and bench for changing. They are located in between the men's and women's locker rooms and the room numbers are 0222A, 0222B, 0222C and 0222D. It is the Rec Center's rule that if you do not use a non-gendered single-use locker room, you are required to use the locker room based on your natal sex. If a trans or genderqueer student is caught in the "wrong" locker room, they will not be punished the first time; instead, the Rec Center will just explain that the non-gendered locker rooms are available to them.

11. What if I want to play sports?

For varsity sports you are placed on a team based on your birth sex. Intramural sports have both co-ed and single sex teams. For these sports you are placed according to the sex indicated on your ID, and even co-ed teams have rules about the number of males and females on the team. They do allow female-bodied people to play on men's teams as long as they are approved first. We have been told that an FTM would be allowed to play on the men's team, but they would also have to be approved first. For more information on that process contact Amy Fawcett at 513-556-0603.

12. Are there any specific professors I should take classes with or avoid?

There are understanding professors in every department. You may be able to locate them by talking to your advisor or other students, or by contacting the Women's Center or GenderBloc.

13. How should I let my professors know that I am transgender or genderqueer so that they do not out me in class?

It's best to contact your professor before classes start via phone, in-person, or e-mail. Here is a sample e-mail:

Professor _____,

I am a student in your (insert class name here). I am getting in contact with you to let you know that I identify as (insert identity here). My name will probably show up on your roster as (insert legal name here), but I would prefer to go by (insert chosen name here) and (masculine/feminine/neutral) pronouns. I will be putting (insert chosen name here) on my assignments and would appreciate it if you called me that in class.

Thank you very much for your understanding,

(Sign with chosen name)

It may also be helpful to include the *Supporting Transgender Students* pamphlet found under Resources at genderbloc.org to help your professors better understand how to be an ally..

14. Is there a Transgender/Genderqueer policy in the residence Halls?

The housing website FAQ section addresses this concern here <http://www.uc.edu/housing/FAQs/default.html>. GenderBloc recommends that you preference Daniels Hall floors 11 and 12 when filling out your housing application because these rooms provide the best accommodations for transgender and genderqueer people at the lowest price.

This brochure was updated May 2010. GenderBloc is continually working to make UC a friendly, safe and inclusive environment. So check out GenderBloc.org and come to one of our meetings to find out what's new.

