

TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

FAST FACTS

- According to 2011 findings, the estimated number of people who identify as transgender in the United States is 700,000.¹
- A 2014 report estimates that there are over 15,000 transgender individuals serving on active duty and over 134,000 transgender veterans.¹
- 75% of transgender people felt more comfortable at work after they transitioned.²



BASICS

What does transgender mean?

Transgender is a term for people whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. Transgender is a broad term and is good for non-transgender people to use. "Trans" is shorthand for "transgender." Note: Transgender is correctly used as an adjective, not a noun, thus "transgender people" is appropriate but "transgenders" is often viewed as disrespectful.³

Everyone's Rights

Knowing your rights is important for the protection of your rights and to respect the rights of others.

"It is revolutionary for any trans person to choose to be seen and visible in a world that tells us we should not exist."
– Laverne Cox

RIGHTS

What are my on-campus housing options?

Gender neutral housing is available at UNLV. You may opt in by finding other students (either suitemates and/or roommates) that are interested in living in a gender inclusive space. All parties must agree in order for the room to be considered gender neutral. If you are transitioning while living in the halls, set up a meeting with your Residence Life Coordinator so they can gain a better understanding of your needs and help you attain appropriate housing.

Which restrooms can I use?

In 2011, Nevada passed statewide laws protecting access to bathrooms in all places of public accommodation such as schools for all persons on the basis of gender identity or expression.⁴ Therefore; you have the right to use the restroom in alignment with your gender identity or expression.

Does UNLV have gender inclusive restrooms?

Yes, UNLV has 17 gender neutral bathrooms on campus and can be found online: www.unlv.edu/maps/bathrooms. The Student Recreation Center also has a family locker room that is gender inclusive and useful for those who do not feel comfortable or safe going into gendered locker rooms.

What do the #IllGoWithYou buttons mean?

The #IllGoWithYou movement began in response to the bathroom bills written throughout the country in 2015. The button is an ally who is making a visible statement of support for the transgender community. Furthermore, people who identify as transgender or gender-nonconforming can approach allies displaying the button to ask for a companion to a gender-specific restroom or other gendered places.

Are there scholarships available to me?

Yes. There are multiple scholarships specifically geared towards students who identify as transgender. Websites such as the Human Rights Campaign has a full database to help you find scholarships.

How do I update my personal records at UNLV?

Once your name and/or gender has been legally changed you may fill out the "Request to Change Personal Identification Data" form and submit it to the Registrar's office (SSC-C).⁵ As long as you bring in official court documentation then it is a simple process and should only take a few minutes to update in the system.

Can I update my UNLV ID card?

Yes, you are able to update your UNLV ID once your name is updated through the Registrar's office. Make sure to take your old card with you in order to only pay \$10 for a replacement. If you have lost your Rebel Card the charge will be \$20 for a new one.

How can I ensure my professors (classmates) utilize my name and correct pronouns?

Visit MyUNLV and go to Main Menu > Self Service > Campus Personal Information > Names > Update Your Preferred Name. You may also contact your professors directly via phone, email, or in person to introduce yourself, clarify your name, and inform them of your correct pronouns.

Do I have job security at UNLV and Nevada?

Yes, in 2011 job, public accommodation and housing discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression became illegal in Nevada under bills AB211, SB368, and SB331.⁶ In addition, under federal law's Title IX, sex discrimination includes failing to hire an applicant because they are transgender, firing an employee because they are planning or are transitioning, and harassing an employee because of gender transition/identity.

What do my student UNLV health care benefits cover?

The Student Health Center (SHC) at UNLV provides high quality, comprehensive primary care and specialty services to enrolled students. A myriad of acute and chronic diseases, as well as accidents and injuries, are treated in the nationally accredited health center by licensed health care providers. The SHC also offers an accredited clinical laboratory on-site, as well as a full-service accredited pharmacy. The health fee provides access at no cost to SHC services and programs each semester; however, there is a charge for prescriptions, lab tests, and other procedures. For information related to hormone therapy, please make a same day appointment with a physician provider. International and graduate students may call the program officer at 702-895-0542 for questions related to the Student Health Insurance plan. For more information regarding SHC services please go to www.unlv.edu/srwc/health-center.

What do I do if I have or am experiencing interpersonal violence (sexual assault, rape, domestic/dating violence or stalking)?

If you experience interpersonal violence know that you are not alone and are not to blame. The Jean Nidetch Women's Center's CARE Advocates offer Victim/Survivor advocacy for all students regardless of gender who experience interpersonal violence. If you would like to talk to someone in person you can drop by the Women's Center Monday through Friday 8am-5pm in SSC-255 (down the hall from Financial Aid). You can also call the CARE hotline (702-895-0602) which is open 24/7. The CARE Advocates will help you in accessing the services available for counseling, reporting, assistance, and will do their best to help you in whatever you may need. Please know that whatever you say will remain confidential and that the CARE Advocates will honor what you choose to do and don't choose to do.

How can I report an incident?

If there is immediate danger, contact UNLV police (dial 9-1-1). To report a UNLV student, faculty or staff member, you may contact the UNLV Office of Student Conduct (officeofstudentconduct@unlv.edu; www.unlv.edu/studentconduct) to receive a consultation and to file a report.

How can I advocate for my rights?

There are many methods of advocating for your rights. In fact, you may already be an advocate if you have ever publicly supported a particular cause or policy in class, at work, or on social media. Therefore, there are many ways to become a stronger advocate such as educating yourself about the issues you feel strongly about. Joining an organization is also a great way to find like-minded individuals to raise concerns and gain more perspective on an issue. If the issue is policy based, lobbying is a great method of advocacy where you can take your issues directly to the governing body to influence change.

MUST READ

- Erbentraut, J. (2015, May 18). *College campuses are more trans-inclusive than ever, but still have a long way to go*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/18/trans-friendly-colleges_n_7287702.html
- Green, J. (2004). *Becoming a visible man*. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press.
- Mock, J. (2014). *Redefining realness: My path to womanhood, identity, love & so much more*. New York, NY: Atria Books.
- Serano, J. (2007). *Whipping girl a transsexual woman on sexism and the scapegoating of femininity*. Seattle, WA: Seal Press.
- Sycamore, M. B. (2006). *Nobody passes: Rejecting the rules of gender and conformity*. Emeryville, CA: Seal Press.

RESOURCES

- Trans Life Line: www.translifeline.org or call 877-565-8860
- The Center: www.thecenterlv.org/groups/trans
- Gender Justice Nevada <http://genderjusticenv.org/>
- Trans Student Educational Resources: www.transstudent.org
- Outsports: www.outsports.com
- Human Rights Campaign: www.hrc.org/explore/topic/transgender-children-youth

REFERENCES

1. Gates, G. J. (2011, April). *How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender?* Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/how-many-people-are-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender/>
2. Grant, J. M., Mottet, L. A., & Tanis, J. (2011). *End trans discrimination: the survey*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <http://endtransdiscrimination.org/report.html>
3. Transgender Terminology. (2016, February 26). Retrieved March 02, 2017, from <http://www.transequality.org/issues/resources/transgender-terminology>
4. S. 331, 78 Cong. (2015) (enacted).
5. Office of the Registrar. (n.d.). *Request to change personal identification data form*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/forms>
6. Vogel, E. (2011, May 24). *Sandoval signs transgender job discrimination bill*. Retrieved October 1, 2016, from <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/government/sandoval-signs-transgender-job-discrimination-bill>

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