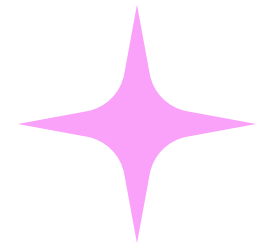


*Advising*



# *LGBTQ+ Students*

**BY HANNAH VOYLES**



*What does LGBTQ+*

*Stand for?*

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,  
and Queer/Questioning.**

The '+' is recognition of all non-straight,  
non-cisgender identities (ex: pansexual,  
genderfluid, nonbinary, etc.)



# Important Notes:

Ask people how they describe themselves before labeling their sexual orientations and/or gender identities.

Sexual orientation and gender identity are different. Sexual orientation is the scientifically accurate term for a person's enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person. Gender identity is a person's internal, deeply held knowledge of their own gender. Everyone has a gender identity.

\*\*These terms are descriptors, so you would not refer to someone as "a transgender" or "a gay". Additionally, you should avoid identifying gay people as "homosexuals" as it is an outdated term considered derogatory and offensive to many lesbian and gay people.\*\*

# Working with students

According to GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network), "supportive educators save students' lives. Having just one visibly supportive educator in a school can ensure that LGBTQ students feel safe, welcomed, and encouraged to learn."

Some ways that you can be visibly supportive are by having affirming decor, putting your pronouns in your email/bio, and being familiar with LGBTQ+ issues and concerns.

Millennials and Generation Z are more likely to identify as LGBTQ+ than previous age groups, meaning incoming classes will likely include more LGBTQ+ students than ever before.



# *How does being LGBTQ+ affect post-secondary planning?*

**College is a great opportunity for students to explore their identities.**

Higher education has historically been and remains a positive location for students' identity development. Abundant literature supports the positive value of postsecondary curriculum, role models, and communities in facilitating LGBTQ identity development.

Most LGBTQ students report that the climate—their feelings of belonging, safety and inclusion—in college is better than the one they experienced in high school. And evidence exists that overall, campus climate has improved over the last 15 years.



# Considerations & What You Can Do

Progress is not consistent across institutions. Reports of harassment and discrimination, especially for transgender students, remain a problem. Particular concerns are student reports of harassment in classrooms and other learning contexts, widespread cyberbullying, and the amplification of racism and sexism through homophobic and transphobic harassment.

Choosing an inclusive campus requires doing some homework, but it's worth it.





# Resources

[GLSEN Educator Resources](#)

[The Gender Unicorn](#)

[A Guide to Pronouns](#)

[Name/Pronoun Questionnaire](#)

[Best Colleges for LGBTQ+ Students](#)

[Worst Campuses for LGBTQ+ Students](#)

[Scholarships for LGBTQ+ Students](#)



# Questions?

Thank you!

