

## **SVA Gender Inclusive Housing (GIH) Policy**

The Office of Residence Life is committed to providing comfortable, welcoming, and safe housing options for all students. Gender-Inclusive housing (GIH) is an initiative that allows two or more students to share a multiple-occupancy room, suite, or apartment regardless of the students' sex or gender. GIH furthers the College's non-discrimination policy and provides housing options for students who may identify as transgender, are more comfortable living with another sex or gender, or do not wish to prescribe to gender classifications. Although the College respects the privacy of individuals and will not require students to reveal their reasons for opting into GIH, this option is not recommended for couples in romantic relationships. Further guidelines to the policy are outlined below.

GIH is available to all students. Returning students may submit a housing application during the room selection process which occurs each spring semester. Gender-inclusive housing is also available to first-year and transfer students. Incoming first-year and transfer students will have the option of selecting gender-inclusive housing via the student housing application. First-year and transfer students who indicate they are interested in GIH will be contacted by a Residence Life professional staff member so that the College can provide housing that best meets the needs of the student.

### **Gender-Inclusive Housing Policy**

The following policy and conditions are applicable to students who elect to live in a gender-inclusive space.

- Students may choose to request a roommate(s) of any sex or gender.
- Residence Life will only honor those requests made by all parties living within the same living space (i.e., room, apartment, suite).
- Returning students must select spaces with their prospective roommate(s) following the same processes and deadlines of all students entering the housing selection process.
- Students will not be required to reveal their reasons for opting to live in gender-inclusive housing, although romantic relationships within the same living space are discouraged.
- Students will not be assigned to gender-inclusive housing unless they have elected to do so. Although we feel that students are able to make decisions about their housing situation, we encourage students to maintain an open dialogue with their families about their decision to live in a gender-inclusive situation.
- As with any roommate situation, conflict between individuals may arise. We strongly encourage proactive conversation between roommates regarding room preferences, utilizing a roommate agreement. Your RA will be facilitating a roommate agreement with you. Room change requests due to conflict will follow the same procedure as any other conflict, using the student staff and/or professional staff members to aid the situation.
- When there is a vacancy in a gender-inclusive space, the student(s) remaining in the room may elect to pull in any new roommate whose age is appropriate for the style of housing, following other standard procedures within Residence Life. In the event of an additional resident moving into the space, all parties must be agreeable to the change.
- Any space in Ludlow, 23rd Street Residence, and 24th Street Residence can be gender-inclusive. This avoids segregation and offers students gender-inclusive housing within multiple housing styles. The default designation for a room, apartment, or suite will be single-gender unless the students selecting into the space opt to create a gender-inclusive pair/group. Once a room, apartment, suite is gender-inclusive that space will

continue to be gender-inclusive as long as the residents can continue to occupy the living space.