



Research Update – Summer 2008

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Colleges & Universities that Offer Gender-Neutral Rooming

Notes: All colleges and universities listed here offer this rooming option to all students regardless of sexual orientation and gender status. Exceptions are noted. This list, while comprehensive, is not exhaustive, nor can we guarantee that the descriptions of these policies have not changed since our research update. "Upper-class students" are all sophomores, juniors and seniors. There are a total of 36 colleges and universities with gender-neutral rooming options.

College/University	Year Introduced	Description of Policy
American University	2008	Gender-neutral rooming will be available to residents of a specific Residential Community Cluster. The program community, entitled "Exploring the Intersections of Sexuality, Gender, and Culture," will house a total of twenty-four students by mutual choice. <i>Source: Media Advisory, "Creation of 'Exploring the Intersections of Sexuality, Gender and Culture' Residential Community at American University," Apr. 2, 2008.</i>
Bennington College	Within the last 10 years	Offers gender-neutral housing to all upper-class students. Students may pair up with a roommate of any gender in a double or triple. Couples of any sexual orientation are permitted to live together. No additional screening or interview process required. <i>Source: Robert Graves, Dean of Students, via email</i>
Brandeis University	2008	Beginning in fall 2008, gender neutral housing will be available to upper-class students. <i>Source: Brandeis Hoot, Apr. 11, 2008</i>
Brown University	2004, expanded in 2008	Gender-neutral rooming is available for upper-class students through the general housing lottery. Previously only available in upper-class suites and apartments, the gender-neutral policy has been expanded to about a third of all upper-class doubles as part of a pilot program. <i>Source: Brown University Daily Herald, Mar. 20, 2008</i>
California Institute of Technology	N/A	Allows students to choose or be assigned a roommate regardless of gender "if all parties agree to the situation." <i>Source: CalTech Resident Guide to Institute Housing</i>
Carnegie Mellon University	2007	Students may choose a roommate of a different gender. Students participating in the housing lottery will also be able to select "male," "female," or "no preference" when requesting their roommate. As a part of the "gender-neutral housing pilot study," a set of apartments will be reserved for gender-neutral housing. <i>Source: The Tartan Student Newspaper, Mar. 5, 2007</i>

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Clark University	2006-2007	<p>Offers gender-neutral rooming for all upper-class students. <i>All</i> upper-class coed residential halls have single gender-neutral restrooms and are open for gender-neutral rooming. There are no additional forms, approval, or process. Different-sex roommate pairs sign up for the housing lottery just like same-sex pairs.</p> <p><i>Source: Clark Residential Life & Housing Office</i></p>
Colorado College	2004	<p>Offers a gender-neutral special interest hall for all students. Students are not asked to identify their gender. Students may pair up with a roommate regardless of gender or sex. If they do not have a roommate, Housing will select one for them, without consideration of gender. Special application is required; students must agree to uphold additional terms. (See Appendix D(3) for an article about Colorado College's Gender Neutral Housing)</p> <p><i>Source: Colorado College Queer-Straight Alliance</i></p>
Dartmouth College	2007	<p>Starting fall of 2007, all upper-class students will be able select a roommate regardless of gender and live on a specific programming floor, as well as rooms "scattered around campus." The Office of Residential Life is introducing this option as part of a pilot program and predicts that interest in gender-neutral housing will likely grow in the upcoming years.</p> <p><i>Source: The Dartmouth College Newspaper, Feb. 21, 2007</i></p>
Grinnell College	2006-2007	<p>Is in the process of implementing gender-neutral housing. In March 2006, Trustees "heard a presentation about gender-neutral housing, and allowed it to move toward implementation by the administration."</p> <p><i>Source: Scarlet & Black, Mar. 3, 2006</i></p>
Guilford College	2006	<p>Offers upper-class students the option for a gender-blind themed alternative house beginning fall of 2006. The residence life 2006/2007 stance on genderblind housing/rooming is as quoted: "Any students who wish to live in Gender Blind housing can submit a proposal to live in one of the college's alternative houses. This proposal will be given consideration along with all other proposals for themed alternative housing. Gender Blind housing will not occur in Guilford's traditional residence halls."</p> <p><i>Source: Guilford College Campus Life Proposed Housing Changes 2006 - 2007</i></p>

College/University	Year Introduced	Description of Policy
Hampshire College	1970	<p>Does not have a specific policy that allows or prohibits different gender roommates. All students (including first years) can request to live in doubles with a roommate of any gender. About 90% of students live in singles. There is no additional paperwork or screening process.</p> <p><i>Source: Renee Freedman, Associate Dean for Student Life, via e-mail</i></p>
Harvard University* <i>Exceptions noted</i>	2008	<p>Starting in Spring of 2008, a gender-neutral housing option will be offered <i>only</i> to students that identify on housing forms as transgender. Gender-neutral housing will be made available through a limited number of suites on campus. New forms will have a checkbox for transgender for sex along with male and female.</p> <p>The Associate Dean of Residential Life is quoted as “trying to regularize the process,” so that eventually all students, regardless of gender identity, can have this housing option made available to them. The Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Alliance at Harvard and <i>The Harvard Crimson</i> have since called for gender-neutral housing to be made available to all students, not only for students who identify themselves as transgender on housing forms.</p> <p>In the past, gender-neutral housing was offered by individual house masters on a case-by-case basis and was highly discretionary and arbitrary.</p> <p><i>Source: The Harvard Crimson, Feb. 8, 2006, March 17, 2006, Feb. 16 & 23, 2007</i></p>
Haverford College	2000	<p>Upper-class students (groups of three) are able to apply for gender-neutral housing in two-bedroom apartments through the general lottery.</p> <p><i>Source: The Post-Gazette, Feb. 26, 2002</i></p>
Humboldt State University	2006-2007	<p>“Gender Neutral housing allows same gender roommates, opposite gender roommates or other gender-identity roommate pairings. The community is designed as an intentional living community affirming the cultural experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning residents as well as their allies. Residents who have not already chosen a roommate can elect to be assigned a roommate who is also interested in gender neutral housing options. People will only be assigned to live in this area by choice. Placements will be gender blind.” This housing is considered special interest housing and students that choose this option will be placed in one house.</p> <p><i>Source: HSU Housing & Dining Policies & Procedures</i></p>

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Ithaca College	2008	<p>A fall 2008 pilot speciality housing program will allow upper-class students the option to select a roommate of a different gender in one residence hall.</p> <p><i>Source: Ithaca College Office of Residential Life</i></p>
Lewis & Clark College	2005	<p>Offered through an application process (involves an interview) for all upper-class students. Gender neutral rooms are available in several halls. Students can choose their own roommates, regardless of gender, or may have ResLife select a roommate who has chosen the same housing option. Policy prevents couples (of any sexual orientation) from cohabiting; a violation will result in disciplinary action.</p> <p><i>Sources: Lewis & Clark Pioneer Log (Student Newspaper) & ResLife Housing</i></p>
Lawrence University	2006	<p>Gender-neutral housing, which allows students of different genders to share a room, is available. All areas selected have rooms with private bathrooms. Gender-neutral housing will be an option only in the following locations: 3rd/4th floors of Hiatt, 300 S. Meade St and 203 N. Union St.</p> <p><i>Source: Lawrence University Residence Life</i></p>
Oberlin College	2004	<p>Originally proposed in 1996, an all-gender floor was introduced in one hall in 2004. Today, four floors total offer all-gender housing. In 2006, Administrators agreed to phase in the housing option in all residence halls (excluding single-gender halls) by the 2016-2017 academic year.</p> <p><i>Source: The Oberlin Review, May 12, 2006</i></p>
Oregon State University	2008	<p>Upper-class/transfer students can select a roommate regardless of gender identification. Students will be housed in one hall in an apartment-style setting. Students elect the option when filling out their "personal profile" in the housing application.</p> <p><i>Source: OSU Housing & Dining Services</i></p>
Pitzer College	2008	<p>All students have the option, though are not required, to fill out their gender on their housing form. Students, including first years, will be allowed to specify the gender of their roommate. This option is available campus-wide.</p> <p><i>Sources: The Student Life, Feb. 29, 2008 & Pitzer College Residential Life</i></p>
Portland State University	N/A	<p>Students of any gender "may request to live together in the same dorm room, [though] few have done so."</p> <p><i>Source: Oregonian, Mar. 30, 2008</i></p>

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University of California-Berkeley	2008	<p>“Mixed gender roommate” option available at the Unity Theme House. Open to all students, regardless of gender identity or expression. Student can identify with any gender, without official documentation. Affiliated with the Gender and Women’s Studies major and LGBT studies minor.</p> <p><i>Source: UC Berkeley Residential Theme Programs</i></p>
University of California-Riverside	2005	<p>Offers a gender-neutral housing option to all students in several locations on campus including in a theme house. Roommates may either pair up (regardless of gender) or be assigned housing regardless of gender. Priority is given to students who self-identify as requiring accommodations based on their gender identity or expression.</p> <p><i>Source: UCR LGBT Resource Center</i></p>
University of Connecticut	2007, expanded in 2008	<p>In 2007, UConn began a gender-neutral pilot program (in one gender-neutral suite, five students shared two triple rooms). Beginning in the fall of 2008, UConn will allow 30 students to apply for spots in five more gender-neutral suites.</p> <p><i>Source: Hartford Courant, May 26, 2008</i></p>
University of Michigan	N/A	<p>Offered to students on a case-by-case basis. Interested students must contact a “University Liaison” to discuss gender-neutral housing options. They include either singles or doubles with a private or adjoining “unisex bathroom.” The criteria is generally judged by availability of space.</p> <p><i>Source: UMich Undergraduate Housing</i></p>
University of Pennsylvania	2005	<p>Upper-class students (who are over 18 years old) can choose a roommate of any gender. Roommates must mutually agree to live together. “Those interested are required to appear in person at the Housing Conference Services office and sign an agreement giving consent to live in a gender-neutral setting.” Students who agree to live in a “gender-neutral setting” must also agree to allow Housing to assign a new roommate, regardless of gender, if there is a vacancy.</p> <p><i>Sources: UPenn Housing Handbook (2005-2006), The Daily Pennsylvania, Jan. 27, 2005</i></p>
University of Southern Maine	2004	<p>Offers upper-class students the option of living in a gender-neutral floor or in gender-neutral rooms dispersed throughout several residence halls. Living options include doubles and suites. Students make roommate requests. No additional screening process or paperwork is required.</p> <p><i>Source: University Business Magazine, Jun. 2004</i></p>

College/University	Year Introduced	Description of Policy
Reed College	2008	<p>In fall 2008, Reed College will provide inclusive rooming options for 28 returning students; spaces will be available in both double and triple rooms.</p> <p><i>Source: Oregonian, Mar. 30, 2008</i></p>
Sarah Lawrence College	2004	<p>Upper-class students can choose to room with anyone of a different gender in any upper-class double or triple. "All-gender" roommate assignments are never given. About 50% of upper-class students live in singles and the other half live in doubles and triples. There is no additional screening process.</p> <p><i>Source: Sarah Cardwell, Assistant Dean for Residential Life, via e-mail</i></p>
Skidmore College	2008	<p>Gender-neutral rooming is available for all students (including first-year students) in one residence hall on one floor. Offered on a first come, first serve basis for upper-class students while first-year students may select the option by filling out the appropriate portion of the housing questionnaire.</p> <p><i>Source: Skidmore College Residential Resources</i></p>
Stanford University	2008	<p>Stanford will offer "gender neutral" housing options to sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students starting autumn quarter. The one-year pilot program will be offered during the 2008-09 academic year in five residences: Narnia and Terra (Row houses), Castaño (an upper-class residence hall), Mirrieles (an undergraduate apartment complex) and Rains (a graduate student apartment building).</p> <p><i>Source: Stanford Report, Apr. 2008</i></p>
Swarthmore College	2001	<p>Upper-class students may select to live together in a double, regardless of gender, in most halls. There is no additional paperwork or screening process. However, most upper-class students choose to live in singles, suites or apartments.</p> <p><i>Source: Liz Derickson, Housing Coordinator, via e-mail</i></p>
Washington University in St. Louis	2008	<p>Through the general housing selection process, upper-class students can choose to participate in a pilot program where housing assignments are not based on gender. This is offered in one apartment-style residence.</p> <p><i>Source: WU Housing Selection</i></p>

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Wesleyan University	About 15 years ago; policy revised in 2003 to include first-years then later rescinded*	<p>Wesleyan has allowed upper-class students to room together in a double or triple for about 10-15 years. Most upper-class students live in single rooms.</p> <p>“In 2003, Wesleyan University made national news by establishing a gender-neutral hallway in order to provide support to transgender students. But after a year, school administrators disbanded the hallway, reportedly because they were concerned about segregating the students and interest waning over time. Wesleyan now matches returning students who choose gender-neutral placements and houses them in various halls.”</p> <p>There is no additional paperwork or screening process. *Wesleyan is currently reviewing whether or not to reinstate gender-neutral housing for first-year students.</p> <p><i>Source: Wesleyan Trans/gender Group & TLPI</i></p>
Willamette University	2008	<p>The pilot program will be offered for upper-class students as part of a separate application. Willamette University reserves the right to prohibit couples of any sexual orientation to room together. Gender-neutral rooms will be available in selected residence halls.</p> <p><i>Source: Statesman Journal, Mar. 23, 2008</i></p>