This year Housing and Residential Education (HRE) will offer a gender-inclusive housing as a pilot program for returning students. Gender-inclusive housing is defined as a housing option in which two or more students mutually agree to share a multiple-occupancy bedroom, suite, or apartment regardless of students’ sex or gender. Gender-inclusive housing provides students increased choice in selecting roommates in order to respect and support the various needs of our students. In addition, gender-inclusive housing provides more options for students who do not wish to live in more traditional room arrangements. This supports the CI’s non-discrimination policy with respect to gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Gender-inclusive housing fosters a campus climate that is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of all students. This approach lessens the impact of heteronormative assumptions regarding housing assignments. It provides options for a variety of students: those who feel uncomfortable rooming with members of the same sex, those who feel they would be more compatible with a roommate of a different sex or gender, and those who do not want sex or gender to be a limiting factor in choosing a roommate. This practice helps create an environment that acknowledges, appreciates, and respects the diverse nature of the CI student body, while giving students more options in finding a roommate who is truly compatible.

Gender-inclusive housing increases student choice in determining living arrangements. This opportunity is consistent with CI’s approach to education, where the University supports students’ development as self-directed adults, able to take personal responsibility over all dimensions of their lives. This learning occurs through students’ active decision-making and engagement in the learning environment, both in and out of the classroom.

How to Obtain a Gender-Inclusive Room Assignment:
The pilot program for gender-inclusive housing will be available for all returning residents in Anacapa Village, Santa Cruz Village, and University Glen Town Center. Returning students may express interest in the housing application. The option is available to transfer students through special requests coordinated with HRE. The following guiding principles apply:

- The request for roommates occurs through the supplemental application process.
- Returning students must apply following the same processes and deadlines of all students entering the housing selection process. In addition, the student must complete the supplemental form at the following link no later than April 21, 2016 for priority room assignment consideration: http://goo.gl/forms/nGXo5CRm6u. (link opens on Monday, April 11).
- Students will not be required to reveal their reasons for opting to live in gender-inclusive housing. All students will have a conversation with a HRE professional staff member so that the University can provide housing and roommate support that best meets the needs of the student.
- Students will not be assigned to gender-inclusive housing unless they have elected to do so.
- This program is intended for students who wish to share an entire apartment or suite with individuals of a different sex or gender that cannot be accommodated through the present room assignment process.
- There is no specific number or limit of gender-inclusive spaces on campus and students wishing to live in a gender-inclusive arrangement may choose from Santa Cruz Village, Anacapa Village, and Town Center.
- We encourage students to maintain an open dialogue with their families regarding their room assignment choices, particularly when they select a gender-inclusive assignment.

This accommodation option is only available to returning residents who complete the gender-inclusive housing process with HRE. To request gender-inclusive housing, please complete the following application: http://goo.gl/forms/nGXo5CRm6u. (link opens on Monday, April 11).

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