

Gender Non-Specific Housing Key Concepts

What is Gender Non-Specific Housing?

- Gender Non-Specific Housing is an option that allows individuals of any gender to room together.
- It is an opt-in only program; no students will ever be forced to live in Gender Non-Specific Housing at UNC-CH

Why is Gender Non-Specific Housing Beneficial?

- Gender Non-Specific Housing is an issue of accessibility, student choice, and student safety.
- Everyone benefits from the Gender Non-Specific Housing Option because it would allow close friends of the opposite gender to room together, family members of the opposite gender (e.g. brothers and sisters), and students facing disabilities that require a medical attendant of the opposite gender.
- There are many students for whom the current gender based housing assignments policy results in harassment, threats of physical harm, and/or property damage. Often times, these threats go unreported to housing or other university officials. These in turn are a threat to those students' mental and physical health, their academic success, retention, and matriculation.
- More prospective students (and parents) are evaluating the desirability of schools based the availability of Gender Non-Specific Housing. It will increasingly be an issue of student recruitment and retention.

Do other Universities have Gender Non-Specific Housing?

- 32 public institutions and 66 private institutions provide a Gender Non-Specific Housing option (as of October 7, 2011).
- Six (6) of UNC-CH peer institutions have Gender Non-Specific Housing Options: University of Pennsylvania, University of California-Berkeley, Duke University, Emory University, Johns Hopkins University and University of Michigan.

How can Gender Non-Specific Housing be implemented?

- The Gender Non-Specific Housing Policy is an *option* in addition to the traditional housing processes. NO student will be forced into Gender Non-Specific Housing.
- The process of selecting a roommate for Gender Non-Specific Housing option is similar to the current housing process. However, the pool of possible roommates is not limited to individuals that have the same sex assigned at birth.
- If an interested student is under eighteen (18) that student must have parental permission to be in Gender Non-Specific Housing.
- A small number (32) of spaces will be set aside in suites and apartments to accommodate Gender Non-Specific Housing.

If you have any question, comments and/or concerns, please contact Kevin Claybren at claybren@live.unc.edu or Terri Phoenix at tphoenix@email.unc.edu