



**Resources for
Trans and
Questioning
Students at Brown
6th edition**

**Created by GenderAction
Subgroup of the Queer
Alliance
Spring 2014**

An Introduction

This guide is designed for incoming first year students and current Brown students who identify as transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, androgynous, two-spirit, third gender, agender, or any other non-normative gender identities. It lists many of the resources available on campus, and we hope that it helps you to navigate Brown University, see what we have to offer!

Who We Are:

GenderAction is the trans* and gender advocacy sub-group of the Queer Alliance. We work with campus administration to make Brown an accepting place for students of all gender identities and expressions. For example we have and continue to work with: Health Services, Psychological services, Residential Life, Computing and Information Services, and more. We also organize educational and awareness-raising events and performances throughout the year, such as Trans 101 workshops and Trans* Awareness Week each Fall.

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On Campus Health and Psychological Services

Health Services on Campus

University Health Services (401-863-3953) provides confidential medical care, testing and treatment. Emergency contraceptive pills and treatment for sexually transmitted infections are available. Emergency care available 24 hours a day. Located in Andrews House at the corner of Brown and Charlesfield Streets.

- Health Services general website for booking appointments and exploring what attention health services can provide:
http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/

Brown Health Education

- The website for Brown Health Education is a very helpful resource for various health-related issues such as sexual health, drug and alcohol use, nutrition, general health, and sexual assault, harassment and dating violence. It includes a section on trans health. Found at
http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/Health_Education/index.htm

Health Services FAQ:

What steps is Health Services taking to become more welcoming to trans students?

Working with a consultant (hired Feb. 2010) who is also a Brown alum, Health Services has undertaken a number of initiatives to be more welcoming and to improve care for trans* students. This ongoing work includes:

- Training for medical providers
- Most health services staff have attended a 2-hour Trans 101 from a Healthcare Perspective training given by

Dr. Turco of Dartmouth Health Services, an endocrinologist, and some of his trans patients. Some staff have some additional education, and GenderAction anticipates more training will occur in the future.

- The identification of specific medical providers (see below) who are working on developing expertise in trans* health issues and who have expressed a particular interest in working with trans students.
- Training for medical assistants and schedulers
- A comprehensive review of services, including paperwork, signs and posters in the building, and the Health Services and Health Education websites, to identify areas for improvement. Some illustrative (not comprehensive) areas identified and in the process of being addressed are:
 - Including an optional gender identity history question on appropriate intake forms.
 - Determining ways to solicit preferred name and pronoun.
 - Including an optional checkbox to initiate a conversation about gender identity related treatment preferences with your provider on appropriate forms.
 - Advertising on testicular/gynecological health to students of diverse genders.
 - Updating trans health section of the health education website.
 - Revising our medical release form to ensure information related to gender identity is only released with the students' permission.

Throughout this learning process, Health Services welcomes trans students to utilize their services and would be grateful for any feedback you can offer. If you have any concerns or questions about care at Health Services, please contact [Lynn Dupont@brown.edu](mailto:Lynn_Dupont@brown.edu). Lynn is the Associate Director of

Health Services and she follows up on all student feedback.

Are there specific providers I can request at Health Services?

Students are welcome to make appointments with any provider at Health Services. In addition, some of Health Services' medical providers are working on developing particular expertise in the area of transgender health care. You can request any of these providers by name when you call to make an appointment:

- Cindy Capra, Nurse Practitioner
- Laura Ward, Nurse Practitioner
- Patricia Maier, Physician
- Marsha Miller, Physician

You can learn more about these providers, including pictures and education backgrounds, at www.brown.edu/health. These providers are pursuing training in this area as of April 2012 and are still learning about trans* care. Throughout this learning process, Health Services welcomes trans* students to utilize their services and would be grateful for any feedback you would like to offer them. If you have any concerns or questions about care at Health Services, please contact Lynn_Dupont@brown.edu. Lynn is the Associate Director of Health Services and she follows up on all student feedback.

What trans-related procedures will Brown Student Health Insurance cover?

Currently, Brown Student Health Insurance covers both HRT and gender confirmation surgery.

The following procedures are now covered under Brown Student Health Insurance:

Mastectomy, Hysterectomy, Salpingo-oophorectomy, Vaginectomy, Metoidioplasty, Scrotoplasty, Urethroplasty, Placement of testicular prostheses, Phalloplasty, Orchiectomy,

Penectomy, Vaginoplasty, Clitoroplasty, and Labiaplasty.

For specific questions about how coverage works, please contact the Student Insurance Office:

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Office_of_Insurance_and_Risk/students/

As many students do not have Brown health insurance and Health Services will work with any student to work out insurance coverage/payment. Regardless of your insurance, do not let concerns about cost stop you from making (free) appointments at Health Services or discussing options with providers.

Psychological Services on Campus

Psychological Services at Brown (401-863-3476) is located in J. Walter Wilson Room 516. Note: This department provides short-term psychotherapy; each student can have 7 free sessions per year.

- Psychological services website:
http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Psychological_Services/
- If you have a psychiatric emergency or have been sexually assaulted or harassed, crisis support is available 24 hours a day during the school year through Brown's Psychological Services on-call system at **401-863-3476**. Also, Sexual Assault and Harassment Crisis Support is available at Brown 24 hours a day by phoning **401-863-6000**

Psych Services FAQ:

Can Psych Services refer me to providers specializing in gender identity or generally transgender-friendly counseling?

Yes. We will work with each student on an individual basis to

make referrals—the first step is to meet with someone in Psych Services so we can learn how best to meet your needs. Then the provider you met with will do research specifically on your behalf to make an appropriate referral. We are potentially limited by the resources available in the community.

Can Psych Services provide a letter vouching for me to get gender confirmation surgery?

These letters are usually provided by clinicians who have been working with the student for some time and who are specialists in gender identity. Since our work with all students is brief (maximum of 7 sessions/year), we are not able to provide this service. We would refer students to the local community for specialty services.

Whom at Psych Services should I contact about receiving transgender-friendly care?

When you call, it is best to tell the Office Manager, Donna Barao, that you prefer to see one of the clinicians who identify themselves as transgender-friendly.

Whom should I contact to give feedback or voice concerns?

We always welcome your feedback. Please be in touch with the Director, Sherri Nelson. It's best to contact her by phone (401.863-3476). Her e-mail address is Sherri_Nelson@Brown.edu

What training have Psych Services staff received on giving care to trans* people?

In January 2011, Sara Kimmel, a LGBT mental health specialist at Harvard, came and trained the psych services staff in transgender sensitivity, including pronouns and unique problems that trans students might face. GenderAction hopes

to help psych services to make this a recurring training topic.

Can Psych Services refer me to providers specializing in gender identity or generally transgender-friendly counseling?

Yes. They will work with each student on an individual basis to make referrals—the first step is to meet with someone in Psych Services. This referral network has recently been updated, and there are now options for trans students who would like to continue their counseling.

Sexual Assault Services on Campus

**Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program
Coordinator Bita Shooshani, 401.863-2794,
bita@brown.edu, 3rd floor of Health Services:**

Bitia is available to help students affected by sexual violence and abuse in a relationship. Confidential services include support for a survivor or the friends of a survivor, help exploring options to address the incident (such as filing a complaint, if that is the student's choice) and educational programs for the student community. When you speak to Bitia, you do not have to pursue any specific course of action and no action will be taken unless it's something you choose.

Sexual Assault FAQ

Are gender-specific support groups open to transgender people who identify as that gender?

Yes. Currently there is only a group for female-identified sexual assault survivors. However, students can also request a specific group and/or program, including a group/program for another (or multiple) genders.

General sexual assault support contacts:

Sexual Assault Response Line 401.863-6000 Available through Psychological Services' on-call system. Confidential crisis support and information is available for any Brown student dealing with sexual assault. The on-call counselor is also available to accompany a victim to the hospital.

Psychological Services 401.863-3476 Clinicians provide confidential crisis support, follow-up appointments, and 24-hour on-call services for any Brown student dealing with sexual assault. Located at J Walter Wilson, Room 516.

More information may be found at

[http://brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/Health_Education/sexual assault & dating violence/](http://brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/Health_Education/sexual_assault_&_dating_violence/)

Off-Campus Health and Psychological Services

The most trans and gender-variant friendly health care practitioners in Rhode Island are part of the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP). CCAP doctors can be your primary care physician and/or your mental health counselor. They can also prescribe hormones. The clinic charges on a sliding-scale basis, which means that the less money you make, the less you have to pay. Also, the local organization TGI Rhode Island is in the process of setting up a referral program whereby you can talk to them and they can triage you into the appropriate standard of care if you are too nervous to talk to the physician yourself. See the “Local Organizations” section of this pamphlet for further information about TGI.

CCAP website: <http://www.comcap.org/>

CCAP phone number: 401-943-1981

Youthprideri.org site includes “How to Interview a Therapist or Doctor,” found under “Resources” on the website, which details information that can be very helpful when meeting with a therapist or doctor for the first time on- or off-campus: <http://www.youthprideri.org/Resources/HowtoInterviewaTherapistDoctor/tabid/192/Default.aspx>

Free and confidential STI Screenings

Currently, the Miriam Hospital Immunology Clinic is offering free and confidential STI panels that include HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis C, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia tests. The clinic is located at 1125 North Main St. (a quick ride away on RIPTA) and is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12:30-3:30pm. For more information please visit <http://www.miriamhospital.org/hiv-prevention/> or call 401-793-4715.

Email Change & Name Change

Brown hopes to eventually create a system where you would be able to put your preferred name on internal documents and systems. However, the implementation of such a system would probably be a long-term goal, and will likely not happen in the near future. In the current process, students may a) request that the first name in their email address be *changed* to a preferred first name without a legal name change and/or b) retain their assigned email and request an alias (e.g., Washington@brown.edu). Endorsements of email change requests come through the Office of Student Life. For more information about these options and to make a request, please email **OSL@brown.edu** with a request, including preferred alternate email, current email address and class year. The Office of Student Life will contact you about your request; once they send a notice of endorsement to Computing Accounts, they will create the alternate address and will notify

you by email when the change is complete. At the moment, there is no way of requesting an alias for a Brown email address through electronic form.

The change to preferred first name is for email only. Currently, the Office of Student Life is not able to provide a preferred first name that pushes out through all of the various computing and information management systems in the University.

For more information, visit:

http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/diversity_initiatives/tresources.html

If you want a less extensive process, you might take the option of just changing how your Brown email shows up in people's inboxes. (Your email would still be legalname@brown.edu but your name in the From section of someone's inbox would appear as Preferred Name.) You can do this using the Gmail-style Settings.

At the moment, the name on your ID and the name listed in Banner (Brown's online system) cannot be changed unless and until your name change is done being legally processed. This is under review along with other systems.

Assistance with Faculty Communication

Given that, at this time, class lists available to faculty will continue to show legal first name rather than preferred, individual faculty will need to be notified of your preferred name and pronouns. The University can provide assistance and support in a variety of ways. The Office of Student Life can help you think through how to speak with your faculty if

you want to do this yourself, they can provide a short letter that you can present to your faculty, or they can send a letter to your faculty on your behalf. A copy of this letter and additional information about these services can be found here: http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/diversity_initiatives/tfacultycom.html

Student Groups

Queer Alliance

This is the umbrella organization for LGBTQ student groups. Which subgroups are active, as well as their meeting times are subject to change each semester. To find out what subgroups are active and when they meet, or to sign up for the Queer Alliance newsletter (a weekly newsletter that gives subgroups meeting times and other information relevant to queer and trans* students), please email queer@brown.edu

Some of the subgroups directly relating to trans* issues include:

- **GenderAction** — An advocacy group concerning transgender, transsexual, gender queer, polygender, two spirit, agender, gender non-conforming, and gender variant issues. Projects include efforts to expand gender-neutral bathrooms, planning of a Trans* awareness week each fall, and the publication and updating of this guide!
- **Trans*PaGE** — In an effort to establish a network and community for Trans* students at Brown, and further to increase Trans* visibility on campus Trans* Programming and Gender Education discusses and engages topics of Trans* rights, policy, health, and more generally the Trans* experience. One initiative is to collaboratively plan and produce semesterly pieces of lasting and evocative media. Email sana_teramoto@brown.edu or

noah_lupica@brown.edu for more information.

Relevant groups outside of the QA:

- **TNT** - The Next Thing is a confidential support and discussion space for bisexual, gay, lesbian, queer, questioning, transgender, and two-spirit people of color.
- **SHEEC** - Sexual Health Education and Empowerment Council is a student run council for the promotion of sexual health and wellness on campus.

Local Resources

Gender Spectrum Group at Youth Pride RI

This group is a designated time for youth like you to get together, share information, ask questions and explore your identity journey in a safe, non-judgmental environment. You do not have to identify in any particular way to attend. If you say you belong there we believe you! Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30. Check out our calendar for exact dates and any potential schedule changes.

Visit Youth Pride's website for more information:

<http://www.youthprideri.org/>

TGI Network Support Groups

TGI (Transgender, Gender-variant, and Intersex) Network of Rhode Island runs several support groups for trans* people and their families, partners, and friends. These include:

- Borderlands
- TransPartners New England
- TransFamily New England
- Southern New England FTM

Visit TGI Network's website for more information:

<http://www.tginetwork.org/>

General Information

I Think I Might Be Transgender; Now What Do I Do?

Written by transgender youth, this pamphlet provides answers for young people who feel that the gender to which they were born, or assigned at birth, does not fit them. (2004)

T-Vox www.t-vox.org

A comprehensive advice, information and support website for genderqueer, intersex, transgender and transsexual people, their friends and their family.

Gender Talk www.gendertalk.com

The home of the leading talk radio program on all issues of gender -- and much more.

REFUGE Restrooms <http://www.refugerestrooms.org/>

This is a resource list of gender neutral and single stall bathrooms all over the US and some international locations. Anyone can add a safe bathroom to this list.

LGBTQ Center

brown.edu/lgbtq

Location: 321 Faunce House, 75 Waterman St.

The LGBTQ Center provides a comprehensive range of education, information and advocacy services and works to create and maintain an open, safe and inclusive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students, faculty, and staff, their families and friends, and the campus community at large.

We recognize that sexual orientation and gender expression work through and are influenced by race, ethnicity, gender, culture, age, disability, class, faith and other social

characteristics. In keeping with the ideals of Brown University we commit to justice, equality, and respect for all persons in all of our endeavors.

First-Year Housing

All first-year residence peer leaders have basic training in Trans 101. Incoming first years who are trans*, genderqueer, or identify as outside the binary have a few housing options. If you feel you need help with advocacy or advice during the processes, please contact the LGBTQ Resource Center or GenderAction.

There are two primary ways for first-year students to get housing without being assigned a roommate based on their legal sex:

1. **Gender Neutral Housing Option:** Under this program, started in Fall 2013, incoming first-year students have the option to check a box on their housing form that will allow them to be matched with a roommate regardless of legal sex. Essentially this means that the category of sex will be removed on the form and the student will be matched with another student who has also opted into the Gender Neutral program. After filling out the housing form all students who opted for this program will be contacted via email by the housing director, Natalie Basil (Natalie_Basil@brown.edu), to confirm their desire to participate in the program and make sure that they understand the purpose and target of the program.

All roommate pairs will be matched according to the standard criteria (i.e. questions about music, mess, smoking etc.). These roommate pairings will be distributed among the

various first year residence halls with attention to the proximity of gender neutral restrooms. Since students in this program are not asked their gender identity, roommate pairs could share the same gender identity, have different identities, or could both be allied students.

This program is intended for trans* students as well as allies or anyone who does not want the sex of their roommate considered. We hope that this program affords trans*, questioning and allied students the opportunity to ensure an understanding roommate while having the same roommate experience of all the other students at Brown.

2. If you wish to have a more in-depth conversation with residential life about your options as a trans* student you can contact them directly, there are two ways to do this:

1. On the general online housing form under Part C there is red link to a page about alternative housing for reasons of gender identity. On the page there is the phone number to request a discussion about special accommodations for reasons relating to gender identity. You can also email natalie_basil@brown.edu if you are uncomfortable calling. If you call or email Res Life and they will respond using that form of communication.
2. The gender you put into the general online housing form's gender blank does not match the gender that is recorded for you in Banner. Natalie Basil will then automatically contact you by email to check in about housing options. Any gender, including those other than male or female, is welcome.

Either of these options initiates a discussion between you and Res Life staff where they will try to understand your needs and offer various options. If you are uncomfortable having

this discussion via email or phone, or feel that your needs are not being properly met, contact Kelly Garrett, the LGBTQ Center Coordinator, for support at any point in the process.

We cannot give a comprehensive list of options you will be presented with because Res Life has not developed such a list, due to the small number of cases they have dealt with thus far.

SOME more likely options that MAY be available include:

- Placement in a single in a building with a gender neutral bathroom.
- Ability to choose a roommate you already know prior to coming to Brown (for example from a summer program or your hometown).
- Placement in a first-year dorm that has a private lockable bathroom for every two rooms.

If either of these options, first year gender neutral housing or working with residential life do not fit your needs, you may at any time opt back into the default doubles housing with someone of your legal sex. It is fine to call or email Natalie Basil just to explore options/ask questions about the process.

There may be other variations on these options that may be available, so do not treat this as a comprehensive or guaranteed list.

Gender-Neutral Housing After First Year

For students after their first year, gender neutral housing is available to anyone, and exists for many dorms available in the housing lottery. Check out http://reslife.brown.edu/current_students/special_needs.html for more information.

Starting with the spring 2014 housing lottery all rooms on Brown's campus will be gender neutral optional. This means

that any grouping of students, regardless of legal sex, can choose to live together on a dorm on campus. The only exceptions to this are a single female only and a single male only floor that are assigned through an alternate opt-in process.

Gender-Neutral Bathrooms

First years work with Natalie Basil to set up a bathroom situation that meets their needs (see above section on First Year Housing sample options). Many of the first-year dorms were renovated between 2012 and 2014 and now contain many gender neutral bathrooms. Half of campus contains single-use lockable bathrooms for every few rooms, while the other half contains several gender neutral bathrooms on every floor.

Many of the post-first-year gender-neutral housing options are suites with a private, single occupancy bathroom. Some Greek houses, program houses, and co-ops may also have de facto gender neutral bathrooms. In the event you get stuck with housing that does not have a bathroom that meets your needs, you should contact Natalie Basil for a discussion; however, she advises students to first “make all attempts” to choose housing with a good bathroom situation. While we are working on designating new gender neutral restrooms, the average residence hall usually does not have gender-neutral bathrooms. Dorms are allowed to designate gender neutral restrooms by community agreement, so this is an option if the dorm does not already have such a restroom.

As far as public restrooms go, there are various gender neutral bathrooms on campus. For a listing of those not in residence halls, see http://brown.edu/Student_Services/Office_of_Student_Life/lgbtq/genderneutralrestrooms.html.

Maps of gender neutral bathroom locations on campus are

available in the Faunce Lobby and in the LGBTQ Resource Center.

Gyms and Athletics

The Nelson Fitness Center/Coleman Aquatics Center has a gender neutral locker room with a shower and toilet located near the pool. The facility also has gender specific locker rooms with individual shower stalls with curtains.

Olney-Margolies Athletic Center (OMAC) has gender specific bathrooms and locker rooms with open (gang) showers. There are no gender neutral locker rooms available but the OMAC is located near the Nelson Fitness Center.

The Pizzitola Sports Center also has gender specific bathrooms and locker rooms with gang showers that are specifically aimed at sports teams.

Satellite Gyms

The Bear's Lair and Emery fitness center have gender neutral and gender specific bathrooms nearby (no showers available). Bigelow gym (in Keeney Quad) does not have a bathroom located in its immediate vicinity but is located in a residence hall.

Varsity Athletics

If you are interested in playing for a varsity team as a trans athlete, there are NCAA guidelines developed for trans athletes to play on varsity teams. For more information about these guidelines and a link to the full report visit:

<http://sports.glsen.org/resources/on-the-team/>. If you have any questions about participating in varsity athletics as a trans athlete at Brown, please contact the LGBTQ Center at lgbtq@brown.edu.

Club and intramural sports are significantly less concerned with gender than varsity athletics. Many sports at the club and intramural levels do not discriminate in regard to gender or gender identity.

RI Laws

Rhode Island law explicitly provides that discrimination based on gender identity or expression constitutes an unfair employment practice. Discrimination based on gender identity in credit, housing, and public accommodations is also prohibited. For more questions see: <http://www.glad.org/rights/rhodeisland/c/anti-discrimination-law-in-rhode-island>

Still Confused?

You can contact the Queer Alliance at queer@brown.edu

Or current students:

Sami Overby (Sami.overby1@gmail.com)

Noah Lupica (Noah_Lupica@brown.edu) or

Sana Teramoto (Sana_Teramoto@brown.edu)

Still questioning?

So are we.