

Special Interest Housing Office of Residence Life 2025-2026 Gender Inclusive Community

Southeast Missouri State University is pleased to be offering Gender Inclusive Housing for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Gender Inclusive Community supports the Southeast Missouri State University Non-Discrimination policy. It provides a housing option for students who are transgender, non-binary, who are more comfortable living with someone who is not the same gender/sex assigned at birth, and for those whose same assigned gender/sex at birth room assignments are not ideal or appropriate. It is an inclusive and voluntary community.

I. Student Eligibility and Application Procedures

a. Eligibility

- i. All students
- ii. Students will need to complete a housing contract and the Special Interest Housing supplemental questions in the housing contract.

b. Application Procedures

- i. Students must complete the housing contract for the 2024-2025 academic year, and they need to indicate that they are interested in living in the Gender Inclusive Community.
- ii. Students must also complete the Special Interest Housing supplemental questions located in the housing contract.
- iii. As with all other Special Interest Housing communities, students will need to reapply each year for the Gender Inclusive Community.

c. Timeline

- i. Applications for the Gender Inclusive Community will follow the timeline of other Special Interest Housing Communities.
 1. When the housing contract goes live, applications will begin being accepted for the community.
 2. Spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
 3. Room selection will follow the timeline for housing assignments as set by the Office of Residence Life.

d. Parental/Guardian Involvement

- i. As with any housing choice, students are highly encouraged to speak to their parents/guardians about their decision to live in the Gender Inclusive Community.
- ii. If a student is under the age of eighteen, consent from their parent/guardian is required for them to take part in this community.
- iii. If a student is over the age of eighteen, no consent is required from a parent or guardian, as a student can legally decide about their housing contract.

II. Housing Assignments

- a. Students will not be asked to disclose their reasons for wanting to live in the Gender Inclusive Community, but romantic relationships within the same living space (suite/room) are discouraged.
- b. All students living in this community will opt-in to this experience.
 - i. No students will be assigned to the Gender Inclusive Community who have not completed the application process.
- c. Location of the Community
 - i. Vandiver Hall
 - 1. Students who are not members of the community will live on the other wing of the second floor of the building
- d. Roommate and Suitemate Selection/Selection of Room
 - i. Students will be able to preference their roommates and suitemates.
 - 1. As with other Special Interest Housing communities, all students in a room/suite must have been accepted into the community for them to live there.
 - ii. Students who are accepted into the community by the required date and who have completed the housing contract by the required date will be eligible to participate in housing assignment selection during the time set by the Office of Residence Life.
 - 1. Students who did not complete the housing contract and/or who are not accepted into the community by the required date will be assigned by Office of Residence Life staff.
- e. Under-occupied Spaces
 - i. If a room/suite is not filled during self-assignment, the answers on the student's questionnaire will be used by the Office of Residence Life staff to make assignments.
 - ii. All room changes which occur within, into the community, or out of the community will be done through the room change process.
 - 1. Anyone who is requesting to move into the Gender Inclusive Community will be required to complete the supplemental questionnaire.
- f. No Longer Interested in Community (Room Changes)
 - i. If a student is no longer interested in living in the community before housing assignments are made, they need to contact the Office of Residence Life at learningcommunities@semo.edu and their housing preferences will be adjusted.
 - ii. If a student is no longer interested in living in the community after housing assignments are made, they will need to follow the room change process.

III. Staff

- a. All Hall Director staff will receive Bias Response Training.
- b. All staff working in Vandiver Hall will receive Bias Response Training.
- c. The Resident Assistant working with the Gender Inclusive Community will provide specialized programming and events. They will also work with the LGBT Resource Center and PRIDE to provide some of these events.