

Special Interest Housing Office of Residence Life 2021-2022 Gender Inclusive Community

Southeast Missouri State University is pleased to be offering Gender Inclusive Housing for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The Gender Inclusive Community supports the Southeast Missouri State University Non-Discrimination policy. It provides a housing option for students who identify as transgender, gender non-binary, who are more comfortable living with someone who is not the same biological and/or legal sex that they are, and for those whose same biological/legal sex 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 supplemental Gender Inclusive Community questionnaire to be eligible to live in the community

b. Application Procedures

- i. Students must complete the housing contract for the 2021-2022 academic year and they need to indicate that they are interested in living in the Gender Inclusive Community.
- ii. After they complete the housing contract, a supplemental questionnaire will be sent to them.
- iii. As with all other residential 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 18, consent from their parent/guardian is required for them to take part in this community.
- iii. If a student is over the age of 18, 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. Rooms 226-240
 - 2. 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 residential 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 self-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. Process for a space opening mid-semester or mid-year
 - 1. If a space opens in the community during the year, the roommate and suitemates will have 5 business days to identify an individual to move into the vacant space.
 - a. The individual will need to be accepted to the community through the application process.
 - b. The student's name should be shared with the Office of Residence Life (learningcommunities@semo.edu).
 - 2. If the students in the room do not identify someone within 5 business days, the Office of Residence Life will assign someone to that space from the waiting list for the community.
- 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 staff working in Vandiver Hall will receive Bias Response Training.
- b. 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.