



Gender Diversity Vocabulary

Androgynous: A person appearing and/or identifying as neither man nor woman, presenting a gender either mixed or neutral.

Assigned Gender: The gender a baby is given upon birth usually based on the child's birth sex.

Asexual: Is used to describe a person who does not experience sexual attraction

Binary Gender: The faulty concept that there are only two genders: male and female.

Birth Sex/Biological Sex: A specific set of genetic, chemical and anatomical characteristic that we are either born with or that develop as we mature.

Bi-Sexual: A person with significant romantic, emotional, physical and sexual attractions to two sexes or two genders, but not necessarily simultaneously or equally.

Cisgender: An adjective that describes a person whose assigned biological sex and gender identity align.

Gay: A male whose primary romantic, emotional, physical and sexual attractions are to other males. This term may also apply to lesbians, bisexuals and occasionally used as an umbrella term for all LGBTQ people.

Gender Expression/Identity/ Presentation: The way in which people self-identify and present their masculinity and femininity to the world. It is not necessarily visible to others. Some ways in which people may express or represent their gender include dress, hair style, mannerisms, body characteristics, name and pronouns.

Gender Non-Conforming (GNC): A term used to describe people whose gender expression differs from stereotyped expectations. "Gender variant" and "gender atypical" are also used. A GNC individual may identify as a male, female, some combination of both or neither.

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Gender Fluid: A person whose gender identification and presentation shifts, whether within or outside of societal, gender-based expectations.

Genderqueer: A broad descriptor many people use to indicate a person who does not identify as either male or female.

Heterosexual – A person who is emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted or committed to members of the opposite sex.

Homosexuality: Sexual, emotional, and/or romantic attraction to the same sex.

Intersex: A set of medical conditions that feature congenital anomaly of the reproductive and sexual system. That is, intersex people are born with "sex chromosomes," external genitalia, or internal reproductive systems that are not considered "standard" for either male or female.

Lesbian: Women who are attracted physically and/or emotionally to other women.

LGBT: Is an acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender

LGBTQ: Is an acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning

LGBTIQ- Is an acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer or questioning.

Pansexual:

Poly Sexual:

Preferred Personal Pronouns: In addition to the traditional pronouns (he/him, she/her, they), some people prefer to use gender-neutral pronouns, such as ze/hir, ne/nem/nir/nirs/nemself, ve/ver/vis/verself, or xe/xem/xyr/xemself. If you don't know a student's preferred personal pronoun, it's always best to ask.

Transgender: Used both as an umbrella term and as an identity, transgender refers to those who don't identify or are uncomfortable with their assigned gender and gender roles. As an identity, the term refers to anyone who transgresses traditional sex and gender categories. The word should be used as, "transgender," not "transgendered." For example, "My brother Sam is transgender. His birth name was Samantha."

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Transition: The process by which a person socially and/or physically aligns their gender expression more closely to their actual gender identify and away from their assigned sex at birth.