

Gender Policies

Policy Name: Gender Policies

Approval Authority: President

Interpreting and Implementing Authority: Provost

Effective: Fall, 2023

Last Revised: May, 2023

Next Review Date: May, 2028

Policy Statement

As the first college in the world chartered to grant degrees to women, Wesleyan College was established to educate those who had been marginalized by society and excluded from educational opportunities. That commitment continues today as we acknowledge that members of the LGBTQIA+ community have experienced discrimination and harassment in the broader American culture. Therefore, we are committed to providing a safe educational environment for gender minorities. This policy outlines how we will maintain our commitment to women's education and still be a welcoming community. This policy is in keeping with our statement on nondiscrimination that can be found in the College Catalogue.

Policy Details

Transgender Admissions Policy

As per the Wesleyan College Admission Policy, Wesleyan College will consider for admission all applicants who live and identify as women, regardless of biological sex, or who were assigned female at birth and identify as nonbinary or gender non-conforming if they feel they belong at a women's college. Application materials must support this self-identification, and admission counselors will help guide prospective students who need assistance with this process. Once admitted, the College will support all students regardless of changes in their gender identity and/or gender expression.

Wesleyan College Gender-Specific Language Policy

As the first college in the world chartered to grant degrees to women, Wesleyan College will maintain its use of women-centered language to reflect both our heritage and our mission. We recognize that not all of our constituents identify with feminine pronouns, and, therefore, faculty and staff will make all efforts to be respectful of individuals' pronoun and name preferences.

Preferred Name and Name Change

Students' preferred names will be used while at Wesleyan. Legal names will be used on official records of the College (e.g., diplomas, transcripts.) To change a name on these documents, a student must follow the procedure outlined in the College Catalogue. International students' names must appear on academic records exactly as they appear on the passport issued by the home country. The U.S. entry visa may not be used as documentation for a name change.

Housing and Residence Life

Residential students have the option to request to live in gender inclusive housing by selecting the "Gender Inclusive Housing" option on the housing application each year. See the Wesleyan Student Handbook for further information.

Athletics

For NCAA sport teams, Wesleyan College follows the NCAA Policy on Transgender Student Athlete Participation. For non-NCAA sport teams, there are no gender-based restrictions on participation.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each office on campus to ensure that the campus environment is safe and welcoming to all students. In addition to these policies, ongoing education for faculty, staff, and students is essential and will be provided by the College.

Interpreting and Implementing Authority

The Provost will oversee the implementation of this policy.