Gender Inclusive Housing Policy

The Gender Inclusive Housing policy permits male and female Juniata students, who would be uncomfortable in a traditional housing arrangement, to room together on campus. It aims to be more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all students, especially those in the LGBT community.

College housing policies often assume that students identify as either male or female and that they are heterosexual. Some students may feel tension or unease in living with the same gender and/or may not identify with their biologically assigned sex.

Students interested in Gender Inclusive Housing are required to submit an application that will assist the College in its support and accommodation of the student. Designated Student Affairs staff and Residential Life staff trained in relationship care will provide supportive and protective assistance for students involved in this housing option.

Residential Life staff, including a Gender Inclusive Housing Review Group, may reject candidates who give inappropriate reasons and/or unclear rationale for Gender Inclusive Housing and will recommend appropriate candidates for approval by the Dean of Students.

Gender Inclusive Housing is available at on-campus locations capable of providing appropriate facilities. Residence halls which have both men’s and women’s facilities on the same floor, as well as college-owned houses, are eligible options. Juniata will maintain single-sex bathroom facilities and, in some areas, unisex bathrooms may be designated according to student demand.
The Office of Residential Life has designated Gender Inclusive Housing options for the academic school year of 2014-2015 as:

South Hall Third Floor
East Houses (all quads and eight person suites)
(Other areas may be considered as necessary depending upon the number of applications)

These designated double rooms or suites are made available in the Room Draw process and selected in the exact same manner as all other housing units – a gender inclusive optional housing designation simply means that either an approved single-gender group or an approved mixed-gender group may select these rooms or suites. The selection of gender inclusive housing optional units will be by student choice only; no student will be assigned to a gender inclusive living situation without his or her expressed consent.

Students interested in Gender Inclusive Housing are required to submit an application that will assist the College in its support and accommodation of the student. Students will meet with the designated student affairs staff specifically trained in gender identity and relationship care to find the most suitable designated on-campus housing option. Applications can be located at http://www.juniata.edu/services/reslife/forms.html or in the Residential Life Office.
Applications must be submitted by February 9th, 2015.

Gender Inclusive Housing Contract

1. Applicants must fill the room or suite being requested to full capacity, i.e. there must be an eligible student applying for every bed in the room or suite.
2. The same procedures governing the Room Draw process will apply to approved Gender Inclusive Housing applicants.
3. Issues relating to room reassignments and vacancies will generally follow the procedure set forth in the Residential Life policy “Room Change Requests;” which can be found in the Pathfinder. Instead of consulting with peer counselors or Resident Directors, Gender Inclusive Housing residents may engage directly with the Gender Inclusive Housing Review Group and/or designated staff.
4. If a Gender Inclusive Housing resident leaves the college, cancels his or her contract, or moves to a different space within college housing, the remaining roommate(s) is/are responsible for pulling in a roommate to fill the vacancy. If the vacancy cannot be filled, any remaining roommates may assume the cost of the vacant space, the remaining resident(s) can find another roommate, or the Residential Life Office may assign a new roommate to the vacancy.
5. In the absence of extenuating circumstances, residents will communicate any plans to change rooms or cancel housing agreements as soon as the decision is made.
6. Juniata College strongly discourages students of any sexual orientation who are involved in a romantic relationship from living together in a residence hall housing setting.
7. Dependent students are required to verify parental acknowledgement to the Office of Residential Life in order to be eligible for Gender Inclusive Housing.