

What is the University's policy relating to use of restrooms that are designated for a certain gender?

All individuals may use facilities, such as restrooms, locker rooms, and changing rooms that corresponds with their gender identity; in other words, individuals may use the restroom of the gender they identify with. This is consistent with WAC 162-32-060, which prohibits requesting or requiring an individual to use a gender-segregated facility that is inconsistent with that individual's gender expression or gender identity or requesting or requiring an individual to use a separate facility.

Why are all-gender restrooms important?

All-gender accessible restrooms provide for greater access because they are available to anyone and, also, provide greater privacy for those who prefer it. This includes persons with disabilities who have a caregiver of a different gender, parents with a child of a different gender than themselves, or those who are trans or are genderqueer.

What has the University done to increase the number of all-gender restrooms?

In 2007, a student-led report cited the lack of inclusive restrooms on campus, with areas of focus on gender and disability accessibility and parent equity features. With the support of the Q Center, former Vice President for Student Life, Eric Godfrey, and former Vice President for the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, Sheila Edwards-Lange, funds were committed for the project by the Provost's office to increase the availability of all gender accessible restrooms in the core buildings surrounding the Quad, which is an area of high use by students. This project is now complete.

The University is making plans to conduct a comprehensive audit of physical spaces, which will include identifying single-use restrooms that are currently designated for a specific gender to evaluate transforming them to an all-gender accessible restroom, similarly to those identified in the Q Center project. Although this project will take some time, restrooms that can be prioritized on a building-by-building basis will be identified. The goal of this review will be to increase options for everyone and ensure that the restrooms meet all applicable regulatory and safety standards.

Can multi-use restrooms be made all-gender accessible?

For multi-use restrooms, there are certain features that should be in place, such as stalls that provide a high degree of privacy for individual users. Departments should not attempt to convert a multi-stall gendered restroom to an all-gendered restroom without seeking a review from the facilities services department for your campus.

What if I see someone whose appearance is not consistent with the gender of the restroom and it makes me uncomfortable. Can I ask that person to leave?

No. If you are uncomfortable about a person who is using a particular facility, you may use a separate or all-gender facility, if available. If you have concerns about an individual's behavior, then take appropriate steps, such as calling 911. Any action against a person who is using a restroom or other facility can only be taken due to that person's actions or behavior while in the facility, and cannot be based on their gender expression or gender identity or perceived gender expression or identity. Efforts are being made to provide signage with information about other restroom locations within buildings.

Don't all-gender accessible restrooms have greater issues with cleanliness?

As with any restroom, if you have concerns about cleanliness, you may contact Custodial Services at 685-1500 or 685-1411 after hours.