

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Transgender
Students in
College



You have Rights!

PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Public colleges generally offer more legal protections, but you are not necessarily out of luck at a private university. Depending on the situation, state laws, and the source of your institution's funding, you may be protected by the law.

Contact us – **we will help you figure it out!**

THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTS MANY FREEDOMS AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES INCLUDING YOUR RIGHT TO:

- Discuss queer/trans topics
- Express your gender identity
- Wear t-shirts stating your views
- Throw dance parties or organize pride events
- Invite guest speakers to speak about queer/trans topics

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Public colleges cannot censor lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, queer, or transgender messaging based on their viewpoint or just because the messages may be controversial.

Colleges often have their own anti-harassment policies that cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

Although the First Amendment protects everyone's freedom of speech, even those who say hurtful words, harassment is not protected. If you are being harassed and the perpetrator is preventing you from getting your education, your public university must intervene.



Sex Discrimination

At institutes that receive federal funding, including many private ones, sex discrimination is banned under a federal law known as Title IX.

Title IX covers discrimination against transgender students, gender non-conforming students, and gender-based discrimination against cisgender students. It also makes it a legal requirement for colleges to respond to sexual violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students in addition to cisgender students. Same-sex campus housing can exist, but transgender students should be housed based on their gender identity.

Restrooms

Transgender students should have the right to use the restroom and all other gender specific facilities labeled for the gender they identify with. If you are having problems, try pointing to the school's policies, local and state laws about discrimination in educational settings, discrimination in public accommodations, and/or Title IX. All-gender restrooms are always wonderful, but if there is not a gender-neutral option available or if you prefer to use the restroom that aligns with your gender identity, then that is your right!

ACLU of Pennsylvania
www.aclupa.org

Requests for legal assistance:
877-745-ACLU (2258) or www.aclupa.org/complaint

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