



Trans and LGBTQIA+ @Chatham

A Resource Guide for
Incoming Queer, Transgender,
Nonbinary, Gender-Expansive,
and Gender-Questioning Students
at Chatham University

Welcome



to Chatham!

Starting college is exciting, challenging, and sometimes overwhelming. For transgender and gender-diverse students, it can also bring unique questions about housing, healthcare, identity documents, community, safety, and belonging.

This guide is designed to help you navigate your transition to Chatham and Pittsburgh by connecting you with campus, local, and national resources. Whether you are openly trans, exploring your gender identity, or somewhere in between, there are people and organizations ready to support you.

LGBTQIA+ Initiatives

Chatham explicitly affirms transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming students as part of its commitment to an inclusive campus environment. The university sponsors LGBTQIA+ programming, student leadership opportunities, educational events, and community-building initiatives.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- LGBTQIA+ student organizations
- Campus Pride events
- Lavender Graduation celebrations
- Educational workshops and speaker events
- Student leadership opportunities

Chatham's Queer Student Alliance meets regularly and is a great resource for community here on campus. E-mail odei@chatham.edu with any questions about joining and find the QSA on instagram at [@chatham.qsa](https://www.instagram.com/chatham.qsa)

Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI) serves as a central hub for:

- Identity-based student support
- Advocacy and referral services
- Educational programming
- Community-building opportunities
- Multicultural and LGBTQIA+ initiatives
- Monthly Queer Family Dinners

ODEI staff can often help connect students to appropriate campus and community resources when needs arise. For questions and support, please reach out to Ali Hoefnagel, coordinator of student engagement & belonging, at a.hoefnagel@chatham.edu and the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at odei@chatham.edu

The ODEI Lounge: A Place to Belong

Your Home Away From Home

Located across from Student Affairs in Woodland Hall, the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion's ODEI Lounge is a welcoming, affirming space where students can relax, connect, study, and build community. Whether you're looking for a quiet place between classes, a supportive conversation, or simply somewhere you can show up as your authentic self, the lounge is here for you.

For many LGBTQIA+ students, and especially transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive students, the ODEI Lounge serves as an important community hub—a place where identity is celebrated rather than explained.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- Comfortable seating and quiet study space
- Opportunities to connect with other students
- Information about campus and community resources
- Snacks, coffee, and occasional treats
- Identity-affirming books, materials, and educational resources in our Social Justice Library
- ODEI staff members available to answer questions and provide support
- Programming throughout the year focused on community, wellness, leadership, and advocacy
- A monthly Queer Events Board highlighting LGBTQIA+ specific happenings across Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas

STOP IN—NO INVITATION REQUIRED

You do not need to be involved in a specific program or organization to use the lounge. Students are welcome to stop by to study, recharge, meet friends, attend an event, or simply take a break from the demands of campus life.

FINDING COMMUNITY

College is often where students discover new communities and deepen their understanding of themselves. The ODEI Lounge is one of the easiest places on campus to meet other students who are passionate about inclusion, social justice, and supporting one another. Many lasting friendships, mentoring relationships, and student initiatives have started with a simple conversation in the lounge.

NEED SUPPORT?

If you're unsure where to start, have questions about campus life, need help accessing resources, or just want someone to talk with, ODEI staff can help connect you with the people and services that best meet your needs.

The ODEI Lounge is more than a space—it's a community. We hope you'll make it part of your Chatham experience. E-mail ODEI@chatham.edu with any questions and to find out what's happening in the lounge.

Student Affairs & Dean of Students

The Dean of Students office can assist with:

- Student advocacy
- Campus concerns
- Bias-related incidents
- Academic and personal support referrals
- Emergency student assistance

The Dean of Students and Office of Student Affairs are here to help. If you have questions or would like to set up a time to meet with your Dean or our support staff, e-mail osa@chatham.edu or visit our office on the first floor of Woodland Hall.

Counseling Center

College can be stressful, especially while navigating gender identity questions or transition-related experiences. Chatham's Counseling Center can help. Located on the lower level of Woodland Hall, the Counseling Center can provide support around:

- Gender exploration
- Coming out
- Family relationships
- Anxiety and depression
- Identity development
- General mental health concerns

To learn more about the services of the Counseling Center and to schedule an appointment, reach out to counselingcenter@chatham.edu or call 412-365-1282.

Student Health Services

Located on the lower level of Woodland Hall near the Counseling Center, Student Health Services can assist students with:

- General healthcare needs
- Referrals to affirming local providers
- Preventative care
- Wellness education
- Essential needs
- Condom and Narcan distribution

Students seeking hormone therapy or specialized gender-affirming care will be referred to trusted community providers. If you have questions or need to visit the Student Health Center, e-mail studenthealth@chatham.edu or call 412-365-1714.

Housing

If you have questions regarding housing assignments, roommates, gender-inclusive living options, or accommodations related to gender identity, contact Residence Life as early as possible.

Questions to ask:

- Are gender-inclusive housing options available?
- What roommate matching options exist?
- How are room changes handled?
- What accommodations can be made for transgender students?

Our Office of Residence Life is happy to help and answer questions about housing options. Visit them on the second floor of the Carriage House, e-mail reslife@chatham.edu, or call 412-365-1518. Check out Res Life's department page on myChatham for information on Gender Inclusive and Gender Specific Housing options, as well as Communal Restrooms.

Preferred Name, Pronouns, & All Gender Restrooms

Chatham supports the use of chosen names and pronouns across campus systems.

You may be wondering:

- How do I update my chosen name?
- Where will my legal name still appear?
- How do I update my pronouns?
- Can my chosen name appear on class rosters and student ID cards?
- Where are the All Gender Restrooms on campus?

My.chatham.edu is your one-stop-shop for requesting name changes. Visit the Documents & Forms tab and select Student Affairs to find out how to change your name in our systems, as well as where you can find our all gender restrooms on campus. E-mail osa@chatham.edu with any questions. [Pittsburgh Community Resources](#)

Pittsburgh has a robust LGBTQ+ community with several organizations specifically serving transgender individuals.

Mental Health & Community Support

Persad Center

One of the oldest LGBTQ+ service organizations in the United States, Persad provides:

- Individual counseling
- Support groups
- Psychiatric services
- Gender-affirming therapy
- Transgender support programs
- Family support programs

Persad offers specialized transgender support groups and counseling services designed around transition-related concerns and community building. Learn all about what Persad Center offers at persadcenter.org or call 412-441-9786

Pittsburgh Equality Center

Pittsburgh Equality Center serves as a bridge that promotes education, advocacy, and social justice for all LGBTQIA+ people and allies in Western Pennsylvania.

They offer:

- Community events
- Peer connections
- Educational programming
- Volunteer opportunities
- Resource referrals

Visit pghequalitycenter.org for all the info, or call 412-422-0114

Gender-Affirming Healthcare

Central Outreach Wellness Center

A nationally recognized LGBTQ+-focused healthcare provider serving many transgender patients. Services include:

- Hormone replacement therapy
- Primary care
- STI testing
- Sexual health services
- Mental health referrals
- Gender-affirming healthcare navigation

Central Outreach specifically identifies support for transgender and queer patients as part of its mission. Visit centraloutreach.com or call 412-322-4141 to learn more about all of their offerings.

Allies for Health + Wellbeing

Allies for Health and Wellbeing provides HIV treatment, care, and support for Pittsburgh residents. Find confidential HIV services, counseling, and treatment at Allies.

- Healthcare navigation
- HIV services
- Case management
- Community support
- Referrals to affirming providers

Allies is a major LGBTQ+ healthcare resource in the region. You can find them online at alliespgh.org and speak with them by calling 412-345-7456

Transgender-Specific Organizations

TransYOUning

TransYOUning is a mutual aid non-profit providing resources to Pittsburgh's Transgender, LGBTQIA+, and HIV+ community. They provide:

- Mutual aid
- Advocacy
- Housing support
- Community programming
- Workforce development

Founded to support transgender individuals, particularly Black transgender women and other transgender community members, TranYOUning is an excellent resource. Visit transyouningpgh.org or call 412-346-1324 to learn more about their services.

SisTers PGH

SisTers PGH is a black and trans-led non-profit organization which serves POC, trans, and nonbinary people within Southwestern PA. SisTers PGH provides:

- Advocacy
- Programming for transgender and nonbinary individuals
- Community support
- Housing
- Emergency assistance

SisTers PGH is a longstanding and key transgender resource in Western Pennsylvania. Learn all about them at sisterspgh.org and follow them on instagram at [@sisterspgh412](https://www.instagram.com/sisterspgh412)

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation supports health within LGBTQ+ and HIV communities by addressing the Center for Disease Control social determinants of health. Hugh Lane offers:

- Peer support
- Wellness initiatives
- Community-building programs
- Resource referrals

Frequently recommended within Pittsburgh's LGBTQ+ support network, you can find out more about how they can help you by visiting hughlane.org or calling 412-626-3812

Legal & Name Change Resources

Name Change Project

The Name Change Project is a program under SisTers PGH that aims to support Trans, Non-binary, and other Gender Non-conforming individuals on their journey to legally change their name for the purpose of better affirming their gender identity. This program can provide assistance with:

- Legal name changes
- Pennsylvania legal processes
- Court paperwork
- Community guidance

While this journey can be necessary to avoid further judgment, discrimination, and violence against TGNC individuals, It can be a confusing and stressful process. Visit www.sisterspgh.org/the-name-change-project to complete the form to be added to the waitlist for help. New resources to assist with legal name changes in the state of Pennsylvania continue to pop-up. If you need help identifying current and reputable resources, reach out to odei@chatham.edu

Building Community in Pittsburgh

Many Chatham students find connection through:

- Pittsburgh Pride events
- LGBTQ+ sports leagues
- Queer arts organizations
- Drag performances
- Community volunteer opportunities
- Student organizations and events at nearby universities

The Pittsburgh LGBTQ+ community is generally interconnected, making it relatively easy to find affirming spaces and community support. Qburgh.com is an excellent, up-to-date resource identifying events, news, and community gatherings across Pittsburgh. Looking for a drag-brunch to attend, a queer dance party, or a gay sports team to join? Start here.

Crisis Support

Trans Lifeline

Trans Lifeline is a grassroots crisis and peer-support hotline run by and for transgender individuals. Call them if you need someone trans to talk to, even if you're not in a crisis or if you're not sure you're trans. This resource provides:

- Peer support hotline
- Microgrants for identity documents
- Community resources
- Crisis support

Visit translifeline.org for information and call the hotline at 877-565-8860. Trans Lifeline's hotline operating hours are Monday through Friday, 1:00-9:00 p.m. EST.

The Trevor Project

Connect to a crisis counselor 24/7, 365 days a year, from anywhere in the US via text, chat, or phone. The Trevor Project is 100% confidential and 100% free. When you reach out, you can expect:

- 24/7 crisis intervention
- Suicide prevention resources
- Text and chat services
- LGBTQ+ educational materials

Visit them online at thetrevorproject.org to find out how to chat, call or text with experienced counselors.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Call or text: **988** Available 24/7 throughout the United States.

Legal Advocacy

Lambda Legal

Lambda Legal, is a civil rights organization that focuses LGBTQ communities through impact litigation, societal education, and public policy work. Reach out to Lambda Legal for:

- Legal information
- Litigation support
- Advocacy
- Know-your-rights resources

For support or to get involved in Lambda's services, visit lambdalegal.org

American Civil Liberties Union

The ACLU has been at the center of nearly every major civil liberties battle in the U.S. for more than 100 years. They provide:

- Civil rights advocacy
- Educational materials
- LGBTQ+ legal resources

A major legal resource available to LGBTQ+ individuals, you can visit the Pennsylvania ACLU chapter at aclupa.org

National Center for LGBTQ Rights

The National Center for LGBTQ Rights advances lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality through impact litigation, public policy, and public education. They specialize in:

- Legal information
- Gender identity advocacy
- Family law resources

The NCLR is the first national LGBTQ legal organization founded by women and brings a fierce, longstanding commitment to racial and economic justice and our community's most vulnerable. Learn about them and get involved at nclrights.org

Education & Advocacy

Glisten

Glisten is an American education organization working to end discrimination, harassment, and bullying based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and to prompt LGBTQ cultural inclusion and awareness in K-12 schools.

They provide:

- Educational resources
- Research
- Advocacy tools
- Campus inclusion materials

Formerly GLSEN, you can find out more at glisten.org

Human Rights Campaign

The Human Rights Campaign is an American LGBTQ advocacy group. It is the largest LGBTQ political lobbying organization within the United States. It provides:

- Policy updates
- Equality advocacy
- Educational resources
- Healthcare and workplace guidance

Learn about the work of the HRC at hrc.org

Queer Quick Start Checklist

New to Chatham?

BEFORE AND AFTER ARRIVING ON CAMPUS:

- Connect with ODEI
- Review housing options
- Learn Chatham's chosen-name process
- Locate affirming healthcare providers
- Save crisis resource numbers
- Join LGBTQIA+ student organizations
- Follow local LGBTQ+ organizations on social media
- Identify a trusted faculty or staff member

A Final Note

Your experience at Chatham does not have to be a solitary one. Pittsburgh has a strong network of transgender students, professionals, advocates, healthcare providers, and community organizations. Whether you're beginning your transition, continuing it, or simply exploring who you are, there are people here who want you to succeed.

You belong here, and there is a community ready to welcome you.

Prepared for incoming and current queer, transgender, nonbinary, gender-diverse, and questioning students at Chatham University (2026 edition)



CHATHAM UNIVERSITY
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Woodland Hall

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myChatham > Services & Departments > Diversity, Equity & Inclusion