**LGBTQ and You**



**Juniata College
Health and Wellness Center**

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Juniata College strives to be an inclusive, safe place for students from all backgrounds to study and become better citizens. However, like all places and institutions, not all individuals are accepting. Members of the LBGTQ community, individuals coming out, allies or curious affiliates of the college could find this packet potentially useful.

**What Does LGBTQ Mean?**

The acronym stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/ Questioning. These words include sexualities and genders different from the heterosexual male/female binary.

**Lesbian**- emotional, spiritual and/or erotic attraction between women.

**Bisexual**- emotional, spiritual and/or erotic attraction to both males and females.

**Gay**- emotional, spiritual and/or erotic attraction to persons of one's own gender.

**Transgender**- of, relating to, or being a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that differs from the one which corresponds to the person's sex at birth.

**Queer**- A political perspective, as well as a sexual orientation, that advocates for the dissolution of binary thinking. The individual views both sexual orientation and gender identity as potentially fluid.

**Questioning**- exploring one’s gender and sexuality. An individual has not reached a conclusion to what group they believe they belong to.

Diverse descriptions for groups that fall under LGBTQ/Q would be:

**Asexual**- having no sexual attraction to either gender.

**Homosexual**- persons emotionally, spiritually and erotically attracted to their own sex, whether or not they engage in sexual acts.

**Heterosexual**- sexual, emotional, and/or spiritual attraction to a sex other than your own.

**Pansexual**- expressing or involving sexuality in many different forms or with a variety of sexual outlets; fluid in sexual orientation and/or gender or sex identity.

**Transexual**\*- a person who strongly identifies with the opposite sex and may seek to live as a member of this sex especially by undergoing surgery and hormone therapy to obtain the necessary physical appearance (as by changing the external sex organs).

*\*Do NOT confuse transsexualism with transvestitism.* A transvestite is a heterosexual (usually a male) who regularly or occasionally wears the clothing that not assigned to their gender. They are comfortable with their anatomy and do not wish to change it. They may do it for sexual gratification.

   

**For LGBTQ Individuals:**

 **Support Groups, Resources and Clubs on this Campus**

* AWOL, All Ways of Loving- the purpose of this organization is to serve as a social and activist student club for bisexuals, lesbians, gay people, queer people, transgendered people, heterosexual allies, and anyone questioning their sexuality. The organization works to make Juniata a more open and safe community by increasing awareness and acceptance of LGBT\* people and educating the campus community about homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. AWOL sponsors activities and programs on campus which provide opportunities for members of the LGBT\* community and their allies to meet with each other along with others in the campus community.
* Grace Fala, Professor of Communication, Faculty Advisor of AWOL
* FALA@juniata.edu
* awol@clubs.juniata.edu
* Trans\* Parachute United- a transgender support and education group that meets once a week. Their primary focus is to provide a safe space for people of all genders, including those who are questioning their gender and has directed students towards the Health and Wellness Center when appropriate. The group’s secondary purpose is to try to educate the campus about transgender issues.
* transparachute@clubs.juniata.edu

Unity House

* Office of Diversity and Inclusion - supports Juniata’s efforts to meet the diverse cultural and spiritual needs of our student population and promotes students in expressing a wide variety of backgrounds and ideas while making sure everyone can live and learn harmoniously on the campus.
	+ (814) 641 3125
	+ Rosalie Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion
	+ rodrigr@juniata.edu
* Campus Ministry – a helpful resource for students who may be having trouble reconciling their identity with their religious beliefs.
	+ (814) 641 3360
	+ David Witkovsky, College Chaplain
	+ witkovl@juniata.edu

The p-drive on the campus has a lot of LBGTQ-related information. Go to Administrative/DiversityAndInclusion/Media Library/Pamphlets &Flyers

* Juniata College Health and Wellness Center- the H & W Center exists on campus to support any and all students for any problems that they may have. Two full-time counselors, graduate interns and a consulting psychiatrist work to support students in confidentiality. They have valuable experience working with students who are coming out, questioning themselves or need someone to talk to.
	+ (814) 641-3353
	+ Kerry Harper, College Counselor, MSW, LCSW
	+ harperk@juniata.edu
	+ Patricia S. Hunter, College Counselor, MA, LPC
	+ hunterp@juniata.edu
* KUVO- a private support group for first and second-year students, formation of group each semester/year is based on expressed student needs and interest. Please contact Grace Fala for more information.
* Grace Fala, Professor of Communication How do we say it? Meeting frequency
* (814) 641 3467
* FALA@juniata.edu
* Dean of Students Office – Has a Bias Response Team that acts as a “safe and confidential resource for members of the Juniata Community to raise immediate concerns regarding specific instances of harassment or other acts of bias-based behavior that appear to violate Juniata's commitment to developing a campus community that celebrates and actively supports diversity along a variety of dimensions including race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, ability/disability, veteran, family status, and skin color.”
* Kris Clarkson, Dean of Students
* (814) 641 3152
* clarksk@juniata.edu
* Dan Cook-Huffman, Assistant Dean of Students
* (814) 641 3151
* cookhud@juniata.edu
* Residence Life

Gender Inclusive Housing- The Gender Inclusive Housing policy permits male and female Juniata students 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. Gender Inclusive Housing is intended to provide safe, comfortable, and supportive housing options for all students, especially those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender. The Residence Life office is located in Tussey-Terrace Residence Hall.

**How You Can Help, Whether You are LBGTQ or Not**

**Allies**: allies are heterosexual individuals who are considerate of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and pansexual individuals. Allies on campus, whether they are faculty, staff or students, help create a safer and more open environment for LBGTQ members. Allies and LBGTQ members in general, do not have experience with all forms of the LBGTQ community. However, allies do try to be emotionally supportive. Many of these members can be identified throughout campus with the Safe Zone symbol:

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**Safe Zones:** Safe Zones are areas (most likely an office or a residential room) where LBGTQ members and allies can meet in a safe environment. These are supportive areas where LBGTQ members can come out, voice concerns, vent and find information. Anything said or done here is supposed to be confidential.

* *Training*- Each year, Safe Zone Training is offered to members of the Juniata community who want to earn a Safe Zone certificate. Residential Life members (RAs, RDs) are required to attend. Close to 200 people have received this training over the past five years.
* *Campus Wide*- Members of the LBGTQ Juniata community have not always felt safe on this campus but support has been evident on campus through clubs and programs since 1993. W*hile not ideal yet,* the campus continues to evolve and become more supportive. Most members today consider the campus climate to be affirming and nourishing.

**Reporting**: If you see harassment or hear hate speech against anyone (whether or not it’s based on sexuality), please report it immediately to a member of Residence Life, the Dean’s Office, the Office of Diversity, a Professor and/or Public Security. Juniata College should be a safe area for everyone to live and learn. Being actively involved in supporting and protecting the campus community is the responsibility of everyone.

**Works Cited:**

Juniata College Office of Diversity & Inclusion. *Juniata College*.

LGBT resources -- definition of terms. *Gender Equity Resource Center*.

What is Safe Zone? How do I find information to start a heterosexual ally program on my campus? (2005). *Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals.*

Pflag Information and Resources. (2012) www.community.pflag.org

And special thanks to all the club officers who helped explain their group’s goals!