

# DEFINITIONS:

**Gay Man:** A man who is attracted to other men. "Gay" can refer to both men and women.

**Lesbian:** A common and acceptable term for a woman who is attracted to other women.

**Bisexual:** A person (of any gender) who is attracted to both men and women.

**Transgender:** An umbrella term that includes people who view gender on a spectrum, rather than a polarized, either/or construct. It includes transsexuals, those who defy what society tells them is appropriate for their gender, crossdressers, and intersex people. The sexual orientation of a transgender person varies.

- The term transgender can also refer specifically to people who feel they are a different gender than their bodies. They may be straight or gay. Some have gender-affirming surgery, others do not.

**Ally:** A person who supports sexual and gender diversity, challenges those who don't, and works toward equality.

**Queer:** Historically derogatory, queer is now used as an umbrella term to include all sexual and gender diversities.

**Heterosexism:** The assumption that all people are or should be heterosexual. Heterosexism excludes the needs, concerns and life of LGBTQ people while it gives advantages and privileges to heterosexual people. It is often a subtle form of oppression.

**LGBTQ:** The acronym that means Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender. The addition of a "Q" means "questioning" or "queer."

# RESOURCES:

## LGBTQ Resource Center

uh.edu/lgbtq  
832.842.6191

## Counseling and Psychological Services

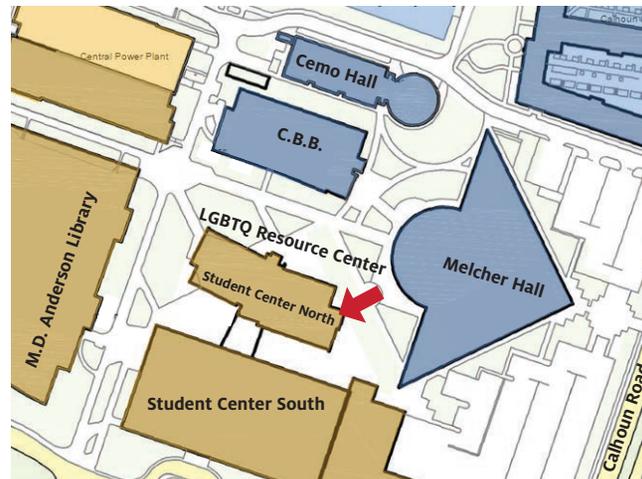
uh.edu/caps  
713.743.5454

## Womens and Gender Resource Center

uh.edu/wgrc  
832.842.6191

## Residential Life Office

uh.edu/housing  
713.743.6000



# SO YOU HAVE A LGBTQ ROOMMATE?



832.842.6191

Student Center North, N201

[www.uh.edu/lgbtq](http://www.uh.edu/lgbtq)



@uhlgbtq

# DON'T ASSUME YOUR ROOMMATE IS STRAIGHT

When you move into your new dorm room at the beginning of the year, you may have some anxiety about meeting your roommate. Will you get along? Will your roommate be messy? You and your roommate may end up as friends, or you may just tolerate each other until the end of the school year. But what if your roommate is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBTQ)? **What do you do then?**

**If your roommate comes out to you**, you should try to keep an open mind and not judge. It is important to be aware of your personal boundaries, what you feel comfortable discussing, and your own values and personal beliefs regarding LGBTQ people. After your roommate has come out to you, **acknowledge that you've heard them and remain respectful.**

Keep in mind that **coming out is a brave thing** to do, as it puts the LGBTQ person in a vulnerable position. Because of prejudice, LGBTQ people risk rejection every time they come out to someone. If your roommate comes out to you, it means they want to live authentically and be honest with you. The first thing that may be going through your head is that your roommate is going to be attracted to you; that you aren't going to be able to undress in front of your roommate.



## Relax.

It's likely that your roommate is not attracted to you. Just as heterosexual people are not attracted to all members of the opposite sex, LGBTQ people are not attracted to everyone of the same sex.

## Remember.

**It is okay to ask questions.**

If you have never known a LGBTQ person, you may have questions for your roommate regarding their sexuality, about their dating life, or even questions about how they came out and came to know that they are LGBTQ.

The key to any good relationship is good communication; should you have any concerns, bring them up. Don't be afraid to ask questions or voice concerns.

**Communication will help** the two of you figure out what to do about your concerns.



## Respect.

If you find it difficult to remain respectful, tell your roommate you are not sure how you feel, but would like to talk about it later. Then, seek out resources so you can address your assumptions or stereotypes about LGBTQ people. The **UH LGBTQ Resource Center** is a safe place to do this. Then, return to the conversation, voicing your questions or concerns in a civil manner.

## R.A.

**Your RA may be able to help you with these conversations, especially if you are not sure how to get started.**



@uhlgbtq