

# LGBTQ+ Identifier Question

Valuing LGBTQ+ Students Across All Backgrounds

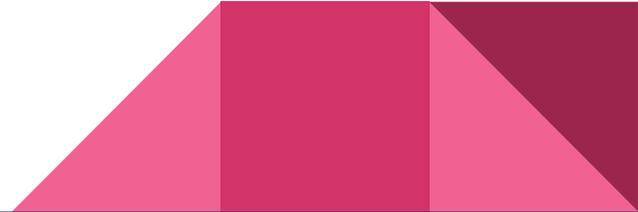


# What is the LGBTQ+ Identifier Question

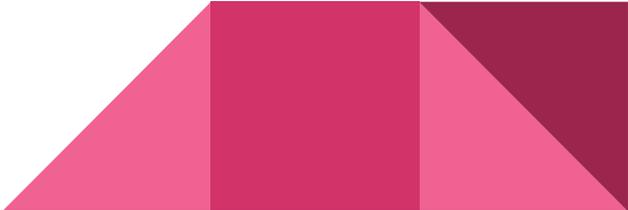
Question Collecting Gender and Sexuality Demographic Information on the UVA Undergraduate Application

- Current Sex
- Pronouns
- Gender or Sexual Minority Status

Optional to provide answer



# What purpose would the question serve?

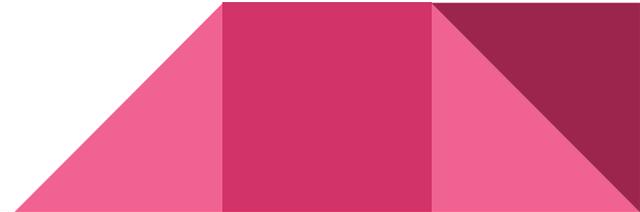
- 1) Track Acceptance, Transfer, and Graduation Rates
  - 2) Track Health Statistics within Student Health
  - 3) Reveal Correct Pronouns to professors, advisors, and health care providers
  - 4) Help Advisors Understand Individual Student's Experience
  - 5) Direct Students to Supportive Resources (ex: LGBTQ Center, QSU, etc.)
  - 6) Allow the University to protect and advocate for LGBTQ+ Students
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# How is this similar to other identifying questions?

Through the Common Application, UVA obtains information about:

- Religious Preference
- Military Status
- Ethnicity
- Race

Information is initially used to place students on community listservs



# Why is this question needed?

Provides support and inclusivity of LGBTQ+ students

Makes the University more appealing to applicants

Validates identity of applicants

LGBTQ+ people deserve to see themselves represented in the intake process

We know the % for racial identities

Why not LGBTQ+?



# Why is UVA ready for this?

Despite the national conservative climate, this question needs to be asked.

There is sweeping support from the majority of the UVA student community.

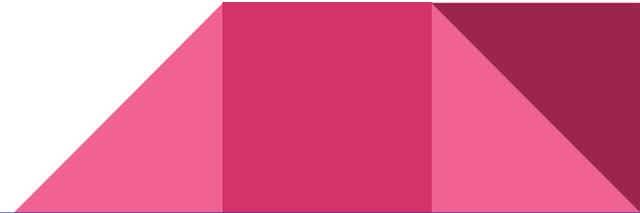
Policy areas have improved recently include health and housing, but admission policy still falls short.



# Which internal institutions already collect this information?

The School of Law

Darden School of Business



# What are institutions equivalent to UVA that collect this information?

## PUBLIC:

University of Massachusetts Amherst

University of Maryland

University of Iowa

University of California

Purdue University

Ohio State University

## PRIVATE:

Duke University

University of Pennsylvania

Massachusetts Institute of

Technology (MIT)

Elon University

Dartmouth College

Elmhurst College



# What results when the question is asked?

Elmhurst College was the first to adopt such a question, and reports that about 3 percent of applicants annually check a box indicating that their identity is something other than straight.

In the first year with the question, 353 of 21,600 applicants checked the box on the University of Iowa application. In the second year, 870 of 24,000 applicants checked the box.

Stu Schmill, Dean of Admissions at MIT, said that the response to the question has been "overwhelmingly positive" and that 75 percent of applicants answer it.

# What is the current status of the Common App?

- Preferred name (nickname): \_\_\_\_\_
- Have you ever used any other names?
- Sex assigned at birth: Male/Female
- If you would like the opportunity, we invite you to share more about your gender identity below: (a box to type into; not data)
- There are no identifying questions done by the UVa specific application



# Why is this not enough?

- Incorrectly asks for sex at birth, not current sex
- The box asking for explanation is a poor way to code for gender information
- Needs to be more inclusive by asking for pronouns
- Only addresses the T in LGBTQ



# What resources would be streamlined?

- Upperclassmen Open Housing options
  - Name Change via IT for class rosters and UVA email
  - Student Health: Trans Health Clinic
  - LGBTQ scholarships available from the LGBTQ alumni group, The Serpentine Society
  - LGBTQ Center under the Office of Dean of Students
  - LGBTQ affiliated groups: Queer Student Union, Sigma Omicron Rho, Pride @ Darden, Lambda Law, qMD, QueerGrads
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# What do we recommend the question look like?

**Do you openly identify as a gender or sexual minority (eg. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, etc)?**

**Yes or No**

Do you identify as transgender or gender non-conforming? Yes or No

What pronouns do you use?

Check all that apply

- a.** he/him
- b.** she/her
- c.** they/them
- d.** Other: (with box to type in)

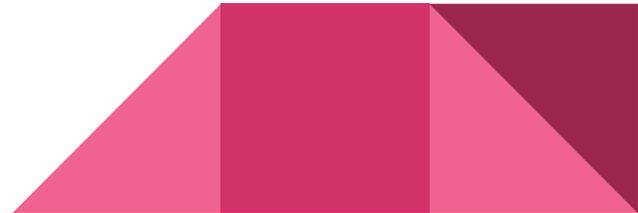


# What are the goals of this committee?

We believe that this question needs to appear on the application for next fall.

This nicely centralizes all of the LGBTQ resources that already exist within the University. The Office of Admission has the power to change the matriculation process for LGBTQ students in order to make resources more accessible and the overall experience more equitable.

Once the question is implemented, we hope to be able to set up an LGBTQ New Student Peer Mentorship Program.

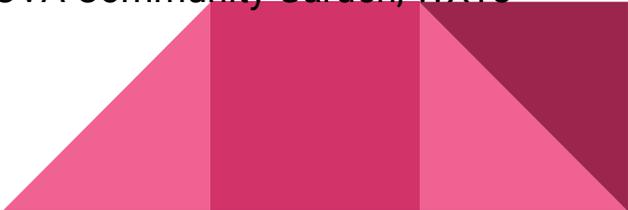


# What support have we received thus far?

Petition: 200+ Signatures from people in the following organizations\*

\*does not necessarily denote formal group cosponsorship

**Affiliated Organizations:** Alpha Phi Omega, Center for Contemplative Science, Cavalier Daily, Challah for Hunger, Feminism is for Everyone, First Year Players, Flying Virginians, Green Grounds, Society for Women Engineers, LGBTQ Center Volunteer Corp and Interns, Latinx Student Alliance, Workers and Students United, Minority Rights Coalition, Muslim Student Association, Virginia Interfaith Coalition, Sigma Kappa, Club Figure Skating, Phi Delt, Phi Sigma Pi, UJC, Stud Co, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Omicron Rho, PULSE, Sustained Dialogue, Queer Student Union, Roller Derby at UVA, Shakespeare on the Lawn, HackCville, Student Council, Middle Eastern Leadership Council, No Lost Generation, UVA Community Garden, WXTJ Radio, Washington Debate Society, Madison House Volunteer



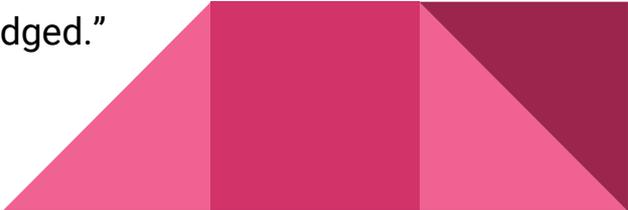
# Student Testimony

“This will help the University become more inclusive as incoming students will feel safer knowing that their university supports them. In today's age, more students are looking for universities where they know they will be individually protected and accepted. This initiative will point students in the direction of the appropriate support they seek.”

“As a trans female, this would help me and other fellow transgender students here on Grounds in many ways. Being able to have a preferred name and pronouns would make life comfortable and enjoyable for both parties.”

“I'm queer identified and my family didn't accept me when I came out right before moving in as a first year. Having more support from UVA would have been really helpful.”

“[The identifier question] helps the university and its students better tailor activities and services to a portion of the student body that is underrepresented and under acknowledged.”



# Thank You!

“I believe there are a significant amount of LGBTQ students that do not have the support they would like at the University because they are not aware of the resources at a critical time in their college career: transitioning to college life. After entering the University, they are afraid to seek out resources for fear of being outed before they are ready. This initiative would allow resources to be sent out to them confidentially and may incentivize their use.”

