

## LGBTQ+ Terms

**Ace or Asexual people:** Individuals who generally do not experience sexual attraction to others of any gender. Some do experience romantic attractions. Asexuality differs from celibacy in that celibates have a sexual attraction, but choose to abstain from sex.

**Agender people:** Individuals who identify as not having a gender. Some describe themselves as genderless, while others see themselves as gender neutral.

**Androgynes:** Individuals who identify androgynously. They have a gender which is both feminine and masculine, although not necessary in equal amounts.

**Aromantic people:** Individuals who experience little or no romantic attraction to others of any gender.

**Bi or bisexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to people of more than one gender.

**Cis or cisgender people:** Individuals who identify with the gender that was assigned to them at birth (i.e., people who are not transgender).

**Crossdressers:** Individuals who, at times, wear clothes traditionally associated with people of a gender different from one's own.

**Demigender people:** Individuals who feel a partial connection to a particular gender identity. Examples of demigender identities include demigirl, and demiboy, and demiandrogynous.

**Demiromantic people:** Individuals who do not feel romantic attraction to someone unless they have already formed a strong emotional bond with the person.

**Demisexual people:** Individuals who typically do not feel sexual attraction to someone unless they have already formed a strong emotional bond with the person.

**Heteroflexible:** Individuals who are primarily heterosexual, but who may engage in same-sex sexual activity in certain situations. As it is defined by the Urban Dictionary, "I'm straight but shit happens."

**Gay men:** Men who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to other men.

**Gender binary:** The social system that sees only two genders and that requires everyone to be raised as a man or a woman, depending on the gender assigned to them at birth.

**Gender fluid people:** Individuals whose gender varies over time. A gender fluid person may at any time identify as male, female, agender, or any other non-binary identity, or some combination of identities.

**Genderism or cissexism:** The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that privilege cis people and subordinate and disparage trans and gender-nonconforming people.

**Genderqueer people:** Individuals who identify as neither male nor female (but as a third gender), as both male and female, or as somewhere in between.

**Gray asexuals or Gray A's:** Individuals whose sexuality is not "black or white"; they experience sexual attraction infrequently or not very strongly.

**Heterosexism:** The assumptions that all people are heterosexual and that heterosexuality is normal and is superior and more desirable than being asexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, and other non-binary sexual identities.

**Heterosexual people:** Men who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions attraction to women, and vice versa. Also known as “straight.”

**Intersex:** An umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural biological variations of individuals who are born with a chromosomal pattern, a reproductive system, and/or sexual anatomy that does not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies.

**Lesbians:** Women who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to other women.

**Neutrois people:** Individuals who identify their gender as neutral or null. They may also identify as “agender.”

**Non-binary gender and gender-nonconforming people:**

- Umbrella terms for individuals who do not fit into traditional “male” and “female” gender categories.
- Includes individuals who identify as agender, bigender, gender fluid, genderqueer, and various other genders.

**Pangender people:** Individuals whose gender identity and/or gender expression is numerous, either fixed (many at once) or fluid (moving from one to another, often more than two).

**Panromantic people:** Individuals who is are romantically, but not sexually, attracted to others regardless of their gender identity or biological sex.

**Pansexual people:** Individuals who are attracted to others regardless of their gender identity or biological sex.

**Polysexual people:** Individuals who are attracted to more than one gender and/or form of gender expression, but not to all.

**Queer:** An umbrella term to refer to all LGBTQ+ people. It is also a non-binary term used by individuals who see their sexual orientation and/or gender identity as fluid.

**Queerplatonic:** Non-romantic relationships that involve close emotional connections that are often deeper or more intense than what is traditionally found in friendships.

**Same-gender loving people:** Individuals who experience same-gender attraction. The term originated within communities of color as an alternative to “lesbian” and “gay,” which they feel does not speak to their cultural heritage.

**Sapiosexual people:** Individuals who are attracted to people based on intelligence, rather than gender identity or biological sex.

**Sexually fluid people:** While many people will experience changes in their sexual orientation over their lifetimes, individuals who are sexually fluid experience changes in their sexual orientations more frequently.

**Skoliosexual people:** Individuals who are sexually attraction to people with non-binary gender identities.

**Trans, trans\*, or transgender people:**

- Umbrella terms for individuals whose gender identity and/or expression is different from the gender assigned to them at birth.
- Trans people include transsexuals; individuals who cross-dress or who present androgynously; agender, demigender, and genderqueer individuals; and others who cross or go beyond traditional gender categories.

**Trans men:** Female-to-male (FTM) transsexual people or transsexual men -- individuals assigned female at birth who identify as male.

**Trans women:** Male-to-female (MTF) transsexual people or transsexual women -- individuals assigned male at birth who identify as female.

**Two spirit people:** A Native American term for individuals who blend the masculine and the feminine. It is commonly used to describe individuals who historically crossed gender. It is also often used by contemporary LGBTQIA Native American people to describe themselves.

Forthcoming in Genny Beemyn, *Campus Queer: The Experiences and Needs of LGBTQ+ College Students* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press).