

## **GENDER NEUTRAL HOUSING POLICY**

3.17.2021

The Delaware College of Art and Design is committed to providing safe, welcoming, and inclusive housing options for all students. The Gender Neutral Housing Policy allows two or more students to occupy a single living space regardless of biological sex, gender identity or gender expression. The intent of this policy is to provide students with a housing option that will best suit their personal, social, and community needs. Gender Neutral Housing (GNH) supports the college's non-discrimination policy and acknowledges the various and evolving needs of the student population.

### **Availability and Selection Process**

All students have the option of requesting Gender Neutral Housing. Both the 707 and Saville Residence Halls can accommodate GNH in any of our multiple-occupancy rooms (doubles and triples). GNH roommate requests must be requested mutually by all roommates with an understanding of the expectations and standards listed below.

Random roommate assignments will be single-sex by default.

Current students may choose a Gender Neutral housing assignment through the room selection process at the end of each academic year. Information regarding room selection is distributed in March.

New students may request Gender Neutral Housing by contacting the Student Services Office directly. They can be reached at 302-622-8867 ex. 215, or by email at [mfreeman@dcad.edu](mailto:mfreeman@dcad.edu).

### **Expectations for Gender Neutral Housing**

All students must abide by the code of conduct outlined in the Student Conduct Handbook, including policies relating to abusive, threatening, or harassing actions, and sexual misconduct. In the event that a student believes that their living situation is contributing to a violation of any of these policies, they should inform the Student Services Office immediately. Reports will be accepted through in-person, email, or third party reports or through filing an Incident Report through the DCAD website.

Students requesting Gender Neutral Housing must read and agree to the following:

- I am entering this living arrangement freely and by choice, and I agree to remain in this living arrangement for the duration of the school year. I understand that room relocations are based on the Housing Relocation Policy.
- Failure to abide by the student code of conduct or displays of behavior that are contrary to the intent of GNH may result in disciplinary action including room relocation, loss of privileges to participate in GNH, or housing contract termination.

- I understand that emergency room relocations are dependent on available spaces per the Housing Relocation Policy and may not be able to accommodate continued participation in GNH. In the event of a room relocation due to a significant policy violation, the victim will be offered the opportunity to move to a new space first. If the victim does not wish to move, the offender will be moved. Residence Hall staff will be present to monitor relocations of this nature.
- I understand that GNH is not intended for romantic partners. DCAD discourages romantic partners from entering into a shared living arrangement, but does not ask for a student's reasons for choosing GNH. Roommate conflicts resulting from termination of a romantic relationship will be treated the same as non-romantic roommate conflicts.
- If one or more roommates vacate the space before the end of the year, the remaining student(s) must find a new resident to take the vacant space or accept another student assigned by Student Services. It may not always be possible for subsequent assignments to maintain GNH in the event of an unforeseen vacancy.
- I agree to provide feedback to Student Services regarding my experience in GNH as requested.
- It is my choice to discuss Gender Neutral Housing with parents, guardians, and/or family members if I am over 18 years old. DCAD encourages all students to be open about their living choices so that their families can learn about GNH and support the student's choice. *DCAD will not communicate your living preferences to guardians without explicit written consent.*

*I agree to abide by the guidelines for Gender Neutral Housing as indicated in this document. I have been given a copy of the guidelines for my reference.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Roommate(s): *(must be mutually requested)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_