LGBTQIA Support is IUP’s all-inclusive umbrella term for anyone who identifies as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, or Ally--anyone on the rainbow spectrum.

Helpful Terms

"Sex" refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men (males) and women (females).

"Gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that society considers appropriate for men (masculine) and women (feminine).

“Gender identity” is the internal sense of gender which is not visible to others. One’s gender identity may or may not align with one’s assigned sex at birth.

“Sexual orientation” refers to whom one is sexually attracted. Gender identity and sexual orientation may affect one another but they are not the same.

“Trans*” or “Transgender” is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity or expression does not match the gender they were assigned at birth.

“Cisgender” is someone whose gender identity matches the gender assigned at birth.
What should I do if my roommate or a friend comes out to me?

Don’t freak out! The best thing to do is simply listen, even if you disagree. When someone comes out on their own, it means this person is living life openly and honestly. Individuals often will come out to individuals that are trusted. It is important to respect that confidence and trust since the person may not be ready to tell others. Also, know that your friend may not have a lot of answers to your questions. This can be an opportunity to learn together.

What should I do if I am harassed or experience discrimination for being a member or ally of the LGBTQIA community?

Know that it is not your fault. IUP has a variety of ways to support you. Please consider reporting what happened to you so that intolerance can be addressed.

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What We Do

LGBTQIA Support at IUP serves the entire IUP community, including students, faculty, and staff. In collaboration with University offices and colleagues such as the Office of Social Equity, LGBTQIA Support works to create a welcoming and supportive campus climate for all LGBTQIA individuals.

- Present in classes and for organizations
- Ally Training for campus
- Resource person for student needs on campus
- Queer Arts Fest
- Collaborate with Pride Alliance (student LGBTQIA group)
- Policy work (Preferred First Name and others)
- #PronounsMatterIUP Campaign
- Queer Conversation Workshop Series
- Queer Trans People Of Color (QTPOC) group
- Assist students with community resources

Ally Development

is designed for anyone on campus, faculty, staff, or student. Training will provide a theoretical framework for understanding LGBTQIA identity, tools for involvement in diversity advocacy work, and will help participants develop skills as global citizens.

Lavender Graduation

Held annually since spring 2011, Lavender Graduation is an intimate opportunity for LGBTQIA identified students and allies to be recognized for their accomplishments at IUP. Graduates from bachelor, master, and doctoral programs are encouraged to request lavender colored cords to wear in the official University graduation ceremonies. The Lavender Graduation Ceremony takes place during the spring semester each year, however, graduates from every term are welcome to request cords and to participate in the ceremony.