People of Cornell...

For the general student body: This is a document intended to remedy the lack of general information available to transgender students attending Cornell. I would like to take this moment to briefly define the term transgender for those of you who are hearing it for the first time. A transgender individual is one who emotionally and psychologically feels that they belong to the opposite gender. Transgender individuals generally socially, legally, and medically transition to the opposite gender.

This document is intended for use by Cornell students who are in the process of or wish to transition medically and/or logistically from one gender to the other. It will aim to answer the basic questions a transgender student new to Cornell might have.

**Name and Gender Marker**

**Can I change my name at Cornell before it’s legally been changed?**

**The short answer is, unfortunately, no.** Cornell will not allow you to change your name in their system until it has been legally change. There are, however, several things you can do to minimize the prominence of your legal name (see more bellow).

**I legally changed my name after applying to Cornell. How do I get it changed in Cornell’s system?**

Congratulations! Now that you have your name change documents, the process for changing your name in Cornell’s system is fairly simple. You will need to go to Day Hall, to the Office of the Registrar. Bring your name change documents, your Cornell ID, and at least one other form of government ID (passport, license, permit, etc.). Explain that your name has been legally changed. They will take your paperwork and make the change in their system, as well as providing you with a new Cornell ID (free of charge).

**Can I change my netID?**

**No.** Your netID is your email address. Don’t despair though. Many students, especially international students, have netIDs that don’t reflect their legal or common name. What really matters is the name attached to your email (see bellow).

**Can I change the name on my Cmail?**

**Yes!** The upper right-hand corner of your Cmail will display a circle with either your picture or initials in it:
My account (large blue rectangular button in the center):

Personal info & privacy (top right):

About you (you may need to scroll down slightly):

The pencil on the right of the large box containing your name and picture (or initials):

Change your first name:
Save.
To have access to these options, you will need to create a **Google+ account.** You may also need to refresh the email page a few times before seeing the changes you made.

**Can I change my name in Student Center?**

**The short answer is, unfortunately, no.** You can, however, change your ‘preferred name,’ which is the name your Student Center will display. Scroll down to the bottom of your Student Center.

Personal information:

- **Names**
  - Names (your legal name will be listed as your ‘primary’ name) ➔ add a name (rectangular green button)

Below is a list of your current names. Each name has a type associated with it that is indicative of the name’s use. At this time you are not able to update your Primary Name through Self-Service. Additional name types are not available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Name type (preferred) → add your name:**

**Add a new name**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Type</th>
<th>Preferred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format Using</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Name</td>
<td>Anonymous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Middle Name:**

**Date new name will take effect:** 11/05/2015 (example: 12/31/2000)

**Save**

**Return to Current Names**

Date new name will take effect (make sure it reads the current date).

**Can I change my name in Blackboard?**

**Yes!** The upper right-hand corner of Blackboard will display your name (click on it):

![Anonymous](image)

The upper left-hand corner of the drop down menu has an image of a face (click on it):

![Courses](image)

**Settings & privacy (rectangular blue button):**

![Settings & Privacy](image)
Change your name:

* How would you like your name displayed?

Save.

If you’re not able to get to the ‘profile’ page, you haven’t created a MyEdu account yet. Just follow the steps it takes you through, go back to your main Blackboard page, and follow the instructions above.

Can I change my gender marker at Cornell?

Yes! To change your gender marker at Cornell you will need to work through Gannett (Cornell’s health center). A counselor in CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) will be able to have your gender marker changed in Cornell’s system (see below for information on CAPS). This can be important as your gender marker is displayed both to advisors and professors!

**Gannett**

What services does Gannett provide to transgender students?

Gannett provides a comprehensive array of both medical and counseling services specifically tailored to transgender students. To read more, visit: https://www.gannett.cornell.edu/for/lgbt/trans.cfm

How do I make an appointment (medical)?

The doctor at Gannett currently working with transgender students is Dr. Beth Kutler (bk82@cornell.edu). The easiest way to schedule an appointment is online via my gannett (https://www.gannett.cornell.edu/access/mygannett/). Click on the blue my gannett button:
Login with your netID and password → enter your birthdate:

Welcome back! To confirm your identity, you must provide the following additional personal information:

Please confirm your date of birth:

Nov 5 2015

Select appointments:

- Schedule appointments
- View scheduled appointments
- Complete pre-appointment questionnaires

Schedule an appointment:

Appointments

Click the "Schedule and appointment" button above to begin.

Select medical care:

Please select the type of appointment you would like to make:

- Medical Care
- Counseling (CAPS)
- Physical Therapy
- Massage
- Nutrition
- BASICS
- Requirements for Cornell University Entry

I need an appointment not related to an illness or injury:

Please select the primary reason for your visit:

- I have an illness or problem (like a cold, pain, sexual-health concern, or eating concern)
- I have an injury (like a skin wound, head injury, foot or shoulder pain)
- I need an appointment not related to an illness or problem (like a check-up or nutritionist visit)
- I need to make a follow-up appointment
- I need to renew a prescription
- I need to make a nurse visit (like for a blood pressure check, medication injection or ear cleaning)
- I need to make an appointment for an allergy shot, immunization, or travel clinic
- I'm a Gannett employee and I need to schedule my Annual Health Assessment
I need transgender care:

Please select the main reason for your visit (choose only one):

- I need a women’s health visit (such as a well woman visit, birth control or procedure)
- I need a physical (to have a form filled out, or a routine NON-gynecology check-up)
- I am, or have been, seen by the (CHEP) medical team, and need to make another appointment
- I’d like to see a nutritionist
- I would like testing for sexually transmitted infections (and I don’t have any symptoms)
- I would like to speak with a nurse about my choices for birth control
- I have questions about pregnancy
- I need transgender care
- I need to have some stitches (sutures) removed
- Something else

Yes:

Is this your first visit for gender transition related care?

- Yes
- No

Enter a callback number → schedule an appointment.

Why should I make a medical appointment?

Having a doctor who specializes in transgender care is great. You won’t need to explain anything to her, and she’s familiar with a lot of the common health concerns transgender individuals face. She can also write prescriptions for hormones, sharps, and syringes. She is also able to write letters for having the gender marker on a passport changed, and travel letters (for traveling with your prescription). Additionally, she can recommend surgeons specialized in transgender procedures, perform pre-operative testing, and do bloodwork (necessary for individuals taking hormones). Gannet also provides post-operative care in the form of bandage changing/application and drain removal.

How do I make an appointment (counseling)?

The counselor currently assigned to work with transgender students is Dr. Karen Williams

Karen Williams
Counselor
PhD

(kw292@cornell.edu). While you have a chance of being placed with her by going through the normal scheduling process with CAPS, the easiest way to schedule an appointment with Dr. Williams is by emailing her directly via email.
Why should I make a counseling appointment?
Even if you don’t personally feel you require counseling your mental and emotional wellbeing, a counselor can provide you with an official GID diagnosis, a letter for hormones, and letters for gender related surgeries.

Can Gannett provide me with HRT?
Yes. Gannett can prescribe cross-sex hormones. You will, however, need a letter from a counselor (this letter can either come from your doctor at home or a counselor at Gannett). If you already have a prescription from your doctor at home, it can be filled by Gannett’s pharmacy (see below) if you arrange it with Dr. Kutler. She can also prescribe any sharps and syringes you may need.

Where do I pick up my prescription?
All prescriptions can be filled and retrieved at the Gannett pharmacy (level 3). In addition to your HRT prescription, sharps, syringes, sharps disposal containers, and alcohol swabs are all available at the pharmacy.

Sharps disposal?
You have two options for sharps disposal at Cornell. You can collect your sharps and dispose of them through local programs (http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health/dch/sharps-faq), or you can purchase a sharps container from the Gannett pharmacy and simply return the container to the front desk (level 3) when it’s full. They will dispose of it for free.

Binder program?
Gannet has just approved a program that will give transgender individuals access to high quality binders through the pharmacy with no co-pay. Gannett will offer the gc2b white half-tank binder in sizes XS-L (http://www.gc2b.co/#!store/c205c/products/white-half-binder) and the Underworks white tri-top binder in sizes XL and above (http://www.underworks.com/tri-top-chest-binder). In order to access the binder program, you will need to be in touch with Wendy Sicina (wss4@cornell.edu). You will be able to set up a meeting with her by calling Gannett (607-255-5155), during which you can see the options available and provide her with your measurements for sizing. Gannett will then order you two binders per year, which you will be able to pick up on Level 6 when they arrive.
SHIP

What is SHIP?
SHIP is the Student Health Insurance Plan available to all Cornell students. SHIP covers hormones and surgeries, according to Aetna's Clinical Policy Bulletin 0615 (Aetna Student Health is the provider of the Cornell SHP). For more information, search ‘transgender’ in the SHP Member's Guide or review the Aetna Clinical Policy Bulletin: Gender Reassignment Surgery.

Who do I talk to?
The representative I’ve personally worked is a woman by the name of Tammy Saunders (1800-551-2289, ext 687 0022) who is a case worker at Aetna. She was incredibly kind and helpful, and was able to have my surgery pre-authorized extremely quickly.

Housing

What are my housing options?
You have a variety of housing options at Cornell. You can choose the general application (the same one all incoming freshman go through) or housing lottery (the same one all sophomores and juniors go through), you can apply for a program house or co-op, or you can contact the housing office and request special placement (my personal recommendation).

How does the housing application work?
As an incoming freshman, you will fill out a housing application indicating your room preference (single, double, triple, quad) and housing option (general housing, program house, suite). You will then enter a lottery and be assigned a room. Things to consider about the general housing application are as follows: If you applied for a single, there is a good chance you will end up in one. North campus generally has more singles available than students who request them (but no guarantees). While you have a good chance at being placed in a single, your single could be part of a suite (which are single gender). Even if you end up in a single that isn’t in a suite, hallways and sometimes even floors, tend to be gender divided. You also could be placed in Balch, which is an exclusively female dorm (only a consideration for trans guys).

How does the housing lottery work?
Housing for sophomores and upper classman is determined by a housing lottery. Everyone receives a timeslot in which they can select a room. Students are permitted to block with each other or apply individually with an indicated room preference (single, double, triple, suite). Considerations for the housing lottery include: When attempting to block with friends, or when selecting a suite, any involved individuals will see the name and gender marker in Cornell’s system. You will also not be allowed to create a mixed gender suite unless you are applying for continuing residence (as a rising junior) in one of the west campus dorms.
What are mixed gender suites/blocks?
Students applying to continue residence in a west campus dorm are permitted form mixed gender suites/blocks.

What about gender inclusive housing?
A Cornell policy that allows people to live on campus with anyone regardless of legal sex. All undergraduate students can block with people of different sexes, but may not room with someone of the opposite sex unless they select gender-inclusive housing. Gender-inclusive housing can only be applied to Program Houses, the Language House, Cooperative Housing, and West Campus and Upperlevel Residence Halls’ for continued occupancy. Students participating in General Room Selection may not select gender-inclusive housing. You must apply for gender inclusive housing. For the application process and other rules see the link: http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/apply/apply_undergrad/gender_inclusive_housing.cfm

How do co-ops work?
Co-ops run on an individual basis and housing queries would need to be directed to co-op you’re interested in as there are no blanket policies.

How does special placement work?
The only way to be placed in housing is by going through CAPS and having them work with SDS (student disability services, located in the computing and communications center) and the housing office (located in RPCC).

Where’s the Best Place to go for Freshman Dorms?
Mary Donlon Hall, one of the main freshman dorm buildings, has gender neutral bathrooms on every floor, mixed-gender floors and hallways, and a mix of singles, doubles, triples, and quads on each floor. Therefore, a single in Donlon has the option of gender neutral bathrooms and is completely non-separated based on sex or gender.

Bathrooms

How big a deal are bathrooms at Cornell?
In my experience, not important at all. Even if you don’t pass well yet, you shouldn’t worry about using the bathroom. While there are gender neutral bathrooms (see bellow), it will serve just as well, or better, to just use your preferred bathroom.

What about dorm bathrooms and showering?
All showers in on-campus housing are single stall showers with either a door or a large curtain. I’ve found that as long as you mind your own business in the bathroom, other people will mind theirs.
Where can I find gender neutral bathrooms?
A map below has locations of the current gender neutral bathrooms on campus that I’m aware of (marked as universal restrooms). Additionally, there is an iPhone app called Pee in Peace (http://peeinpeace.org/) which is available for download on the iTunes store and provides the locations of gender neutral and single stalled bathrooms in the Ithaca area.

Professors

How can I make sure my professors refer to me using the correct name and gender?
You really have two options here. If you don’t feel comfortable talking directly to your professors, you can set a preferred name with student center (as discussed above) and correct your pronouns with them on the first day (until you can have your gender marker changed). If you would like to be sure your professors refer to you correctly on the first day and you feel comfortable being in touch with them directly, you can email them ahead of time explaining your situation. In my experience, professors are extremely understanding and accommodating. Something to consider: In large lecture classes, you most likely won’t be addressed by your professors and your name and pronouns will therefore not come up. However, you will be interacting much more closely with your TAs so it may be important to inform them.

What do I say to a professor?
Bellow is a generic email template:
Dear [professor’s name],
I am enrolled in your class this semester and would like to make a request. I am a transgender individual and prefer the name [ ] and [ ] pronouns. Would it be possible for you to share this information with any TAs I will be working with as well?
Thank you so much!

Transitioning at Cornell

A group intended to provide support, resources, and community to students with GID who are medically, legally, and logistically transitioning, or intending to begin transition, at Cornell. This group will provide members with information and testimonials on hormone therapy, surgeries, and other transgender specific products, legal information, the opportunity to interact with medical and mental health professionals who specialize in transgender care, and a forum in which to discuss topics relevant to the transgender community. Questions or interest can be directed to the organizational email transitioning@cornell.edu.

Closing Notes

Please note that all red and green text in the document refers to a red circle or green dot indicated on the campus map below.