

## Campus Climate Survey Glossary of Terms

**Ageist** Characterized by or showing prejudice or discrimination on the grounds

of a person's age.

**Agender** A person who might define their gender as being neither man nor

woman or not having any gender at all.

**Asexual**<sup>i</sup> Refers to an individual who does not experience sexual attraction.

Bias The belief that certain people, ideas, etc. are worth less than others,

which may result in discriminatory treatment of those populations.

**Bisexual**ii Refers to a person who acknowledges in themselves the potential to be

attracted--romantically, emotionally and/or sexually--to people of more than one gender, not necessarily at the same time, in the same way, or

in the same degree.

Campus Climate Climate is the cumulative result of an organization's programs, practices

and policies on the way people of various identities experience inclusion.

Campus Culture Culture is the institution-wide patterns of perceiving, thinking and feeling;

shared understandings; collective assumptions; and common

interpretive frameworks that hold an institution together

Cisgender A person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at

birth; is the "opposite" of transgender.

Collaborative Involving two or more people or organizations working together for a

particular purpose:

Collegial Responsibility and authority is shared equally by colleagues or

teammates.

**Competitive** Relating to a situation in which people or groups are trying to win a

contest or be more successful than others

**Conservative**Conservatives tend to believe that government should be small,

operating mainly at the state or local level. They favor minimal

government interference in the economy and prefer private sector-based

solutions to problems.

**Contentious** Inclined or showing an inclination towards dispute or disagreement.

Cooperative Involving mutual assistance in working toward a common goal

**Disability** A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more

major life activities

**Discrimination** The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or

groups, especially on the grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, political affiliation, disability, marital status, ancestry, genetic information, citizenship, or veteran status. Treating an individual or group of

individuals unfavorably in their employment or education because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or

veteran status.

**Diversity** The multiple identities around which people differ that make one

individual or group different from another and impact one's perceptions, experiences, and interactions. These include identities such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, gender and gender

identity, religion, etc.

Elitist Organized for the good of a few people who have high status in terms of

intellect, talent, wealth, or position in society.

**Equity** The fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all

students, faculty, and staff, while simultaneously working to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some (usually historically underrepresented and marginalized) groups.

**Ethnicity** A group of people who share a common heritage and/or ancestry; ethnic

groups may also share a common language and religion

**Gay**iii A term used to describe people who are emotionally, romantically,

and/or physically attracted to people of the same gender.

Gender fluid A person whose gender identity (the gender they identify with most) is

not fixed.

**Gender identity** An individual's personal experience of their own gender; gender identity

is not determined by sex assigned at birth.

**Gender non-conforming** A person who does not fully conform to the expectations around their

gender that their society enforces.

**Gendergueer** A person who might define their gender as neither man nor woman,

possibly a mix of genders, and possibly fluid.

**Harassment** Unwelcome verbal or physical conduct because of race, color, national

origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, that demeans, threatens or offends an individual or group of individuals when such conduct interferes with a student's ability to participate in or benefit

from educational programs or activities; or when the conduct unreasonably interferes with an employee's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

**Heterosexualiv** Refers to a person who is emotionally, romantically, and/or physically

attracted to a person of a different gender. Also referred to as straight.

**Homogenous** All of the same kind or nature.

**Homophobic** An aversion or hostility to, disdain for, or fear of gay or homosexual

people.

**Hostile** Showing strong dislike, behaving in an unfriendly or antagonistic manner

**Inclusion** Active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity; embracing

and affirming differences and offering respect in words and actions (such

as language) for all groups and people.

**Individualistic** Prioritizing the pursuit of individual interests or rights rather than

common or collective ones

Intersex is the current term used to refer to people who are biologically

between the medically expected definitions of male and female. This can be through variations in hormones, chromosomes, internal or external genitalia, or any combination of any or all primary and/or secondary sex

characteristics.

**Lesbian**<sup>vi</sup> Refers to a woman who is emotionally, romantically, and/or physically

attracted to other women.

**Liberal** Liberals tend to believe that government should intervene in the

economy and provide a broad range of social services to ensure well-

being and equality across society.

**Man** A person who is assigned male at birth and identifies as a man.

Meaningful Having a serious, important, or useful quality or purpose

**Mental health status**Disorders or conditions that influence one's emotions, cognitions, and

behaviors, which may include depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, and

bipolar disorder.

Moderate A political ideology (also known as centrist) that seeks a middle road

between liberal and conservative views, avoiding extreme positions on

major social change.

**National origin**The state, country, or nation in which a person or his or her ancestors

were born

**Non-binary** A person who might define their gender as not fitting within the gender

binary of man and woman.

**Non-Elitist** Relating to or believing in the principle that all people are equal and

deserve equal rights and opportunities.

**Non-racist** Unprejudiced against a person or people on the basis of their

membership in a particular racial or ethnic group.

Pansexual<sup>vii</sup> Refers to a person whose emotional, romantic and/or physical attraction

is to people inclusive of all genders. People who are pansexual need not have had any sexual experience: It is the attraction and self-identification

that determine the orientation.

Political identity (or orientation)

A set of doctrines or beliefs that are shared by the members of a social group or that form the basis of a political, economic or other system.

Polysexual<sup>viii</sup>

Capable of being attracted to multiple gender(s).

Queerix

A term used by some LGBTQ+ people to describe themselves and/or their community. Reclaimed from its earlier negative use—and valued by some for its defiance—the term is also considered by some to be inclusive of the entire community, and by others who find it to be an appropriate term to describe their more fluid identities. Traditionally a negative or pejorative term for people who are LGBTQ+, some people within the community dislike the term.

Questioningx

Those who are in a process of discovery and exploration about their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or a combination thereof. Questioning people can be of any age, so for many reasons, this may happen later in life. Questioning is a profoundly important process, and one that does not imply that someone is choosing to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer.

Racexi

A social construct that is created and reinforced by social and institutional norms and practices, as well as individual attitudes and behaviors

Racist

Prejudiced against or antagonistic toward a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Religion

Commitment to or relating to a way of life dedicated to religious vows or principles.

Respectful

Feeling or showing politeness, honor, or deference to someone

Sex (assigned at birth)xii

The sex, male, female or intersex, that a doctor or midwife uses to describe a child at birth based on their external anatomy.

**Sexist** 

Characterized by or showing prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination, typically against women, on the basis of sex.

Sexual orientation

A person's sexual identity in relation to the gender they are attracted to and want to have relationships with. Sexual orientations include gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, and asexual.

Socioeconomic status or social class

Refers to one's status or sociological classification based on income level, wealth, occupation, and educational background

**Supportive** 

Providing encouragement or emotional help or giving assistance to others.

Transgender

A person whose gender does not match their sex assigned at birth, based on what their society has prescribed.

Transgender-phobic or transphobic<sup>xiii</sup>

A rejection of trans identity and a refusal to acknowledge that it could be real or valid. Involves a complex interplay of legal, interpersonal and ideological attitudes and actions.

**Two-spirit**<sup>xiv</sup> A person who identifies as having both a masculine and a feminine

spirit, and is used by some Indigenous people to describe their sexual,

gender and/or spiritual identity.

**Veteran/military status** A former member of the Armed Services of the United States (Army,

Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) who served on active

duty and was discharged or released under conditions other than

dishonorable.

Welcoming To receive or greet someone in a warm and friendly way, providing

hospitality to a guest

**Woman** A person who is assigned female at birth and identifies as a woman.

i https://pflag.org/glossary

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iii https://pflag.org/glossary

iv https://pflag.org/glossary

https://pflag.org/glossary

vi https://pflag.org/glossary

vii https://pflag.org/glossary

https://www.nyp.org/documents/pps/cultural-competency/Understanding%20Disparities%20-%20LGBTQ%20Terminology.pdf

ix https://pflag.org/glossary

<sup>\*</sup> https://pflag.org/glossary

xi Castañeda, C., & Zúñiga, X. (2013). Racism: Introduction. In M. Adams, W. J. Blumenfeld, C. Castañeda, H. W. Hackman, M. L. Peters, & X. Zúñiga (Eds.) Readings for diversity and social justice (3rd ed., pp. 57-64). New York: Routledge

xii https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms?utm\_source=GS&utm\_medium=AD&utm\_campaign=BPI-HRC-Grant&utm\_content=454854043827&utm\_term=gender%20neutral%20identity&gclid=CjwKCAjwoP6LBhBlEiwAvCcthKxgR25K9rlviy5S741oe\_VfLXFFXJNnWWVARFc5iNL9DmAUgoFpcRoCDUoQAvD\_BwE

xiii https://www.transactual.org.uk/transphobia

xiv https://lgbtghealth.ca/community/two-spirit.php