



Gender Inclusion: Commonly Used Terms

Gender Identity

The ways in which we see ourselves as gendered beings, as well as how others perceive us as gendered beings, and how our gender functions and exists in society.

Gender Binary

Being one of two traditionally recognized genders, based on traditional genitalia. Typically, gender binary is "male" or "female."

Non-Binary

Individuals who do not identify within the gender binary, but instead live in between the identities of "man" and "woman." Non-binary individuals often use gender-neutral pronouns like they/them/their.

Transgender

Individuals who do not identify with the gender that they were assigned at birth. Transgender individuals may change their name, pronouns and gender expression to fit the way they identify.

Co-ed versus Gender-inclusive

Co-ed, short for "co-educational" is defined as, "The education of students of both sexes at the same institution." Notice how that definition includes the word "both" - as in two. There is no room in the word "co-educational" for individuals who do not identify within the gender binary.

In contrast, the word "gender-inclusive" means, "inclusive of any and all genders." When we say that we are gender-inclusive, we are saying that we are dedicated to building an organization where everyone feels safe, welcomed and valued regardless of gender identity or expression.

For more information about Phi Sigma Pi's commitment to gender inclusion, check out "A Resolution to Embrace Gender Inclusion" in the Resource Center.