

LGBTQ+ Support at Point Park University

Navigating college life can be a challenging experience, but for LGBTQ+ students, finding supportive resources is key to thriving in a new environment. Point Park University is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive community for all its students, including those who identify as LGBTQ+. This guide explores the resources available to LGBTQ+ students at Point Park University, focusing on Point Park specific resources, community resources, national organizations, and the role of the Gender & Sexuality Spectrum Alliance (GSSA) in fostering a supportive campus environment.

LGBT+ Resource Guide

This LGBT+ Resource Guide at Point Park University is a tool designed to assist students in discovering the resources and support systems available to them. If you are looking for resources not mentioned in this guide, please do not hesitate to reach out to Tessa Chafin at tchafin@pointpark.edu

Community Resources

Point Park University provides access to several community resources aimed at supporting the well-being of LGBTQ+ students:

- **Allies for Health and Wellbeing:** This organization envisions a healthier community where everyone can access holistic care in a respectful setting, free of stigma and discrimination.
- **Persad Center:** Dedicated to improving the well-being of LGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS communities in Western Pennsylvania.
- **PGH Equality Center:** Promotes education, advocacy, and social justice for all LGBTQIA+ people and allies in Western Pennsylvania.
- **SisTers PGH:** A black and trans-led nonprofit organization that serves the transgender community of Southwestern Pennsylvania.
- **AIDS Free Pittsburgh:** A public health movement to end the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County by 2030.

National Resources

In addition to local resources, the guide lists several national organizations that provide advocacy, support, and legal assistance to the LGBTQ+ community:

- **ACLU:** American Civil Liberties Union, which defends individual rights and liberties.
- **Human Rights Campaign:** Advocates for LGBTQ+ equality.

- **Trevor Project:** Provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ+ youth.
- **Lambda Legal:** Focuses on civil rights for LGBTQ+ people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education, and public policy work.
- **National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce:** Promotes the economic growth and development of LGBTQ+ owned businesses.



- **Gender & Sexuality Spectrum Alliance (GSSA)**
 - The Gender & Sexuality Spectrum Alliance (GSSA) at Point Park University plays a crucial role in fostering a supportive community for LGBTQ+ students and their allies. The GSSA provides a safe space for students to connect, socialize, and learn about LGBTQ+ issues and identities. Their meetings are not only opportunities to hang out but also platforms for advocacy and education.
 - One of the key objectives of GSSA is to advocate for policies that better support LGBTQ+ students at Point Park University. By working towards creating a more inclusive and accepting campus environment, GSSA helps protect students from prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender identity.



LGBTQ+ Media Recommendations

The guide also includes a list of recommended movies, podcasts, and books that explore LGBTQ+ themes and stories:

Movies

- **Disclosure (2020)**: A documentary on the representation of transgender people in media.
- **The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (2017)**: A film exploring the life and mysterious death of LGBTQ+ rights activist Marsha P. Johnson.
- **Paris is Burning (1990)**: A documentary about the drag ball culture in New York City.
- **Equal (2020)**: A docuseries highlighting the pioneers of the LGBTQ+ rights movement.

Podcasts

- **LGBTQ&A**: Interviews with LGBTQ+ individuals sharing their stories.
- **Queery**: Conversations with diverse members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Queerology**: Exploring the intersection of queer identity and faith.
- **Queer Movie Podcast**: Discussions on LGBTQ+ films and representation in cinema.

Books

- **Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin**: A classic novel exploring themes of sexuality and identity.
- **Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde**: A collection of essays and speeches by the renowned poet and activist.
- **Orlando by Virginia Woolf**: A groundbreaking novel that delves into gender fluidity.
- **The New Masculinity by Alex Manley**: An exploration of modern masculinity.
- **The Color Purple by Alice Walker**: A powerful story about the lives of African American women in the early 20th century.

Point Park is deeply committed to supporting the LGBT+ community. We strive to ensure that all our students can succeed in their professional, personal, and academic endeavors. If there are any ways we can better support you or your loved ones, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, let's make Point Park a place where all feel they belong!