

HMSC Roommate Matching and Gender Identity

At Hatfield Marine Science Center, roommate matching for all applicants is based on gender identity, and not biological sex. What does this mean? Applicants can indicate the gender they identify with on their housing application, which may or may not match their biological sex.

- What does this mean for you specifically?
 - Housing applicants can identify on their application their gender and our housing staff will assign you roommates/housemates whose gender identity category matches your own.
- How does gender matching work in roommate matching?
 - All HMSC housing is communal. Roommates will be assigned based on the category of the gender identified on their application. In the case of mobile houses, where there are multiple bedrooms that share living space, each room may be assigned to individuals of different genders. There are three categories of gender identities: man, woman, and self-identified.
- Why are there more than two gender identity options?
 - The university makes efforts to no longer define gender on a binary (meaning just “male” or “female”). Housing applicants will have the opportunity to self-describe their gender and separately choose which category best matches their gender identity for the purposes of assigning roommates. Residents may select the category that best matches who they are most comfortable living with.
- Who will have access to my gender identity information?
 - Only Housing staff who are responsible for making room/house assignments will have access to this information.