

FAQs – Optional Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation Demographic Data

Why does the University of California ask optional gender identity and sexual orientation demographic questions?

Providing the LGBT community with the option to self-identify each person's gender identity and sexual orientation supports the University's priorities of creating an inclusive and welcoming campus environment across the UC system. As with all other demographic questions, providing gender identity and sexual orientation data is voluntary, optional, and, as required by law, has no bearing on academic or admissions decisions.

Data collected on gender identity and sexual orientation provides UCR with meaningful population data necessary for targeting resources and other student support services (e.g., scholarships and themed housing). These data also enables campuses to develop curricular and co-curricular offerings that reflect students' diverse perspectives, and that promote a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students.

How can UCR students update their own gender identity and sexual orientation information?

R'Web allows UCR students to edit their responses to questions about gender and sexual orientation, including how gender is maintained for campus records and reporting purposes. Currently, the University's options when reporting gender are: Male, Female, None. Please note, federal reporting standards require campus to attribute a male or female identifier to students.

What is the history of the University of California supporting optional gender identity and sexual orientation demographic questions?

On October 8, 2011, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 620, which includes a request that UC provide the opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to report their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression on any forms used to collect demographic data.

In 2012, then UC President Mark Yudof created and charged the Task Force & Implementation Team on LGBT Climate and Inclusion (LGBT Task Force) with developing priorities, strategies, and expected resource requirements to advance recommendations submitted by the LGBT Working Group of the President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate and Inclusion. On May 30, 2014, the LGBT Task Force presented a report to UC President Janet Napolitano that included a recommendation to implement AB 620.

In September 2014, UC President Janet Napolitano formed the President's Advisory Council on LGBT Students, Faculty, and Staff, which is comprised of faculty, LGBT Center staff, students, and community experts. They were charged with making the UC system a gold standard for LGBT issues, and to provide recommendations for the implementation of AB 620 by collecting data on gender identity and sexual orientation through the admission application.

Beginning with the Fall 2015 UC Admissions application process, optional gender identity and sexual orientation questions are included on the UC undergraduate admissions application.