LGBTQ Life at Midd

A Resource Guide for Incoming Students
Welcome to Middlebury!

We hope you are enjoying your life here so far and are excited for the next four years. Below, you’ll find a list of resources for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer-identifying students and allies. You will also find information on what LGBTQ means. As members of this community, it is up to all of us to make this campus a safe and affirming community for all people.

What does “LGBTQ” mean? What does “Ally” mean?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesbian</th>
<th>A female-identifying person attracted to women.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gay</td>
<td>A male-identifying person attracted to men.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>A person attracted to both men and women.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>An umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, expression, or behavior does not conform typically to the sex to which they were assigned at birth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queer</td>
<td>An umbrella term to describe those who do not identify as heterosexual, hetero-normative, or gender-normative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ally</td>
<td>A heterosexual-identifying person who actively supports equal rights for LGBTQ people, gender equality, and challenges homophobia and transphobia.</td>
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What is a preferred gender pronoun?

Language can be difficult to navigate when discussing topics related to sexuality and gender. Gender pronouns refer to how you wish to be addressed in the third person. She/her and he/him are both options associated with a specific gender. Some individuals prefer gender-neutral pronouns such as they/them.

In order to allow individuals to decide how to define themselves, they may be asked at meetings to share their preferred gender pronouns. Just because someone looks like a “she” or a “him” doesn’t mean that that person identifies as such, so it’s important to know which pronouns people use to refer to themselves. As you meet other students during your days at Middlebury, be sensitive to how people would like to be addressed and specify how you would like people to address you.

What LGBTQ resources does Midd have?

Q&A: Queers & Allies

Queers & Allies is a new student organization that seeks to create a supportive and fun social community, as well as raise awareness and create dialogue on LGBTQ issues and the multiple identities that intersect with them (e.g., race, religion, (dis)ability, class, nationality). Q&A holds both social and topic-driven weekly meetings, plans events like Coming Out Day and weekend parties, and brings LGBTQ speakers and performers to campus. Queers & Allies is a diverse community whose members hold a variety of opinions. All are welcome!

Primary Goals:

1. Create a fun, diverse, and supportive community for LGBTQ students.
2. Create a safe space and provide support for LGBTQ, questioning and closeted students.
3. Organize social events.
4. Be open to ALL students regardless of how they identify.
Q&A meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM at Chellis House. Be sure to look out for our posters and visit go/queersandallies for updates.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at queersandallies@middlebury.edu, or email any of the board members or faculty/staff listed below. All matters will remain confidential.

**Q&A Board 2013 - 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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**Faculty / Staff**

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*Your Commons Dean is also a great resource!*
Queer Studies House

The Queer Studies House (QSH – pronounced *kwish*) is an academic interest house located behind Proctor Dining Hall and to the left of Chellis House, with the mission of promoting the academic pursuit of queer studies and creating a safe space for students of all sexual and gender identities.

The QSH has a library related to queer, gay and lesbian, and gender studies. It is located in the dining room, and all materials may be borrowed. There are also safe sex supplies available in the entrance to the house.

We hope you stop by some time, and would love for you to get in touch with us (and join our mailing list!) by e-mailing us at queerstudieshouse@middlebury.edu.

**QSH Residents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alan Sutton</th>
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<td>Jackie Park*</td>
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*Spring 2014*

**Program in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies**

The program in GSFS seeks to teach “awareness of the intersections of gender with other forms of difference and power – such as sexuality, race, class, and nation – in local and transnational contexts.” The courses are interesting, engaging, and a great option for those looking to deepen their knowledge of the complexities of gender, sexuality, feminism and identity.
Gay and Lesbian Employees at Middlebury (GLEAM)

GLEAM is an informal social and resource group for the employees of Middlebury College. GLEAM's mission is to promote understanding and acceptance of all LGBTQ members of the Middlebury community.

Parton Center for Health and Wellness

Counseling Services is “dedicated to providing excellent mental health services to Middlebury students.” While all their counselors excel at their work in different ways, their website describes Ximena Mejia as having counseling interests that “focus around the matrices of cultural identity, ethnicity, race, gender, class, and sexuality issues.”

Safe sex: Condoms, dental dams, latex gloves, and other safe sex supplies are available 24/7 in the Parton Center for Health and Wellness, as well as in the entrance to the QSH. Residential Life staff also make sure that safe sex supplies are available.
As members of different cultures, religions, and backgrounds, the concept of a LGBTQA community might seem foreign, nonexistent in our own cultures, or even taboo. Middlebury College has an active community of LGBTQA students, faculty, and staff, and we understand that facing such a community for the first time may be scary. Queers & Allies, the Queer Studies House, and faculty and administrative allies serve as a resource for students who would like to learn more or understand what it means to be a member of the LGBTQA community. We are open to hearing different world perspectives on LGBTQA issues and answering any questions you might have. We want Middlebury to be a safe and welcoming environment for you, which is why we want to encourage productive and relevant dialogue.