This list of terms is not meant to be exhaustive. Because of the way language works, particularly around these concepts, it is important to note that many of these terms continue to evolve and shift depending on the global context.

If you have additional recommendations, please email us at odi@unk.edu

**Gender-Related Terminology**

**Cisgender**

Someone who identifies their gender identity with their sex assigned at birth; the term cisgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, and/or physical anatomy.

**Gender expression**

The manifestation of one’s gender identity through clothing, hairstyle, voice, and so on. Person’s behavior, mannerisms, interests, and appearance that are associated with gender.

**Gender identity**

One’s internal sense of identifying as a woman, man, neither of these, both, or another gender(s). Can correlate with sex assigned at birth, or can differ from it.

**Gender non-conforming**

An umbrella term referring to people who do not identify or express themselves in a way that conforms to the traditional norms of the gender binary. Sometimes considered an umbrella term that can include gender identities like genderqueer, genderfluid, and androgynous, to name a few.

**Intersex**

An umbrella term that describes people born with variations in their internal and/or external genitalia resulting in bodies that do not fit what society typically defines as “male” or “female”.

**Non-Binary**

An umbrella term used to describe gender identities that do not fit within the binary of male and female. Common examples include but are not limited to agender (having no gender identity or a gender-neutral identity) and bi-gender (reflecting elements of masculine/feminine gender identities).

**Sex assigned at birth**

Refers to the determination of one’s “biological sex” based on external genitalia. Chromosomes (such as XX or XY) and hormones (such as estrogen or testosterone) are also involved, but hardly ever tested in assigning a sex to an individual.
**Transgender**

An umbrella term that describes many gender identities for people who do not identify with their sex assigned at birth; the term transgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, and/or physical anatomy. Trans identity may shift throughout a lifetime.

**Sexuality-Related Terminology**

**Aromantic**

An umbrella term used to describe identities for people who experience little to no romantic attraction for other people (different from asexual).

**Asexual**

An umbrella term used to describe identities for people who experience little to no sexual attraction for other people (different from aromantic).

**Bisexual**

An identity for people who are sexually and/or emotionally attracted to both men and women, as well as people who identify outside of the gender binary. Sometimes considered an umbrella term that can include sexualities like pansexual and fluid, to name a few.

**Gay**

An identity for people who are sexually and/or emotionally attracted to people of the same gender, although most commonly associated with people who identify as men who are sexually and/or emotionally attracted to some other men.

**Lesbian**

An identity for people who identify as women who are sexually and/or emotionally attracted to some other women.

**Pansexual**

An identity for people who are sexually and/or emotionally attracted to people of any gender.

**Queer**

Originally a derogatory slur, it has been reclaimed by some to be an inclusive term for those within LGBTQ+ communities. Some individuals claim this identity to recognize the fluidity of sexual attraction and/or gender identity. For many, this is a political identity in resistance to heteronormativity and anything beyond straight/cis. This term is not always seen as inclusive of trans communities, therefore, we commonly refer to our communities as “queer AND trans communities.”