

Counseling & Wellness Services (CWS) procedure for connecting sexual and gender minority students to support services:

As part of UCF College of Medicine's commitment to diversity and inclusion, the following steps have been identified to ease and facilitate connecting sexual and gender minority medical students to support services. For LGBT students, UCF main campus has a number of resource guides to connect students to services and these support resources are available to medical students. These services include but are not limited to identification of gender neutral restrooms, support and mentoring, financial services for students who may be estranged from family, referral to LGBT-affirmative healthcare providers, and registrar and legal services to assist a student with changing his or her name and/or preferred gender pronoun.

A link to these resources is available here:

<http://sja.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/qguide-to-campus.pdf> (a resource guide for LGBT students at UCF)

<http://sja.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/the-t-guide.pdf> (a resource guide for transgendered students at UCF)

In order to increase accessibility to support resources for LGBT medical students, there are a few specific resources and events located at COM. We offer SafeZone training for students, faculty, and staff annually. We offer peer support services, which is a mentoring program of upper-class medical students who offer walk-in hours and outreach to support peers. All peer supporters have received training in LGBT advocacy. Lastly, the College of Medicine and the Council for Diversity Inclusion offer various diversity outreaches. For example, last year they hosted the "Practicing with Pride" BBQ and speaker event focusing on culturally sensitive healthcare for sexual and gender minorities.

Medical students who wish to pursue clinical counseling may utilize the services of the COM psychologist who is trained as a SafeZone facilitator and who has experience conducting assessment, evaluation, and referral for students who wish to pursue medical procedures associated with transitioning gender (i.e., hormonal therapy) and for those wishing to pursue fertility options (i.e., use of a sperm donor). The psychologist has a referral list of LGBT-affirmative physicians and therapists for medical students seeking a referral for treatment.

For medical students who are in the process of transitioning and wish to change their name or preferred pronoun, these services are available at the College of Medicine. Given that medical education is multi-faceted and often involves clinical rotations at various locations, we ask that students first schedule an appointment to discuss name/pronoun changes with one of our Deans for Students (Dr. Verduin, Associate Dean for Students, or Drs. Salazar or Fagan, Assistant Deans for Students). As part of this meeting, the student can guide the extent to which they want these changes (i.e., class rosters only or at broader levels such as hospital credentialing). The Student Affairs Dean will help centralize the process with appropriate authorization from the student to inform the registrar or other individuals involved in the credentialing process to honor the student's wishes.