

Comparison of Women’s Colleges’ Policies on Transgender Students

| | Date adopted | Trans women eligible for admission? ¹ | Trans men eligible for admission? ² | Trans men eligible to continue studies once enrolled? | People who disclose nonbinary gender eligible for admission? | How is gender determined? |
|----------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| Barnard | June 2015 | Yes | No | Yes | No | TBD |
| Smith | May 2015 | Yes | No | Yes | No | Self-identity, select Female on common application |
| Wellesley | March 2015 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes, if assigned female at birth | TBD |
| Bryn Mawr | February 2015 | Yes | Some - those “who have not taken medical or legal steps to identify as male” | Yes | Yes, if assigned female or intersex at birth | Self-identity, may ask for further information |
| Mount Holyoke | Summer 2014 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes, if assigned female at birth | Self-identity |
| Mills | May 2014 | Yes | Some – if have not “undergone a legal change of gender to male” | Yes | Yes, if assigned female at birth | Self-identity, applicants should contact admissions with clarifying info |
| Hollins | 2007 | Yes | No | Yes, until “initiate sex reassignment” (hormones, surgery, OR name change) | Unclear | Trans women “have completed the physical sex reassignment surgery and legal transformation” |

¹ (assigned male at birth, identify as women at the time of application)

² (assigned female at birth, identify as men at the time of application)

Key Phrases from Women's Colleges' Policies on Transgender Students

“Mount Holyoke remains committed to its historic mission as a women’s college. Yet, we recognize that what it means to be a woman is not static. ... Just as early feminists argued that the reduction of women to their biological functions was a foundation for women’s oppression, we must acknowledge that gender identity is not reducible to the body. ... Once students are admitted, the College supports them regardless of their sex or gender identity, which is consistent with our current practice.”

“Bryn Mawr’s undergraduate mission is to educate and empower intellectually engaged, reflective and ethical women leaders. In taking an inclusive approach to fulfilling this mission ... Bryn Mawr recognizes that gender is fluid and that traditional notions of gender identity and expression can be limiting. Bryn Mawr acknowledges gender complexity as an opportunity for learning, and for asking how to be the best women’s college possible.”

“Smith College’s mission—to educate women of promise for lives of distinction—remains unchanged. Our focus on women’s education means that we consider for admission applicants who identify as women and who seek entrance into a community dedicated to women’s education.”

“Mills admits self-identified women and people assigned female at birth who do not fit into the gender binary at the undergraduate level ... Within these parameters, Mills does not discriminate on the basis of gender identity and expression in its admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or in the educational programs, co-curricular activities and residential facilities which it operates. ... Mills shall not discriminate against applicants whose gender identity does not match their legally assigned sex.”