

Chosen or Preferred Name FAQ

Why does SRU allow students to use a chosen or preferred name?

A person's name is one of the most important parts of their identity. Calling someone by their chosen or preferred name shows respect and signals your understanding, awareness and acceptance of who they are as a person.

Who can use a chosen or preferred name?

All students are free to choose a name that differs from their legal name. This can include students who go by their middle name, international students, trans or non-binary students, or students who go by a nickname.

Where will a chosen or preferred name be used?

Students' chosen or preferred names will automatically appear in these places:

- University communications and mailings to a student's permanent home address*
- Student information system, where applicable
- Official student email display name
- Advising profile
- Class rosters
- D2L
- CORE

* If you do not use a chosen or preferred name at home, do not submit a name to be used by SRU.

Students may elect to use their chosen or preferred name in the following places:

- Student identification cards**
- Diplomas
- Commencement programs and cards

** Requires a visit to the [Parking and ID Office](#).

Where will my legal name still be used?

Due to policies and regulations, student legal names will continue to be used for official University records, including but not limited to:

- Legal documents and reports produced by the University
- Student Account Statements (bills)
- Financial aid and scholarship documents
- Academic transcripts
- Enrollment verifications
- Degree verifications
- Student employee documents
- Paychecks, W2s, and other Payroll documents

How do I identify a chosen or preferred first name?

To update your preferred or chosen name, log in to your MySRU portal and click the My Profile tab. Next, click the Personal Information Page button in the list of links below your profile picture on the left side of the page. On your Personal Information Page, click the Edit button on the Personal Details block.

Here you may update your chosen or preferred name. Be sure to also review your gender identity, email, phone number, address, and emergency contact information when you visit your Personal Information Page.

How do I identify a chosen or preferred middle name?

A chosen or preferred middle name appears in some, but not all, of the same places that a chosen first name does. If you wish to use a middle name that is different from your legal middle name, simply email the Office of Academic Records (academic.records@sru.edu) with your Banner ID, your name, and your chosen or preferred middle name. As with a chosen first name, a chosen middle name will not be used on certain official University records (see “Where will my legal name still be used?”).

Are there any restrictions to the name that I choose?

The only restrictions are that chosen or preferred names cannot be deemed inappropriate. Inappropriate names include, but are not limited to, those used to avoid a legal obligation, commit fraud, misrepresent yourself, are obscene language, or are trademarked.

Will this information be used to treat me differently or to give me restricted access to any University resources?

No. Slippery Rock University is committed to serving all students equally and to not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, age, disability, age/or veteran status.

If you ever believe that you have the victim of discrimination at SRU, contact the [Assistant Vice President of Diversity and Equal Opportunity/Title IX Coordinator](#)

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104 Maltby Avenue
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Slippery Rock, PA 16057
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Gender Identity/Expression Data FAQ

Why are we asking?

Slippery Rock University's mission includes the education and empowerment of our diverse student body, and this compels us to know the characteristics, challenges, and needs of that diverse student body. Currently, SRU lacks consistent data on our students' gender identity/expression data. Except on a small number of surveys administered every few years, SRU students' in the LGBTQIA+ community do not have any way to stand up and be counted.

It is SRU's intent to allow all of our diverse students the opportunity to have their complex identities recorded and recognized. Additionally, we are unable to adequately provide appropriate support services or educational programming without knowing the size and dimensions of the LGBTQIA+ community in our campus community.

How do I select my gender identity/expression?

To select your gender identity/expression, log in to your MySRU portal and click the My Profile tab. Next, click the Personal Information Page button in the list of links below your profile picture on the left side of the page. On your Personal Information Page, click the Edit button on the Personal Details block. Here you may update your gender identity/expression. Be sure to also review your chosen name, email, phone number, address, and emergency contact information when you visit your Personal Information Page.

Will a student organization try to use this to recruit me to join, or will a professor try to use this to get me to sign up for a course/major/minor?

No. This data will be kept private and will not be available to faculty, staff, or student leaders who are seeking a list of LGBTQIA+ students.

Will any of my peers, professors, CAs, or advisors see this information?

No.

Who will see this information?

Only a handful of individuals will be able to see this information. These include the Director of Academic Records, certain data-validators in the Office of Analytics and Decision Support, and database administrators. As part of these professionals' jobs, they are able to view a range of sensitive information about students and they adhere to strict data privacy and security standards.

Will this information show up on my transcript or my diploma?

No. It will only be visible to you on your Personal Information Page in Banner.

Do I need to give you this information to register for class or to graduate?

No. Reporting this information to us is entirely optional.

Am I able to change the gender identity/expression that I've previously reported?

Yes. You are able to change your data at any time while you are a student at SRU or even after you graduate.

How can I select my sexual orientation?

The current technology does not allow you to easily or securely report this information. We have asked our information system vendor to modify their software to allow students to report their sexual orientation, and when those features become available, we will implement them.

Will this information be used to treat me differently or to give me restricted access to any University resources?

No. Slippery Rock University is committed to serving all students equally and to not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, age, disability, age/or veteran status.

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