

Statement of Support for Transgender/Gender-Diverse Students

SHS Gender Affirming Healthcare Team

As a society, significant strides have been made in removing barriers and improving health care and outcomes for the transgender and gender-diverse population here at UCSB. Individuals are more empowered to disclose their medical concerns regarding their gender identity to their healthcare providers. Recent laws and policy changes are putting this in jeopardy. At UCSB Student Health Services (SHS), we believe health care services should be made universal to all and should not discriminate in any way, whether this be based on age; race; ethnicity; sex; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity; marital status; physical size or ability; religious, spiritual or cultural identity; neurodiversity; socioeconomic status; or veteran status. This is consistent with the University of California's commitment to sustaining a welcoming environment where diversity, equity, and inclusion are valued and demonstrated in our organizational practices, policies, services, and programs. We embrace the opportunity to provide quality, culturally competent care that reflects our common desire to feel respected, valued, and welcomed.

UCSB Student Health Services opposes any policy, at any level, that restricts, limits, or discourages access to gender-related services for transgender and gender-diverse youth and/or adults in our communities. This includes mandates for data sharing that target gender-affirming care and diagnoses related to gender identity or gender dysphoria. The sharing of these confidential, personal medical data, even when de-identified, erodes trust in healthcare services and interferes with the patient-provider relationship to the detriment of the person's physical and mental health. The health and well-being needs of all college students, including those who identify as transgender and gender diverse, must always be the highest priority of healthcare providers and campus health centers.

Originally adapted from the ACHA Executive Committee Statement February 2023 and updated to reflect UCSB SHS values.

https://www.acha.org/ACHA/About/Position_Statements.aspx

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In the last decade, UCSB has committed itself to removing barriers and improving health care for our transgender and gender-diverse student population. We have made significant strides in serving our students and building trust with our community. Recently issued executive orders have attempted to compromise this commitment.

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During these challenging times, we remain committed to our students' success. While many are uncertain about what lies ahead, we remain steadfast in our values, our mission, and our commitment to caring for and supporting our entire community.

The health and well-being needs of all college students, including those who identify as transgender and gender diverse, remain the highest priority of healthcare providers and campus health centers.

We will continue to reinforce these values and practices as it is our ethical and professional duty to humanize those we serve.