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Student Support

Counseling and Career Development (http://www.morainevalley.edu/counseling/personal_counseling.htm)

Short-term counseling services are available, at no cost, to currently enrolled students. Counseling sessions are up to 50 minutes in length.

In many cases, a student and counselor will set short-term goals to be achieved within 8-10 sessions.

Student Club: Gender and Sexuality Progress (G.A.S.P.)

Advisors: Jeffrey McCully, A157, (708) 608-4377 mccullyj@morainevalley.edu ([mailto-mccullyj@morainevalley.edu](mailto:mccullyj@morainevalley.edu)) Matthew Cullen, S202, (708) 608-4101 cullenm27@morainevalley.edu Educates about gender and sexual minorities, promotes and provides safe space for campus community and challenges Moraine Valley to adopt attitudes and policies of tolerance and acceptance towards all individuals.

Safe Zone: Safe Zone training allows individuals to become advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people (LGBT). To be an Ally at Moraine Valley, a faculty or staff member must pledge to be supportive, positive, and affirming to students, staff, and faculty who wish to talk about being LGBT. Allies also advocate for the rights of the LGBT community on campus by using inclusive language, minimizing stereotyping, and providing resources to those who want more information. A Safe Zone member provides a place for LGBT students, faculty, and staff to be who they are without fear of hatred or criticism. Safe Zone members can be identified by the certificate with a rainbow triangle displayed by their office. LGBT awareness is part of diversity, yet equal access to all students, faculty, and staff means that “individuals are not just tolerated but valued.”

Non-Discrimination and Human Rights Statement: *Students, Student Employees, and College Employees: From Board Policy 7242*

It is the policy of Moraine Valley Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, creed, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, arrest record, military status or unfavorable military discharge, citizenship status, or other legally protected characteristics or conduct in its educational programs, activities or employment practices. Such discrimination is prohibited by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, the Age Discrimination Acts of 1974 and 1975, and other federal and state statutes and regulations. Inquiries concerning application of Title IX may be referred to the Vice President of Student Development, (708) 974-5209, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, IL 60465. Also see www.morainevalley.edu/humanresources/diversity.htm (www.morainevalley.edu/humanresources/diversity.htm). Other inquiries concerning the application of other federal or state laws may be directed to the Director of Human Resources, (708) 974-5704, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills, IL 60465.

Specifically, this means that the college may not discriminate on the basis of sex (i.e., sex, gender-identity, and sexual orientation) in its education programs (e.g., prohibiting a gay student from playing a college sport or denying a transgender person acceptance to the nursing program) or in its employment practice (e.g., rejecting a student employee application because a student revealed she is a lesbian during the interview or firing a bisexual student after he revealed his orientation).

Prohibited Behaviors: A variety of college policies applicable to students and/or employees, including the Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.morainevalley.edu/conduct/code.htm>) and the Sexual Harassment, Misconduct, and Discrimination Policy (<http://www.morainevalley.edu/conduct/sexualharrassment.htm>), prohibit illegal or inappropriate behaviors relating to violence and harassment. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment (including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, or acts that an individual did not request or invite and that are regarded

as undesirable or offensive) and sexual misconduct (including sexual intercourse without consent, the touching of a non-consenting person's intimate parts, sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol, or sexual violence such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery and sexual coercion).

Reporting Procedures for Bias-Related Incidents: Any student, employee, or community member who experiences or witnesses an act of violence or misconduct related to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity may file a report with the Moraine Valley Police Department or with the Code of Conduct Office. Information about filing a report is available here (<http://www.morainevalley.edu/conduct/file.htm>).

Financial Aid: Consistent with the Supreme Court decision holding Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional, same-sex couples (both the student and the student's parents) must report their marital status as married if they were legally married in a state or other jurisdiction (foreign country), without regard to where the couple resides or where the student will be attending school.

Quick Facts:

- The federal government removed "mother" and "father" from the FAFSA and replaced the verbiage with "parent 1" and "parent 2". If a student/spouse or parents are legally married then both sets of parent's information is needed.
- If a student/spouse or parents are divorced but are living in the same house, both sets of information is still needed to complete the FAFSA.

More information about how same-sex marriage influences federal financial aid can be found on the Reporting Same-sex Marriage on the FAFSA fact sheet (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/reporting-same-sex-marriage-on-fafsa.pdf>) and on the Federal Student Aid website (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/>). Contact the Moraine Valley Financial Aid Office (<http://www.morainevalley.edu/FinancialAid/>) with questions about your FAFSA or financial aid.

Student Health Insurance: Moraine Valley Community College does not provide student health insurance. However, for information on mandatory individual insurance coverage through the National Affordable Healthcare Act visit [healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) (<http://www.healthcare.gov/>).

Single Occupancy, Gender Neutral Restrooms: In an effort to make all students feel comfortable using the restroom, Student Life has converted the men and women's restrooms on the second floor of the Student Union (Building U) into single occupancy, gender neutral restrooms. These two lockable restrooms are designed for use by a single individual or family and are not gender specific. Changing tables also have been installed. These restrooms can benefit parents with differently gendered children, people who necessitate an attendant in the restroom who may be of a different gender, people who are transgender or gender-queer, and people who have other specific needs for privacy.

Chicagoland Community Organizations and Resources committed to LGBT Advocacy, Education, History, and/or Wellness

Affinity (<http://affinity95.org/acsccontent/>): Affinity Community Services is a social justice organization that works with and on behalf of Black LGBTQ communities, queer youth, and allies to identify emergent needs, create safe spaces, develop leaders, and bridge communities through collective analysis and action for social justice, freedom, and human rights.

American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU-IL) LGBT Rights (<http://www.aclu-il.org/issues2/lbgt-rights/>): In courtrooms, in the legislature and in our schools and communities, we fight for an Illinois free from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

American Veterans for Equal Rights (<http://aver.us/>): AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of active, reserve and veteran service members dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA)LMA (<http://www.almachicago.org/index.php>): To fight for the rights of the Latino Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning community by advocating for fairness and equality, and affirming Latino LGBTQ culture. Chicago Gay History Project <http://www.chicagogayhistory.com/> Chicago Gay History Project seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of those many important people, events, and organizations who helped the Windy City become a beacon of gay progress in the latter part of the 20th Century.

Chicago Women's Health Center (<http://www.chicagowomenshealthcenter.org/>): Chicago Women's Health Center facilitates the empowerment of women and trans people by providing access to gynecological health care, alternative insemination, health education, counseling services, acupuncture, and massage in a respectful environment where clients pay what they can afford.

GenderQueer Chicago (<http://genderqueerchicago.blogspot.com/>): Mission: A free and open community group whose mission is to bring people together to talk and think about gender in new ways, increase visibility of gender variant people, and educate the larger Chicago community on issues of importance to people in the gender variant community.

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives (<http://gerberhart.org/index.html>): Gerber/Hart Library and Archives was founded in 1981 to be a depository for the records of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) individuals and organizations, and for other resources bearing upon their lives and experiences in American society.

Howard Brown Health Center (<http://www.howardbrown.org/>): The mission of Howard Brown is to promote the well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons through the provision of health care and wellness programs, including clinical, educational, social service and research activities

Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago (<http://www.chicagoi2i.org/>): Invisible to Invincible ("i2i") is a community-based organization that celebrates and affirms Asians & Pacific Islanders who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Queer in the Chicago area.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>): Lambda is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS through impact litigation, education, and public policy work.

Lesbian Community Care Project (<http://lccp.org>) The Lesbian Community Care Project is a program of Howard Brown Health Center, which promotes the health of lesbian, bisexual and queer women and transgender individuals through healthcare, advocacy, public education, research and programming.

National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) (<http://immigrantjustice.org/programs/lgbt-immigrant-rights-initiative>) NIJC's LGBT Immigrant Rights Initiative focuses on representing and advocating on behalf of LGBTQ and HIV-positive immigrants, including asylum and other matters.

PFLAG Illinois (<http://www.pflagillinois.org/>): PFLAG promotes the well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten the ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

Soy Quien Soy: Trans* Empowerment Collective (<http://sqs-tec.tumblr.com/>): We are a fierce and queer grassroots collective of trans* individuals from a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. We are here to serve as a force of strength and positive empowerment to all. We meet in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago, once-a-month. Allies are welcome.