PERSONAL PRONOUNS: A RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What are personal pronouns, and why do they matter?

Personal pronouns take the place of a person's name. The only way to be certain about a person's pronouns is to ask them; making assumptions may lead to misgendering, misidentifying, and/or otherwise negatively impacting the person. To respect each person's identity and maintain and enhance our inclusive environment in the Coast Community College District, it is important that we use correct pronouns.

Where will personal pronouns be displayed?

Starting Summer 2020, each Canvas user will have the option to select their pronouns from a dropdown menu on the Canvas profile page. Users are not required to select pronouns in Canvas; in this case, the user's name will still display. When users do select pronouns, their pronouns will be displayed next to their names in Canvas in these places:

- Comment Fields
- Discussions
- Inbox
- People Page (Course and Groups)
- User Navigation Menu
- User Profile Page
- User Settings Page

Because Canvas users who select pronouns will have their pronouns displayed in so many places throughout the system, it should be easy for instructors and classmates to reference correct pronouns in this space.

What pronouns are available in Canvas?

The pronouns available in Canvas are listed here:

- She/Her
- He/Him
- They/Them
- Ze/Hir
- Ze/Zir
- No Pronouns (Use my name.)

Here are examples of how to use the pronouns available in Canvas:

- **(She/Her) She** is a great classmate, and I appreciate **her** contributions in class!
- **(He/Him) He** is a great classmate, and I appreciate **his** contributions in class!
- **(They/Them) They** are a great classmate, and I appreciate **their** contributions in class!
- **(Ze/Hir) Ze** is a great classmate, and I appreciate **hir*** contributions in class!
- **(Ze/Zir) Ze** is a great classmate, and I appreciate **zir**** contributions in class!
- **(No Pronouns. Use my name.) Max** is a great classmate, and I appreciate **Max's** contributions in class!
  * "Hir" is pronounced like "here."
  ** "Zir" rhymes with "here."

For additional information on using these pronouns, please see www.mypronouns.org.

What happens if I, or others, make a mistake?

A Learning Opportunity
As faculty and students are getting to know each other, mistakes may happen. Remember this important rule: Oops. Ouch. Educate!

In other words, the person who makes the mistake should acknowledge that they are not intentionally disrespecting the person for whom they used incorrect pronouns, and they should correct themselves or ask for a correction. People will appreciate each other's effort and diligence as we all quickly learn and adapt.

Antidiscrimination
The Coast Community College District has an antidiscrimination policy (BP 3410: Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment), which includes protections for sex and gender identities. To create a welcoming and safe environment for all members of the Coast community, we participate in the respectful use of personal pronouns.

Where can I get more information or training on this subject?

All of the Coast Colleges offer SafeZone training regularly, and this is an excellent option for those who want to understand more about pronouns and LGBTQ+ inclusive environments. Please contact your campus Title IX coordinator for more information on upcoming opportunities.

For more specific training and/or information on this subject, please visit the Name Standards and Pronouns section of the Coast Colleges Equity, Inclusion, and Compliance site or contact Sacha Moore, District Coordinator of Equity, Inclusion, and Compliance, at smoore@gwc.cccd.edu.