

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	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	If assigned female or intersex at birth	Self-identity, may ask for further information
Simmons	November 2014	Yes	Yes	Yes	If assigned female at birth	Self-identity
Mount Holyoke	Summer 2014	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	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) ³	Unclear	Trans women “have completed the physical sex reassignment surgery and legal transformation” ⁴

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

³ This aspect of this policy probably violates Title IX

⁴ These criteria are basically impossible for a 17-year old to meet, and are also nonsensical – there is no one surgery that has legal or other significance as “the” sex reassignment surgery

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.”