

PRONOUNS ARE IMPORTANT!

WHAT IS A PRONOUN?

- A pronoun is a word used in place of someone’s name.
EX: **Ahmed** transferred to WSU this year. **He** is excited to get involved on campus!
- Some people do not use pronouns at all.
EX: **Sam** transferred to WSU this year. **Sam** is excited to get involved on campus!

HOW DO I ASK ABOUT PRONOUNS?

- Individual Interaction | Introduce Yourself and Share Yours First
EX: **“My name is Jason, and I use they/them/theirs pronouns. What is your name, and what pronouns do you use?”**
- Group Setting | Include Pronouns in Introductions
EX: **“Let’s go around and say your name, pronouns, and hometown.”**
- Don’t Be Afraid to Ask
EX: **“I use they/them/theirs pronouns. What pronouns do you use?”**

WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE?

- We are not perfect! Apologize, correct yourself, and move on.
EX: **“I’m sorry, I meant they.”**
- If someone else makes a mistake, politely correct them.
EX: **“Naomi uses they/them pronouns.”**

WHAT IF I CAN’T ASK/DON’T KNOW?

- Use the person’s name or the gender inclusive pronoun - **they/them/theirs** - until you can ask, but make sure to use the correct pronouns once someone tells you.

COMMON PRONOUNS

Subject	Object	Possessive Object	Possessive Pronoun
She	Her	Her bike is red.	The bike is hers .
He	Him	His bike is red.	The bike is his .
They	Them	Their bike is red.	The bike is theirs .
Ze	Hir	Hir bike is red.	The bike is hirs .
Ze	Zir	Zir bike is red.	The bike is zirs .

Need to change your preferred name on your WSU accounts? Visit go.wayne.edu/name-change



QWSU

The Queer Faculty and Staff
Organization of Wayne State

Adapted From:
Resource Center for Sexual & Gender Diversity
University of California, Santa Barbara