



Is USGA a Dating Club?

No. USGA supports the Honor Code and encourages all members to live according to its standards. With the understanding that “one’s stated same-gender attraction is not an Honor Code issue,” USGA encourages an open dialogue that fosters understanding of differences. However, “homosexual behavior is inappropriate and violates the Honor Code. Homosexual behavior includes not only sexual relations between members of the same sex, but all forms of physical intimacy that give expression to homosexual feelings.” USGA supports these standards in its meetings and activities.

Does USGA Protest Church or BYU Policy?

No. USGA seeks to improve general understanding of LGBTQ/SSA issues within a gospel context. It does not protest or seek to change LDS Church policy or the BYU Honor Code. USGA does, on occasion, suggest ways student resources could better meet the needs of LGBTQ/SSA students, but does not demand any changes. USGA seeks to comply with all BYU standards and maintain appropriate political neutrality.



Where Can I Learn More about USGA?

For our regular meeting times, see our main Facebook page at:

facebook.com/UsgaAtByu

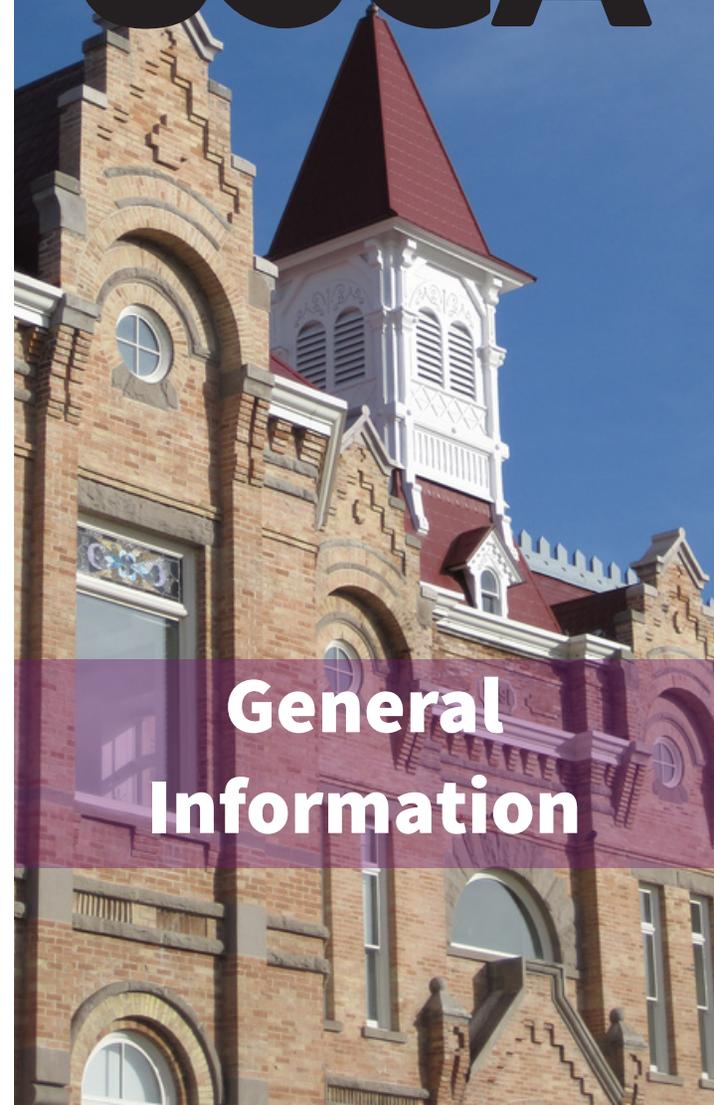
USGA maintains a lively online presence on other platforms as well. Check out our Faces of USGA project, It Gets Better series, and blog for stories of LGBTQ/SSA BYU students.

Follow us!

-  [USGA at BYU | Faces of USGA](#)
-  youtube.com/byuitgetsbetter
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-  [@byu.usga](#) | [@facesofusga](#)
-  byu.usga@gmail.com



USGA



General Information

What is USGA?

USGA stands for Understanding Same-Gender Attraction. We are a student-run organization that seeks save and improve the lives of LGBTQ/SSA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Same-Sex Attracted) students by building a supportive community and raising awareness on these topics at BYU and in the greater Provo area.

Why Make a Club?

There are hundreds of LGBTQ/SSA students at BYU, but resources for them are very limited. Many students will face their sexuality or gender identity for the first time while at BYU. Students are often scared to confide in friends, church leaders, or even family, which leaves them feeling alone and isolated. Many younger students are unaware of student resources such as Counseling and Psychological Services or are afraid to go. Some members of the LDS church or the BYU community may not understand LGBTQ/SSA issues, leading them to say insensitive or hurtful things that contribute to an unfriendly atmosphere. USGA's primary goal is to save and improve quality of life for LGBTQ/SSA students at BYU. It provides students with a safe space where they can process and come to better understand their sexuality and gender identity, explore and strengthen their faith, and offers them a community of friendship and support. USGA activities also educate students on available resources, Church and BYU policies, and LGBTQ/SSA issues. As part of a broader outreach, USGA seeks to educate the general student body about the LGBTQ/SSA experience in order to increase empathy and understanding.

Who Can Attend?

Everyone who agrees to abide our guidelines is welcome! USGA is primarily for BYU students who are LGBTQ/SSA, but other supportive students are also welcome and encouraged to attend, as well as faculty, administrators, and guests.

What Are USGA Activities Like?

USGA has a variety of weekly activities. Some are aimed at educating our own members on topics such as mental health and self-care, conflict resolution, media representation, and various LGBTQ issues. Others are faith affirming, such as student panels on reconciling faith and sexuality or testimony meetings. Many meetings focus on building and serving the community, including games, potlucks, and service projects. All activities are designed to allow members a safe space to be themselves, which they may not be able to do anywhere else.

How does USGA Reach Out?

USGA strives to help straight and cis-gender students better understand what it is like to be LGBTQ/SSA and LDS at BYU. Our hope is that students will be kinder toward and more accepting of people with differences, and that LGBTQ/SSA students will feel comfortable sharing their experiences with and contributing to the BYU community. One of the most effective ways to accomplish this is to allow students to meet their LGBTQ/SSA peers. USGA produces Youtube videos, Facebook posts, and Blog entries that share LGBTQ/SSA student experiences. USGA members also participate on panels in ethics, sociology, and other applicable classes to answer student questions. Students are more able to relate to their LGBTQ/SSA peer when they realize that those students are normal fellow classmates and ward members. USGA is always exploring new ways to reach more people.

“One of my favorite professors was actually a religion professor my freshman year. His name was anti-climactically Brother Smith if you can believe it. Everything from his lessons to the conversations we had outside of class taught me way more than I ever knew I needed to learn. He taught me that there is a place for me in this religion. He introduced me to the God I felt so familiar with - one that loved me, understood me, and knew how difficult things were for me. Man I wish he knew how much he changed my life. It absolutely blew my mind that an extremely religious man could be so loving and understanding.”

