

## Survey Overview

This one-question textbox survey ran on the UASU Perks platform from November 25 to 30. The survey reached 797 points of contact, primarily undergraduate students.

*We ran another survey — if you took that one, thanks! — that showed a lot of students didn't feel especially safe when using campus recreation facilities. That was particularly true for transgender students, women and gender minorities, disabled students, and Indigenous students, but plenty of respondents from all demographics said they didn't feel as safe as they could. SO: What kinds of changes would make you feel SAFER when using gyms/pools/change rooms?*

Out of 797 unique respondents, 509 had also taken a recent Perks survey that included a gender identity question, and 591 had taken a survey with a disability self-identification question. An anonymized table join allowed us to identify 35 responses from disabled students, and 20 responses from gender minorities (e.g. non-binary). We opted to examine these specific responses in isolation.

## Representative Responses: Non-binary or Other Gender

- I don't feel safe in pools because I have horrible vision and can't see anything but times for non men to swim might help others feel safe.
- I don't really know. I guess like do your best to ensure that the space is free from harassment and discrimination. Have consequences for students who discriminate or harass other students and make it easier for students to come forward about their experiences. I know a lot of people experience some form of discrimination or actions towards us that make us feel unsafe, but it can be uncomfortable and anxiety provoking to try to figure out who to report it to, and whether anything will actually be done.
- Communal change rooms/ bathrooms with heavy full-length doors like in chali.
- As a nonbinary student, having more gender neutral washrooms that are easily accessible and are not hard to find.
- Privacy screens in the gym I think. Like those fold out walls. It's just hard not to be self conscious.

## Representative Responses: Disabled Students

- Multiple exits from each space (i.e., no dead ends)
- More security, especially in evenings and nights. Single person private change rooms.

- More gender neutral washrooms.
- Locking doors.
- Just making sure that there is a strong sense of protection. Make sure that people who are not kind, rude or creepy are banned right away and show that these places have a zero tolerance for bullying of any sort. Also it would be nice to not have transparent windows where people walking by can see.
- Change rooms with fewer cracks between the doors that people can peep through.
- Areas/times in gyms which are used for non men to exercise in peace.
- More prayer spaces.
- Women only section in the gym (which also allows those who are nonbinary to work out in the same space).
- Maybe signs in change rooms let people know who to contact when they feel they are in an uncomfortable situation and need backup.
- Having locks not up for charge to lock up belongings. Also having equipment more spread out from the creeps at the gym and their area.
- Being able to walk directly into the pool area from the change room, rather than having to walk through the hallway to get to the open pool. Better lighting in all areas of the change room. More enclosed change rooms/showers that are not specifically for disability. (I have not attended facilities since prior to Covid, these may have already been rectified.)

### Other Representative Responses

- Women-only section of the gym please!!!
- Women and gender minority specific times.
- Using the QR code rather than campus pass when going to the gym.
- The gym culture is super gym-bro-y and super hostile to newcomers. Definitely forces me to find other options. I think expanding the hours of operation would help because it's not as bad if I'm there extremely early or extremely late.
- Specific time slots for different types of students to use the facility, better security at the entrance to ensure that people are going to their designated areas.
- Some fitness classes that are Woman/Non-Binary only. Most people seem to be very into fitness and have for a while which makes it feel very uncomfortable for people who are just starting out.
- Security guards and cameras.
- Safer way to store personal belongings if people forget to bring a lock or don't have one.
- Private change rooms, maybe in the gym a smaller workout room that's more for people who don't want to be stared at - like anyone can use but the agreement is that it's a safe space for people who are new to/shy in the gym.
- More stalls definitely, there isn't enough and I don't feel particularly comfortable changing out in the open.
- More signage: the pool changing rooms specifically are huge and really easy to get turned around in.

- Only students/staff who registered their names to use the facility at night time would be allowed in using their OneCard; not anyone who isn't registered?
- More female staff being present.
- Maybe actually doing something when someone has been assaulted, or possibly really paying attention to the hate and language used on campus. Sometimes it feels like campus doesn't take us seriously.
- Lots of lighting, as many clear walls as possible (no hiding spots), front desk attendants.
- Lockers I can rent (i.e. not day use) in unisex changerooms.
- It'd be cool if there were more menstruation products in all bathrooms.
- It's not that I necessarily feel unsafe, but I am not comfortable using the gyms, because I have no idea what I'm doing, I don't know whom to ask, and I perceive there to be judgement toward people who are just beginning their gym journeys. I think making gym staff more noticeable (i.e. coloured shirts, etc.) to turn to when people don't know what they're doing could be helpful.
- Open spaces, safe locks, change rooms without peep holes may up the safety.
- I would prefer if people wouldn't just sit and watch other people swim because that makes me really uncomfortable.
- I don't use those facilities. Feel left out as a non-white person.
- Maybe a buddy program where you can find people to go with you and do these activities so you aren't alone?
- Install a security camera and put a sign inside the change room to scare away people who want to do illegal things.
- Having more people flowing through the areas so that if something was to happen I would feel like someone could help me.
- Have staff walk through the change rooms every hour or so, just to check if anything is going on. Just a quick walk through - it's nice to see staff just checking the area to make sure everything is good.
- Have cams on the lockers site, have some divisions in the showers.
- Enclosed areas going from the facilities to the changerooms so we don't have to walk in swimsuits to the pool.
- As a female, I do not like how I can only access the west pool through the universal change room. If you aren't comfortable using the universal change room, you're hooped. Universal change rooms can be helpful, but I do not like how they are the only option in some cases.
- Education about respecting LGBTQ+ people while using gyms and pools.
- Why are you asking random students? Ask a security officer/specialist, look into what other campuses and facilities have done, and get experts to do it. Dipshit eng ghouls ain't gonna give you any good advice lmao. [Contextual note: Several of the ideas in this report came from Engineering students.]
- More security in the change rooms. Have had my lock cut so many times and I feel violated.
- If the locker rooms added more free daily use lockers so that people would not always be clustered in certain sections. The price for a locker is heavily over priced which forces people to use the few free lockers in the change room. These lockers are always clustered in specific areas and leads a dense

population of people. This is especially concerning when considering the pandemic.

- I don't use those facilities, yet the campus is so much more sketchy now than 20 years ago when I did my undergrad. Lots of this is due to the opioid crisis and the reluctance of campus security to be seen as discriminatory so they will just avoid confrontation. There are no real answers to these issues other than widespread government sponsored supervised injectable opioid agonist treatment to remove the drug seeking behavior and substance use disorder driven crime. But that's an issue out of the scope of the SU.
- Having liability on the part of the university for securely locked items.
- Free boxing classes for self defence.
- Anonymous report system.
- Some facilities are used by non-UofA students like the basketball court since no one checks student status. They should give wristbands to use these facilities.
- The only safety issue at the forefront for me is still COVID, and since people are allowed to take off their masks in their workout space, I would like to see what the cleaning protocol is to keep surfaces disinfected and stuff.
- Monitor based on gender (e.g. no male bodyguard in ladies' swimming pool).
- Banning of recording in gyms for any reason so that people cannot film others under the guise of filming themselves.
- A lot of the time women and queer people feel unsafe in gyms and pools because of men. They get video taped or hit on while working on and it's very uncomfortable.
- I want more help in what to do when I encounter harassment.
- In my home country, we had women only rooms in the gym. I understand that this may not work here and may "support more separation", but it did make me feel very comfortable as a woman.
- I feel quite safe in the gym but it'd be nice if you added more benches or more rope grips for the cable machines.

Note: A small handful of responses expressed transphobic sentiment.