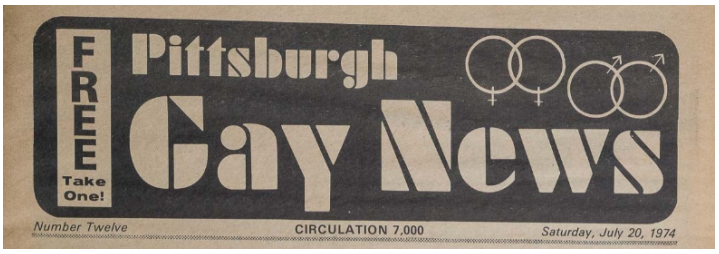
Thomas J. Peterson LGBTQ Studies Scholarship



The Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSWS) Program is excited to open applications for the Thomas J. Peterson LGBTQ Studies Scholarship for the spring of 2026. With generous support from Thomas Peterson, this scholarship has been established to offer financial support for undergraduate students who are engaged in LGBTQ research at the University of Pittsburgh and to create an academic home for LGBTQ research at the University of Pittsburgh. This award is available for Spring of 2026 and is supported by a stipend of $1500 (paid in two installments). Awardees will be expected to complete a minimum of 6 hours per week, to meet regularly with a designated faculty mentor, and to present their work at the end of the scholarship period. Awardees will be part of an innovative and collaborative Pitt LGBTQ Archival Education Project to develop work towards a collective and ongoing history of Pittsburgh's LGBTQ community with a specific focus on the intersection of national issues and events with the emergence and advancement of the LGBTQ community in the Pittsburgh area and the western Pennsylvania region. Applicants should specify how their research project will address Pittsburgh's LGBTQ history.

This project focus is inspired by our donor who was born and raised in a Pittsburgh suburb, attended and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and was a participant in the LGBTQ movement. The first-person aspect of this initiative is expected to provide a unique perspective on the LGBTQ movement and give direction to the research effort and the interpretation and understanding of events and milestones.

This innovative and collective LGBTQ history project provides an opportunity for student researchers to work directly with Pittsburgh's LGBTQ archives across the city (including Hillman Library, The Warhol, Heinz History, Pittsburgh Equality Center, etc.). By connecting this history with our donor's experience in Pittsburgh, this scholarship adds a personal connection to history, and it serves as a model for fostering the transference of intergenerational knowledge in LGBTQ community. In addition to building on and helping to preserve existing histories of LGBTQ Pittsburgh, the Thomas J. Peterson LGBTQ Studies Scholarship connects this history to the future by asking, what can Pittsburgh's LGBTQ history tell us about crafting cities, workplaces, and communities in the future? Through this approach, the scholarship provides students with the opportunity to connect history to a wide range of disciplines and future professional work.

To apply for the Thomas J. Peterson LGBTQ Studies Scholarship, please submit the following documents to gsws@pitt.edu by **Sunday, Dec. 15, 2025** (midnight)

1. Statement of interest (approx.300 words)
2. Resume or cv including names and contact info for two academic references
3. Unofficial transcript
4. Cover sheet (available online)