College House Application Information 2022 - 2023

The purpose of this document is to provide information that may be helpful to you in the application process.

Important Dates

December 21st
February 6th @ 12 – 4 PM
February 13th
February 18th
February 21st, 24th & 25th
March 11th
March 29th
April 12th

Applications available online
Open Houses & Tours
Application Deadline
All Recommendations Due
Block Interviews
Decisions Emailed
Contracts Due
Spring Open House & Room Lottery

Information Sessions:
   February 1st – 5:30 PM in Hubbard, Pickering Room
   February 2nd – 6 PM in Hubbard, Pickering Room
   February 11th – 3 PM in Hubbard, Pickering Room

Questions from the Application

Below is a preview of the College House application essay questions as well as the information we request from recommenders.

Applicant Essay Questions

• What are you looking for in your College House experience?
• What do you think doesn’t work well in College Houses? How would you change it?
• One benefit to living in a College House is the ability to design and execute a diverse range of programs including, but not limited to, social, academic, intellectual, and community events. Putting on these programs require the work of all House members and House office alike. Thinking back over experiences you have had (at Bowdoin and beyond), what role do you tend to play within a group or team? How do you think you would contribute to your House’s programs?
• Please list and describe all extracurricular activities in which you are involved.

Recommendation Information

* We prefer your references complete our online recommendation form due to ease of collection and comparison. However, if they would rather submit your recommendation as a letter or email, that is also acceptable.

About the position: House residents have numerous roles and responsibilities outside of the classroom. They represent the College in the broader Brunswick community and host events on campus for students, faculty and staff, and other community members. Successful selection is based on creative programming ideas and willingness to contribute to an energetic, cooperative team. All House members gain leadership skills that often propel them to other highly visible leadership roles at the College. Please refer below to Program Expectations to learn more about the role.

Deadline: To help ensure a smooth selection process, we would greatly appreciate receiving all recommendations by February 18, 2021. Please contact the Office of Residential Life to make alternate arrangements if you cannot meet the deadline.
Questions for the Recommenders:

- How well and in what capacity do you know this applicant?
- Life in a College House depends on effective communication, teamwork, and creating an environment of mutual respect. How would you describe this person’s approach when working within a group? Please be specific.
- Have you seen the applicant demonstrate qualities of leadership? Please be specific.
- Do you have any additional thoughts or concerns about this student joining a College House?

College House Application FAQs

1. Why live in a House? What does a House have to offer?

Living in a College House offers a great opportunity to shape and create the Bowdoin community while living and working with awesome people. House members develop their leadership skills and connect to a vast array of resources on and beyond campus. Skills gained while living in a House help residents launch into leadership roles at Bowdoin & beyond.

2. What is expected of House members?

Living in a College House is an extra-curricular activity. House members are expected to be engaged in programming, build community on campus, promote an inclusive environment in their House, and actively participate in a communal living situation by attending House meetings and build community on campus. House members are required to attend a Spring Open House, attend late August House Orientation, weekly House meetings, and assist with First-Year Orientation.

3. Application questions:

a. What are the sections of the application?

Application questions include information about you and your block, House preferences, committee preferences, and free-response questions. We also ask for a recommendation letter from a faculty/staff member or peer leader who knows you well. Your application is not complete until your block manager signs up for a block interview.

b. What is a block?

A block is comprised of you + the person (or people) with whom you are applying. Blocks are capped at 4 people. You may also block as an individual. Your block can consist of anyone you’d like. Your block will be notified of your decision together.

c. What's expected at the block interview?

A faculty/staff member and student will interview you and your block together for 20-30 minutes. Prior to your interview your block will be expected to submit a program proposal of an event that demonstrates what you’d bring to the table. This program can be an event, a party, a discussion – whatever you’d like. At your scheduled interview time, interviewers might have follow-up questions on your event but will spend the majority of the time focusing on who you are as a block.

d. What does a block decision mean?

Your entire block will receive the same decision. Either your entire block will be accepted into a specific House or your entire block will be denied. Decisions will be non-binding and contracts will be due back to me by March 29th. If your block is denied, you will have the opportunity to join a waitlist.

e. Can I only apply to houses that people in my block are affiliated with?
No, you can apply to any House that you would like. You will be asked to group all 8 Houses into different categories:

Yes, I’d like to apply to live here or No, I would not like to apply to live here. You will rank the houses that you are applying to live in from 1st choice on.

4. Who shouldn’t apply to live in a House?

Living in a House is a ton of fun and can be incredibly rewarding, but it is also a lot of work and responsibility. If you’re not excited about working with a team to plan and execute thoughtful programming for campus, then living in a House isn’t for you.

5. What happens if I don’t get into a College House?

You will have an option to get on the waitlist. Once you’re on the waitlist, you will be notified of any changes within 5 days. If you do not get off the waitlist, you will need to enter the general housing lottery. Because there is a quick turnaround, we recommend you also think about back up plans for the housing lottery in case you do not get accepted into a College House. Decisions will be sent by March 11th and the general housing lottery begins in mid-April.

6. What does the waitlist look like?

The waitlist is not first come, first served. It’s a list of students who will go through a supplementary selection process to fill any remaining spots. Please note that if you choose to enter the waitlist you should enter it as an individual. If you choose to remain in your block, it is highly unlikely you will be considered for any remaining spots.

7. What happens if I am selected for Res Life staff?

If you accept a position on ResLife, your application will be withdrawn and your block-mates’ applications will be considered without you.

Common College House Vocab

- **College House**: There are 8 College Houses which house anywhere from 22-34 students. We refer to these as College Houses and not “social houses” because as a House you will be required to do much more than host social events. You’ll also be expected to host intellectually engaging programs, community building events, and more.

- **Block**: Group of people you apply with. Up to 4 people.

- **Block manager**: A block manager is the “captain” of the block. This person will be tasked with signing up for an interview and will be the key point of contact for the ResLife Office.

- **Block Interview**: The last step of the application process which requires your entire block to submit a program proposal and interview about what you as a block would bring to a House.

- **Non-Binding**: If you are accepted to a House with you block your decision will not be confirmed until you return the contract.

- **Programming**: Each House has a budget of around $7000 to plan and throw a variety of intellectual and social events for affiliates and the entire campus. As a House member you will play an active role in planning and executing programs.

- **House Meeting**: Required weekly meetings at the House where you plan events and reflect on the week. These meetings are led by the House Officers.

- **House Leaders**: Individuals elected to leadership positions in the College House. Each committee will have a chair who will be on the house leadership team. House Leaders cannot be on Peer Health or Orientation Trip Leaders.