

Q&A from the November 18 Lottery Webinar

Below are most of the questions from the lottery webinar in the order they were asked.

Q1. If the option we want is unavailable when it's our turn to select living arrangements, are we able to rearrange into a smaller group, merge groups, etc.?

A. Yes, all of those options are possible once your timeslot is reached when your lottery round is open.

Q2. Is it possible to coordinate with a pod and reserve a whole floor?

A. You can form a roommate group with your pod and select what is available. If you are a pod of 6 and there are no 6-person apartments left, you could break up into three groups of 2 and select three doubles on the same floor.

Q3. Are the housing picks first come first serve when it becomes available or is it random based on how many people enter?

A. No. In each round unique timeslots are assigned to every roommate group, regardless of size. You may not begin selecting a room until your timeslot is reached.

Q4. When it's your turn to select a room are you really the only group selecting a room at that time? If so, how much time is there between your selection and that of the next?

A. Only one roommate group at a time is assigned to a timeslot. The length of time between timeslots will depend on the number and size of roommate groups in each round. For example, we anticipate many 6 and 8 person roommates groups in round 1 so we anticipate spacing timeslots apart by ten minutes in that round.

Q5. Can you still block with other people if you want to live somewhere that has single rooms? (example: West or Osher)

A. Yes, a roommate group can choose to select a larger suite or apartment or break into smaller groups when it is their turn to select.

Q6. After rearranging your roommate group do you get a new time slot or do you pick right away?

A. Yes, if everyone in the newly formed roommate groups have reached their timeslot.

Q7. When rearranging roommate groups can you make them bigger, smaller, or both?

A. Both! You can remove people from your group, add them or merge with another roommate group.

Q8. Can we request single apartments in Brunswick Apts in the same building, or is it not guaranteed you'll be in the same building?

A. Similar to Q2 above, your roommate group can choose to select a double apartment or break into two roommate groups and select two singles near each other.

Q9. Do you allot a certain amount of rooms in Park Row or Harpswell for the second round?

A. No. Beginning in round 1, all available housing will be in the round to choose from. What is not selected in round 1 will be available in round 2. Round 3 will have available housing that was not selected in rounds 1 or 2.

Q10. If my group and I plan to get singles on the same floor, do we still need to make a group together or register separately as single groups?

A. See answer to Q5 above.

Q11. Will the rooms taken by res life staff members be out of the lottery ahead of time so that we don't plan for a room that isn't available?

A. Yes, the Available Rooms Report is exactly that, only the available rooms to select. During each lottery round the report will refresh every ten minutes.

Q12. If I'm in a six person block and no desired rooms are left could I hypothetically merge with two one person blocks to take an eight person apartment?

A. Yes. The one caveat is that if the 2-person block you are merging with has not reached their timeslot, you will need to wait to select a room until that group's timeslot is reached.

Q13. Can a roommate group of eight split into two doubles if there are still eight person rooms available?

A. Yes.

Q14. I want to be in a group of four living in a brick on the same floor. Should I block as a four and then split into two groups of two? (So we can see available rooms at the same time).

A. That sounds like an excellent strategy!

Q14. In the old lottery system students could enter the doubles lottery in groups of four, six or eight and the triples lottery in groups of three or six, etc. Will that still be an option in the new lottery?

A. Technically no. But, roommate groups are able to reconfigure once their timeslot is reached so a roommate group of 6 could remove 3 members from their group, those 3 students could create a new roommate group and then they could try to select near each other.

Q16. Will the rooms that sophomores who are living in Coles Tower as part of the college house process be taken off before the lottery?

A. Yes, only rooms available to select will display in the lottery. In the college house process, quads that are not full will show any remaining rooms in the lottery to select from as a single.

Q17. Will each time have a random assortment of blocks, for example, and even spread of 1,2,3,4,6,8?

A. Each roommate group is treated the same, regardless of size, when assigning timeslots. For example, the 6:00pm timeslot might be a group of 8, the 6:10 timeslot a group of 1 and the 6:20 timeslot a group of 6.

Q18. How does substance-free housing work?

A. Each building with substance-free rooms is noted in the building list. When it is time to confirm your room, you'll need to review the substance free policy for the building to be sure you agree with it. It is important that everyone in your group agrees to abide by the substance-free policies. If they don't, make a different choice. Any student living in substance-free housing who are disruptive to the community due to substance use (inside or outside the building) will be relocated. Don't take that chance if your group hasn't discussed this option.

Q19. For people picking in places like Harpswell Apartments, will you only be able to see those who picked in your specific building (like building C) or the whole complex?

A.

Q20. What happens if I have technical difficulties during my time block? Am I skipped?

A. No, you are not skipped. Once your timeslot is reached you will have the full two-days the lottery is open to secure a room. If you are able, we recommend trying to relocate to a different spot with good wifi so you can login and select your room, it will only take a few minutes. If that is not an option, send a message to housing@bowdoin.edu to request assistance. We will be monitoring that account from 8:00am – 9:00pm when lottery rounds are open. If you are unable to email, call 207-725-3225 for assistance.

Q21. How do we secure a single room?

A. Login to Bricks and Beyond, select Lottery Spring 2021, select the term, complete the mandatory profile questions and create a roommate group. All of that will take about five minutes or less. Then all you have to do is wait to receive your timeslot the afternoon of the lottery round you entered. Once your timeslot is reached, login again to Bricks and Beyond and enter the Lottery Spring 2021 again. You will see a list of buildings with available singles in them, click on a building to see individual rooms, select a room, assign your bed and confirm your assignment.

Q22. Since you can pick a room once your time slot begins until the end of the round, could I be about to select then have someone come in from an earlier time slot to pick it just before I do?

A. Yes, that is possible. Once you select a room, it will be held in your “cart” for ten minutes. If you don’t assign beds and confirm your housing within those ten minutes, the room will be removed from your cart and available for others to choose again.

Q23. I know that the group leader chooses the room. But, can everyone in your group see the available housing options on bricks and beyond when the time blocks starts or just the group leader?

A. Yes but they are unable to click into the details. The best advice for non-group leaders is to keep refreshing the Available Rooms Report on the Housing Lottery webpage.

Q24. Related to the question about the six person block having two singles join to make an eight: the new eight person would need to wait until the timeslots for the singles is reached, is that correct?

A. Yes. Any groups that reconfigure in any way during a round are tied to the latest timeslot of any person added to the group.

Q25. What happens if I can't find my friends to invite them to my roommate group?

A. Contact them to be sure they are eligible for the lottery they may have decided to take a personal leave and haven't told you yet. They also need to have created a lottery application to join your group. You cannot find someone with the search function unless they have an application.

Q26. Why does each lottery round last two days?

A. The idea is that you can spend that time and reconfigure your groups as many times as you need to find housing that matches the number of students in your roommate group. The goal is that when each round is complete, every student in that round will have housing. The idea is that it is a much shorter period of time for you to secure your housing, than in previous years.

Q27. Why does everything I read tell me to have a plan B and Plan C?

A. Because it is a lottery and you just never know what will be available. Your selection is binding; by talking in advance about alternative housing, your group leader is making the most informed choice with the least amount of stress. Even if you have the first timeslot in the lottery, the room you are hoping to select may be unavailable.

Q28. What housing is not available?

A. The following buildings will be used for isolation and quarantine and be unavailable in the lottery: Howard Hall, Stowe Hall, Stowe Inn.

Q29. Will all of the Brunswick Apartments be taken in round 1?

A. It is difficult to predict given that we don't know how many seniors will be living on campus yet and won't know until November 30. That said, I expect there will be Brunswick Apartments to select in round 2.

Q30. How many doubles (singles) and triples (doubles) are in each individual Brunswick apartment building?

A. You can check out a Brunswick Apartments overview on the Res Life upperclass housing page. That will give you a visual of the breakdown of each Brunswick Apartment letter block.

Q31. Are our bed assignments binding?

A. If the roommate group leader assigns beds and the group wants to rearrange, that is fine. Be sure to email housing@bowdoin.edu and copy everyone in the group with the new bedroom numbers. This will be sure records are accurate and you are not charged for damage in a bedroom where you did not reside.

Q32. How soon can you make a profile and sign in as a group on bricks and beyond?

A. Tuesday, December 1 beginning at 9:00am.

Q33. If you add another block that has a later timeslot, do they join your timeslot or do you join the later timeslot?

A. You “join” the later timeslot.

Q34. What if I need to change my housing after the lottery?

A. During the week of January 11 you may contact housing@bowdoin.edu and request a room swap with another student, apartment or full quad. Everyone must be in agreement with the swap in order for it to be approved.

Q35. What if I have questions during room selection?

A. Residential Life staff will be available each round thru all assigned timeslots. After that time, we will be available during business hours and into the evening to answer questions. The best way to reach us is email: housing@bowdoin.edu