

College House Application Information 2023 - 2024

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

Important Dates

February 5 th , 12 pm – 4 pm	Open Houses & Tours
February 12 th	Application Deadline
February 13 th	All Recommendations Due
February 13 th	Block Interview Availability Due
February 20 th – 24 th	Block Interviews
March 6 th	Decisions Emailed
March 10 th	Contracts Due
April 1 st	College House Welcome
April 9 th	College House Room Lottery

Information Sessions:

January 26th – 6:30 PM in Daggett Lounge, Thorne **Will also include information on Residential Life**

February 2nd – 6:30 PM in Main Lounge, upstairs Moulton Union

February 7th – 5:00 PM in Main Lounge, upstairs Moulton Union

Common College House Vocab

- **College House:** There are 8 College Houses that 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 app 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 your 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 meeting at the House where you plan events and reflect on the week. These meetings are led by the House Proctors.
- **Committee Leader:** Individuals elected to lead their individual committees in the House. House Officers cannot be Residential Life Student Staff Members, Peer Health Members, or Orientation Trip Leaders.

Questions from the Application

Below is a preview of the College House free-response questions that will appear on the application. We highly recommend preparing your responses to these questions before beginning your application.

Applicant Free Response Questions

- College Houses focus on building community among members and across campus. What is a program or event you'd host to bring the community together? Please talk through the details of your program.
- The most successful College Houses are spaces where students are able to address challenges within the House. Please describe a time you were involved in a conflict with a peer and how you approached it.
- One benefit of 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 requires the work of all House members. 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?
- The Residential Life Office is committed to building College House communities that respect, are eager to learn about, and have a willingness to accept the many ways of viewing the world. Please give an example of a time when you worked with someone with differing views or life experiences from your own to achieve a goal.
- The selection committee strives to build dynamic house communities that include people with many different interests and activities. To help us in this process, please list and describe all extracurricular activities and job positions in which you are involved or are looking to participate in during the next academic year (2023-2024).

Recommendation Information

We prefer your references complete our online recommendation form due to ease of collection and comparison. However, if they have difficulties submitting, they are welcome to email their recommendations to Alex Gates (a.gates@bowdoin.edu).

Deadline: To help ensure a smooth selection process, we would *greatly* appreciate receiving all recommendations by **February 13th, 2023 at 11:59pm**. Please remind your recommender of this 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 College House? What do they 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 College House members?

Living in a 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 building 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 (if applicable), House 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 and the size of your block will have no impact on your decision. 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 the first week of April. 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 two different categories: "Yes, I'd like to apply to live here" or "No, I would not like to apply to live here".

4. Who *shouldn't* apply to live in a College House?

Living in a College 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 College House isn't for you.

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

You will have the 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 make simultaneous arrangements for the housing lottery in the event that you do not get accepted into a College House. Final decisions for waitlists are mailed out in late March and the general housing lottery is 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.

8. How do I become a Committee Leader?

Once selected into a house, students can choose to run for one of the 5 committee leadership positions in late March. Elections will take place during the month of April. There is a larger time commitment for committee leaders, including extended Fall Orientation, weekly Tuesday meetings, and a longer winter training. Leaders may not be orientation trip leaders, Marine Science Semester participants, Peer Health members, or a member of Residential Life student staff. If selected for more than one position, you will be required to choose one as committee leader training is mandatory and occurs simultaneously with other trainings.