

# College House Application Information 2025 - 2026

This document provides information that you may find helpful during the College House application process.

## Important Dates

January 21 <sup>st</sup>	College House Application Opens
February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 12 pm – 4 pm	Open Houses & Tours
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Application Deadline
February 18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Block Interviews
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Decisions Sent
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Contracts Due
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	College House Welcome
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Leader Elections and Room Lottery

## Information Sessions:

- January 30<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM in Daggett Lounge, Thorne (feel free to grab dinner before and eat while you listen)
- February 4<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 PM in Main Lounge, first floor Moulton Union
- February 5<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM in Main Lounge, first floor Moulton Union

## **Common College House Vocab**

- **College House:** There are 8 College Houses with anywhere from 24-32 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 will also be expected to host engaging programs, community-building events, and more.
- **Block:** Group of people you apply with. Up to 4 people. Your block will be considered as one entity and will receive one collective decision.
- **Block Manager:** A block manager is the “captain” of the block. This person will be responsible for sharing the group’s interview availability, program proposal, and house preferences on their application. If applying as an individual, you are considered the block manager.
- **Block Interview:** The last step of the application process, an interview with your entire block conducted by a faculty/staff and student associated with the houses.
- **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 is provided with a budget to plan a variety of engaging programs. These programs include academic and club partnerships, house bonding activities, volunteer efforts, anything done for the enrichment of your house and the greater campus/town community. All house members play an active role in planning programs.
- **House Meeting:** Required weekly meetings at your House where you plan events and reflect on the week. These meetings are led by the House Proctors.
- **Committee Leader:** Individuals elected to lead one of the programming committees in the House. Committee Leaders have extra training in the fall and are expected to have a larger role in the House.

## The Application

The College House Application consists of an individual application which must be completed by each member of your block. The application will open on January 21<sup>st</sup> and is **due at 11:59pm on February 6<sup>th</sup>**. Your block will also need to submit additional information (submitted by the block manager in their individual application).

## Individual Free Response Questions

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

- 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. What is a program or event you would want to host? Please talk through the details of your program. This program should be distinct from your block's program proposal.
- 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. This could be creating a shared program, solving a conflict, or even in a competition.
- 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 up to five of your favorite extracurricular activities. These can include clubs, jobs, hobbies, interests, anything important to you outside of the classroom.

## Block Requirements

As part of their application, block managers will see a few additional sections. **These sections should be answered with input from your entire block, please plan your answers in advance.** The block manager only sections are:

- **House Preferences.** Your block manager will sort the eight houses into two categories: "Yes, I'd like to apply to live here" and "No, I would not like to apply to live here." You can apply to live in any number of houses and any variety, applying to more houses does increase your chances of being accepted into a house. If you sort a house into the "No" category your block will not be placed into that house.
- **Interview Availability.**
- **Program Proposal.** Each block is required to submit a proposal for a program that demonstrates what your block would bring to a College House. This program can be anything that you feel shows your block's strengths and relates to the House System's goals of enriching campus through social, academic, and community events.

## Block Interview

Your block will participate in an interview during the week of February 17<sup>th</sup>, conducted by a student who lived in a House and another campus community member. You can expect to spend about 20 minutes discussing your program proposal, what you hope to achieve while living in a house, and where you see your block best fitting. The list of standard questions will be released before your interview to allow your block time to prepare. Please note you may be asked follow-ups or other questions to help better understand your block.

# **College House 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 the Bowdoin community while living and working with awesome people. House members develop their leadership skills and connect to many resources on and beyond campus. Skills gained while living in a house help residents launch into leadership roles at Bowdoin and beyond.

## **1. What is expected of College House members?**

Living in a house is an extra-curricular activity. House members are expected to develop programming, build community on campus, promote an inclusive environment in their house, and actively participate in a communal living situation by attending house meetings. House members are required to attend a College House Welcome on March 30th, House Orientation in late August, and weekly house meetings.

## **2. Who *should not* 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 are not excited about working with a team to plan and execute thoughtful programming for campus, then living in a College House is not for you.

## **3. What happens if I do not get into a College House?**

You will be automatically added to the waitlist. Once you are on the waitlist, you will be contacted if a spot opens and we believe it is a good fit. If you are not chosen from the waitlist, you will need to enter the general housing lottery. We recommend you begin arranging a plan for the general housing lottery if you are on the waitlist due to the fast turnaround. Final decisions for waitlists will be completed in March and the general housing lottery is in April.

## **4. What does the waitlist look like?**

The waitlist is not first come, first served. It is a list of students who will go through a supplementary selection process to fill any remaining spots. You are entered into the waitlist as an individual if your block is not accepted. If you intend to enter the waitlist as a block you must notify Alex Gates, note that it is extremely rare for a block of more than one person to be selected off the waitlist.

## **5. 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. **You cannot be on ResLife staff and a house member.**

## **6. How do I become a Committee Leader?**

Once selected into a house, students can choose to run for a committee leadership position in April. Elections will take place in late April, before the Room Lottery. Committee Leaders have a larger time commitment including extended training in August, weekly Tuesday meetings, and winter training in January. **Committee Leaders cannot be orientation trip leaders due to conflicting training schedules.**

**If you have any additional questions about the application or living in a College House contact Alex Gates in the Office of Residential Life ([a.gates@bowdoin.edu](mailto:a.gates@bowdoin.edu)). Thank you for your interest in the House System!**