

College House Application Information 2026 - 2027

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

Important Dates

January 20 th	College House Application Opens
February 1 st , 12pm – 2pm	Open Houses & Tours
February 5 th	Application Deadline
February 17 th – 20 th	Block Interviews
March 3 rd	Decisions Sent
March 5 th	Contracts Due
March 28 th at 12pm	College House Welcome
April 22 nd	Room Lottery

Information Sessions:

January 29th – 6:30 PM in Daggett Lounge, Thorne (feel free to grab dinner before and eat while you listen)
February 4th – 4:30 PM in Lancaster 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 size is not a factor when considering your application.**
- **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 Selection Committee member and a student associated with the Houses.
- **Non-Binding:** If you receive an offer to live in a College House, your position will not be confirmed until you accept. You have the option to decline the offer and return to the waitlist.
- **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 spend time in community with your housemates. These meetings are led by the House Proctors.
- **Committee Leader:** Individuals elected to lead one of the programming committees in the House. Committee Leaders are expected to attend weekly meetings with other leaders and take on a larger role in their 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 20th and **is due at 11:59pm on February 5th**. Late applications will not be accepted, ensure all members of your block have submitted before the deadline. Your block manager will also submit additional information on behalf of the entire block.

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.

- The College House system is built on two main goals: to create thriving communities for sophomore residents and to provide the greater campus with engaging programs. These goals require work from every resident to create successful House experiences. Please reflect on what you bring to the House and how it relates to the College House system's goals.
- 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 want to host? Please explain the details of your program. This program should be distinct from your block's program proposal.
- 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 describe one of your favorite activities outside the classroom. This may be a club, job, hobby, interest, or anything else that is important to you.

Block Requirements

Block managers will see a few extra sections when completing their application. **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. Sorting more Houses into "Yes" will increase your chances of living in a House, although understand your offer may be to any of those Houses. You will not be considered for a position in any House you sort into the "No" category.
- **Interview Availability.** Interviews are conducted 9am-5pm
- **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 16th, conducted by a member of our selection committee and a student with College House experience. 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 give 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 28th, 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. Sharing a space with more than twenty people can provide you with tangible skills while also challenging you by pushing you out of your comfort zone. We would advise against applying if you are not excited about actively participating in your living environment and working with your housemates to create thoughtful programming for campus.

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.

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). Thank you for your interest in the House System!