

Housing Lottery FAQs from Previous Info Sessions

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 those options are possible once your timeslot is reached when your lottery round is open. The lottery website has step-by-step instructions if you want guidance.

Q2. Are the housing picks first come first serve when it becomes available or is it random based on how many people enter?

A. 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.

Q3. 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 is three minutes. Many groups take longer than three minutes to select their room, you do not need to complete your choice in three minutes! It is possible a group in front of you have not completed their room selection when your timeslot begins.

Q4. After rearranging your roommate group do you pick right away?

A. Yes, but only if everyone in the newly formed roommate groups have reached their timeslot and accepted the request to join the group.

Q5. 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.

Q6. Do you allot a certain number 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.

Q7. 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.

Q8. 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.

Q9. Can a roommate group of eight split into two fours even if there are still eight person rooms available?

- A. Yes.

Q10. 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 two triple rooms near each other.

Q11. 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 6:03 timeslot a group of 1 and the 6:06 timeslot a group of 6.

Q12. How does substance-free housing work?

- A. Every substance-free building is noted in the available rooms 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.

Q13. 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. Just your specific building.

Q14. What happens if I have technical difficulties during my time block? Am I skipped?

A. No, you are not skipped. You have three options, 1) email housing@bowdoin.edu (we will monitor this account from 8:00am – 9:00pm on lottery round days), 2) stop by the Res Life Office in 24 College Street (we'll be there until the last timeslot is reached for each round), or 3) call 207-725-3225 to speak with someone in the Res Life Office.

B. Q15. How do we secure a single room?

A. Login to Bricks and Beyond, select Lottery Fall 2024, select the term, complete the mandatory profile questions and create a roommate group. All of that will take five minutes or less. Then all you have to do is wait to receive your timeslot the morning of the lottery round your group is eligible. Once your timeslot is reached, login again to Bricks and Beyond and select Lottery Fall 2043 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.

Q16. 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.

Q17. 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.

Q18. Related to the question about the six-person group having two singles join to make an eight: the new eight-person group would need to wait until the timeslots for the new group members 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.

Q19. 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, have created a lottery application, and checked "searchable". They may have decided to take a personal leave and haven't told you yet or forgot to create their application. You cannot find someone with the search function unless they have an application and checked "searchable".

Q20. Why does each lottery round last until the next morning?

- 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.

Q21. 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.

Q22. Will all of the Brunswick Apartments be taken in round 1?

- A. It is difficult to predict but given what we know, we expect Brunswick Apartments to be available to select in round 2 and possibly round 3.

Q23. 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.

Q24. 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 by May 1 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.

Q25. How soon can you make a profile and sign in as a group on bricks and beyond?

A. Beginning Tuesday, April 2 at 9:00am

Q26. 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” their later timeslot.

Q27. What if I have questions or technical difficulties during room selection?

A. Residential Life staff will be available each round thru all assigned timeslots. You have three options, 1) email housing@bowdoin.edu (we will monitor this account from 8:00am – 9:00pm on lottery round days), 2) stop by the Res Life Office in 24 College Street (we’ll be there until the last timeslot is reached for each round), or 3) call 207-725-3225 to speak with someone in the Res Life Office.