2016-2017 Housing Lottery & Room Selection

General Room Selection: March 7-11, 2016

If you want to live in the West Campus House System, an upperlevel Residence Hall, a Program House, or a university-owned Co-op, sign up for the Housing Lottery (housing.cornell.edu) any time between January 27 and February 28 to get your randomly generated General Room Selection timeslot.

What is General Room Selection?
During General Room Selection, you may select a room – if spaces are still available during your timeslot – in one of the West Campus Houses (Cook House, Cascadilla, and four Gothic buildings; or Keeton House) or in an upperlevel Residence Hall (Cascadilla, 112 Edgemoor, Sheldon Court, or Schuyler House). Some Program Houses may also have spaces available during Room Selection, although most spaces will already be reserved through the Program House application and room selection process (see pages 3-4).

Am I guaranteed on-campus housing for next year?
If you are a rising sophomore (current first-year student), you are GUARANTEED Room Selection if they have received a timeslot through the Housing Lottery. Undergraduate students may select a room – and their roommates/blockmates (if applicable) – in a West Campus House or an upperlevel Residence Hall for the next academic year. (See information about Program Houses, the Language House, Co-ops, and Continued Occupancy on pages 3-4.) Students may only participate in Room Selection if they have received a timeslot through the Housing Lottery.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Housing Lottery?
The Housing Lottery is a random computer-generated drawing system that gives you a timeslot to participate in General Room Selection. Signing up for the lottery does not commit you to a contract or a room; it only allows you to participate in Room Selection. If you want to live in on-campus housing next year – or are unsure of your plans but want to leave that option open for yourself – sign up for the Housing Lottery by visiting housing.cornell.edu any time between 9:00am on January 27 and 11:59pm on February 28.

What is General Room Selection?

General Room Selection (March 7-11) is the online process through which current undergraduate students may select a room – and their roommates/blockmates (if applicable) – in a West Campus House or an upperlevel Residence Hall for the next academic year. (See information about Program Houses, the Language House, Co-ops, and Continued Occupancy on pages 3-4.) Students may only participate in Room Selection if they have received a timeslot through the Housing Lottery.

Am I guaranteed on-campus housing for next year?
If you are a rising sophomore (current first-year student), you are GUARANTEED on-campus housing as long as you participate in Housing Lottery & Room Selection. Rising juniors and rising seniors are not guaranteed on-campus housing (see more information on page 4).

Which housing options are available during General Room Selection?
During General Room Selection, you may select a room – if spaces are still available during your timeslot – in one of the West Campus Houses (Cook House, which includes the main building, four Gothic buildings, 625 University Avenue, and 122 McGraw Place; Becker House; Rose House, which includes the main building plus four Gothic buildings; Bethe House, which includes the main building plus one Gothic building; or Keeton House) or in an upperlevel Residence Hall (Cascadilla, 112 Edgemoor, Sheldon Court, or Schuyler House). Some Program Houses may also have spaces available during Room Selection, although most spaces will already be reserved through the Program House application and room selection process (see pages 3-4).

How can I find out more about my housing options?
Start by visiting housing.cornell.edu, and click on “Live on Campus” and then on “Where to Live.” Visit programhouses.campuslife.cornell.edu and visit the Co-ops during Co-op Mosey (February 7).

When will my Room Selection timeslot be?
When you sign up for the Housing Lottery, you will receive a 20-minute timeslot during one of the following periods:
- On-campus rising sophomores: Monday, March 7, 5:00-11:00pm
- & Tuesday, March 8, 5:00-11:00pm
- On-campus rising juniors: Wednesday, March 9, 5:00-8:00pm
- On-campus rising seniors: Thursday, March 10, 5:00-7:00pm
- Students living off campus: Friday, March 11, 5:00-6:00pm

The university-owned Cooperative Houses (“Co-ops”) are considered on-campus housing. Fraternities and sororities are considered off-campus housing.

What happens during my Room Selection timeslot?
At the beginning of your 20-minute timeslot, you will go to housing.cornell.edu to sign in to the housing portal and pick your room. If you are “pulling in” friends to share a room or block rooms together (see “How do I live with my friends?” below), you will also assign your friends to beds/rooms. When finished, you will be asked to electronically accept the housing Terms and Conditions and sign your housing contract. If you are being “pulled in” by a friend during their timeslot (see below), simply do nothing during your timeslot. You will instead receive an email prompting you to sign your housing contract online. Detailed step-by-step General Room Selection instructions will be sent to you by email and will be put in your campus mailbox in January. Please note that all signed housing contracts are legally binding.

How much time do I have to choose a room and sign my housing contract?
You may sign in to the housing portal as soon as your 20-minute timeslot begins, or any time afterwards until General Room Selection ends (Friday, March 11 at 6:00pm). There is no time limit; you have until the end of Room Selection to choose your room.

How do I live with my friends?
“Blocking” allows you to live with one to four of your friends, for a total group of up to five students, by sharing a room with them or reserving adjacent rooms (in a suite or on the same hall). The person with the earliest timeslot in the block may “pull in” one to four of his/her friends during their Room Selection timeslot and
"assign" their friends to beds/rooms (ideally with the whole group gathered at one computer to choose the beds/rooms together). If your group consists of three or more students, at least one room in your block must accommodate more than one person (i.e., two students blocking together may select two singles, but three or more students blocking together may not select all singles). Details will be included in the complete instructional booklet that you'll receive in January.

Who may I pull in / be pulled in by?
Rising sophomores may only pull in other rising sophomores. Rising juniors and rising seniors living on campus may pull in anyone who lives in on-campus housing. Students who live off campus receive timeslots on the last day of General Room Selection, and may pull in anyone they choose. All students must have a Room Selection timeslot.

May I live with someone of a different gender?
Students participating in the General Room Selection process may not share a room or a suite with someone of a different gender, but may block with someone of a different gender in rooms that are next to each other or on the same hall.

Students may, however, select gender-inclusive housing (to live with whomever they choose, regardless of biological sex, gender, or gender identity) through the following application processes: (1) the Program House application and room selection process; (2) the Language House application process; (3) the Co-op application process; and (4) the Continued Occupancy processes available through the West Campus Houses, upperlevel Residence Halls, and Program Houses. Please see below and page 4 for more details about these processes.

What if I'm not planning to live with a friend, or block with a group?
You may either choose a single (if any are still available during your timeslot), choose a free bed in a partially occupied room, or choose a bed in an empty room (understanding that other students can select any remaining beds in your room).

I'm interested in living in the West Campus House System. What are my chances of securing a room in one of the Houses?
There are 1,851 beds in the House System: 1,244 in the main buildings, and 607 in the Gothic and other buildings that are affiliated with the Houses. Approximately 975 of these beds will be available during General Room Selection; the rest will be reserved for transfer students, Language House residents, upperlevel students who have reserved a room through their Continued Occupancy process (see page 4), and students assigned to housing through Student Disability Services. Historically, rising sophomores have had approximately a 50% chance of securing a room in the House System during General Room Selection. Rising juniors and rising seniors who currently live in the West Campus House System have a chance to stay in their House through their Continued Occupancy process (see below); other rising juniors and rising seniors have only a very small chance of living in the House System in 2016-2017.

I'm interested in living in a university-owned Co-op. How do I apply?
First, sign up for Housing Lottery (January 27 - February 28) so your information is in our system, and because later in the process you'll sign your Co-op housing contract online. The actual application and selection process for the Co-ops is handled individually through each house. To apply to a Co-op (or Co-ops), please contact the house(s) in which you have interest. Contact information can be found at cooperatives.campuslife.cornell.edu. To learn more about the Co-ops, take part in "Co-op Mosey," a day of open houses on Sunday, February 7. Details will be posted at cooperatives.campuslife.cornell.edu.

I'm an upperlevel student living in one of the Collegetown area Residence Halls or in one of the West Campus Houses. Can I stay where I am next year?
The West Campus Houses, Cascadilla, 112 Edgemoor, Sheldon Court, and Schuyler House will hold their own In-House / In-Hall lottery processes in February to allow a percentage of current residents to continue their occupancy for 2016-2017. Details about your community's Continued Occupancy process are available from your RA, RHD, or House leadership.

I'm a rising junior or rising senior. What are my chances of securing on-campus housing for 2016-2017?
If you want to live on campus next year, it is highly recommended that you participate in your current community’s In-Hall or In-House lottery for Continued Occupancy (see previous question), or apply to live in a Program House or a Co-op (see questions at the top of this page). If you participate in the General Room Selection process, it is likely that most – and possibly all – on-campus housing options will already be filled by the time you go to select a room. If no beds are available during your Room Selection timeslot, you can be placed on the housing wait list and we may be able to make you a housing offer, although we cannot guarantee it.

Important Dates ~ 2016-2017 Housing
Language House Application Deadline..........................December 10, 2015
Housing Lottery Sign-up...........................................January 27-February 28
Room Selection Demos...............................................January 28
Tour and learn about Cornell's Co-ops; details to be posted at cooperatives.campuslife.cornell.edu.

Housing Lottery Sign-up...........................................January 27-February 28
Sign up at housing.cornell.edu to get your randomly generated timeslot to participate in General Room Selection.

Room Selection Demos...............................................January 28
Step-by-step demonstrations of the General Room Selection process and online portal: details to be posted at housing.cornell.edu.

Program House Application Review Begins........................February 1
Apply to live in a themed Residence Hall by visiting programhouses.campuslife.cornell.edu.

Co-op Mosey............................................................February 7
Tour and learn about Cornell’s Co-ops; details to be posted at cooperatives.campuslife.cornell.edu.

West Campus C/O Process.............................................February 8-10
Current West Campus residents who participate and are selected through their community's In-House lottery for Continued Occupancy (C/O) choose their rooms and sign their housing contracts. See your House leadership for dates and details.

Housing Accommodation Requests for Students with Disabilities Deadline ................................February 12
Deadline to register with Student Disability Services for special housing needs: visit ads.cornell.edu.

Upperlevel Residence Hall C/O Process.............................February 22
Current residents of the Collegetown area Residence Halls who participate and are selected through their community’s In-Hall lottery for Continued Occupancy (C/O) choose their rooms and sign their housing contracts. See your RA/RHD for lottery deadlines and processes.

Room Selection Demos...............................................February 24
Step-by-step demonstrations of the General Room Selection process and online portal: details to be posted at housing.cornell.edu.

Program House Room Selection....................................February 24-25
Students who apply and are accepted to live in a themed Residence Hall select their rooms and sign their housing contracts.

General Room Selection............................................March 7-11
Select your room online during your Room Selection timeslot.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit housing.cornell.edu, email housing@cornell.edu, or call (607) 255-5398.