Commencement 2014 Housing Q & A

What is the commencement lottery and room selection process?

This is the reservation process by which degree candidates receive a lottery number so they can secure housing in the residence halls for their families for graduation weekend. This is an alternative to staying at a hotel, renting a local home, etc.

How does the commencement lottery sign up process work?

STEP 1 is for the student, using their Net ID, to apply online for a lottery number and time slot. (Completing Step 1 allows the student to then make the reservation at a later date (see Step 2).)

To complete Step 1, apply online at (The link will be posted at 10:00am on January 31, 2014.), between 10:00am, Friday, January 31 2014, through noon, Friday, February 28th. (This is not a first-come, first-served sign-up process, so there is no need to stress about signing up as soon as the site opens.).

When is the room selection process for commencement?

STEP 2 of the reservation process takes place in person at Robert Purcell Community Center Auditorium on Monday, March 17. Refer to the time slot assigned to you in Step 1 (above). This is the time for you (the student) to make the actual reservation.

To complete Step 2, arrive at RPCC Auditorium 15 minutes before the time slot assigned to you, and have your lottery number with you. Your number will be called and you will then proceed into another room to select the number of beds needed (8 maximum).

How many beds can I reserve through the room selection process?

You can reserve up to 8 single beds during the room selection process on March 17th. If you still need more beds, you can sign up for additional beds starting at 10:00am, Tuesday, March 18th at 206 Robert Purcell Community Center or by mailing your request to commencement_housing@cornell.edu

What buildings are available?

On North Campus: Court-Kay-Bauer, Mews and a very limited number of Townhouses may also be available.


On Ithaca College’s campus: Emerson Hall and Quad Halls

What is the cost? How to pay?
Commencement guest housing is charged at a weekend three-night package rate. The rate is the same for a 1, 2, or 3 night stay, and includes a breakfast buffet on Saturday and Sunday morning. Payment is due at time of reservation. Students who are currently registered will be bursar billed. Non-registered students need to make payment by check or credit card. The rates are as follows:

Residence Halls: $200 per person (includes 3 nights housing plus Saturday and Sunday breakfast buffet).
Townhouses: A very limited number of four single bed Townhouses may be available at $895 total (includes 3 nights housing plus Saturday and Sunday breakfast buffet for 4 people).
Ithaca College: $200 per person in Emerson Hall and $175 per person in Quad Halls

What nights does my commencement housing include?
Friday (May 23), Saturday (May 24), and Sunday (May 25).

What if my family will only be here for one night?
The cost is still the same – it is a 3 night package, whether you use all 3 nights or not. No exceptions.

What happens at the commencement room selection process on March 17?
On March 17, you need to arrive at Robert Purcell 15 minutes before your assigned time slot. Your number will be called and you will then proceed into another room to select the number of beds needed (8 maximum).

What if I can’t make my time slot?
You can have someone proxy on your behalf. Proxy forms are available online, at any service center and the office of Residential and Events Services, 206 Robert Purcell Community Center.

What if I’m not living in the Ithaca area?

PLEASE NOTE THIS OPTION IS ONLY FOR STUDENTS NO LONGER LIVING IN THE ITHACA AREA:
Degree candidates not living in the Ithaca area wishing to make on-campus housing reservation must complete Step 1 of the lottery process and receive a timeslot and lottery number. The candidate will then complete the online reservation request form by returning to the sign-up page. A reservation will be made for you during the room reservation process on March 17 according to your lottery number. We will do our best to accommodate your request for location;
however, please understand that some locations sell-out quickly. You will be notified of your tentative reservation by March 18, 2014 via e-mail. Your confirmed reservation will be e-mailed upon payment.

What if I miss the lottery sign ups or my room selection time slot?

Generally, rooms are still available after the lottery/room selection process. Starting on Tuesday, March 18 (10:00am–4:00pm), you may reserve housing at the office of Residential and Events Services, 206 Robert Purcell Community Center.

What is the cancellation process?

All cancellations through Friday April 6, incur a $50 cancellation fee. No refunds will be made after Friday April 6, 2014. All cancellations must be in writing to: commencement_housing@cornell.edu.

What is included in the room?

Rooms are furnished with bed sheets, blankets, pillows, and towels. All beds are single beds and the majority of the residence halls have shared common bathroom facilities.

Becker House and the Townhouses offer air conditioning.

Court/Kay/Bauer, Mews, Cook House, Bethe House, Keeton House, Rose House and Ithaca College’s Emerson Hall are air-controlled buildings, but do not have individual air vents in each room nor thermostats. Of note, these rooms have ceiling fans to compliment the building’s fixed temperature setting. All air-controlled buildings have a temperature setting between 71 & 74 degrees.

Cascadilla and Ithaca College’s Quad halls are not Air Conditioned or Air controlled.

Where can guests staying in residential halls park?

There is no charge or permit required for parking in the residence hall parking lots beginning at noon Friday, May 23 through Sunday, May 25, on a space-available basis. Special parking permits are not needed for the weekend.

On Saturday, there is no charge or permit required to park on campus.

On Sunday, there is no charge or permit required to park in outlying campus parking lots designated for Commencement parking.

Between 8:00am and 3:00pm on Sunday, all central campus roads will be closed. Check the Road Closures page at http://www.commencement.cornell.edu/May/roadclose.html for Commencement day road closure information.
The parking garage will be open for general use starting at noon Friday through midnight Saturday. On Sunday the parking garage is only available for mobility impaired guests who have applied for a mobility-impaired permit (see http://www.commencement.cornell.edu/May/mobility.html).

RVs - Please call the Park Service at 800-456-CAMP (456-2267) for more information about overnight camping in the Ithaca area.

How can I get a reservation confirmation? Students need to confirm their reservation on-line at http://melian3.campuslife.cornell.edu:7790/commsr/start.jsp. Once you have confirmed your reservation, you will receive an email confirming the details of your reservation. Please note that confirmations are only sent to students. Please ask your students to forward a copy to you.

Where and when can I check-in?

Check-in begins at 4pm Friday, May 24, additional details will be updated in February 2014

What if my guests plan to arrive after service center hours?

The graduating senior needs to pick-up the guest room keys during the service center hours. You can then give the keys to your guest when they arrive.

Additional Questions?
Email: commencement_housing@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-5368