Commencement 2016 Housing FAQs

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 NetID, to apply online for a lottery number and timeslot. (Completing Step 1 allows the student to then make the reservation at a later date (see Step 2).
→To complete Step 1, apply online here between 10:00am, Monday February 1, through 11:39pm EST, Monday, February 29, 2016. This is random lottery process, 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 14. Refer to the timeslot 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 timeslot assigned to you. Your number will be called and you will then proceed into the Multipurpose Room to select the number of beds (only single twin beds available) 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 14. If you still need more beds, you can sign up for additional beds starting at 10:00am, Tuesday, March 15 at the Residential and Event Services office located in 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, Ecology House, High Rise 5, Mary Donlon, Mews, and a very limited number of Townhouses may also be available.

**On West Campus:** Alice Cook House, Carl Becker House, Flora Rose House, Han Bethe House, and William Keeton House.
On Ithaca College’s campus: Emerson Hall.

**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 mornings. 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: $215 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 $970 total (includes 3 nights housing plus Saturday and Sunday breakfast buffet for 4 people).
Ithaca College: $215 per person in Emerson Hall.

**What nights does my commencement housing include?**

Friday, May 27; Saturday, May 28; and Sunday, May 29.

**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 Monday March 14?**

On March 14, you need to arrive at Robert Purcell 15 minutes before your assigned timeslot. 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 timeslot?**

You can have someone proxy on your behalf. Proxy forms are available online, and at the office of Residential and Event 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 14 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 16, 2016 via email. Your confirmed reservation will be emailed upon payment.

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

Starting on Tuesday, March 15 (10:00am–4:00pm), you may reserve any available housing at the office of Residential and Event Services, 206 Robert Purcell Community Center.

What is the cancellation process?

All cancellations for confirmed reservations through Monday April 4 incur a $50 cancellation fee. No refunds will be made after Monday April 4, 2016. 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, Ecology 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, rooms in the West Campus House System have ceiling fans to compliment the building’s fixed temperature setting. All air-controlled buildings have a temperature setting between 71 and 74 degrees.

High Rises 5 and Mary Donlon Hall 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 27 through Sunday, May 29, 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](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](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 [online](http://www.commencement.cornell.edu/May/mobility.html). Once you have confirmed your reservation, you will receive an email confirming the details of your reservation. Students may add two additional email addresses for reservation notification when signing up for the lottery. Please ask your student to either add your email address then or forward the reservation confirmation email to you.

**Where and when can I check-in?**

Check-in begins at 4:00pm Friday, May 27

**Guests staying in North Campus Residential Halls**

Court Kay Bauer, Ecology House, High Rise 5, Mary Donlon Hall, Mews, and Townhouse Apartments should check in at Robert Purcell service center during the following hours:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 27</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 28</td>
<td>6:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 29</td>
<td>6:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 30</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
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**Guests staying in West Campus Houses**

Cook House, Becker House, Bethe House, Keeton House, and Rose House should check in at their building's house office main desk during the following hours:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 27</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 28</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 29</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 30</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
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**After-hours check-in: The Bethe House Office will be open 4:00pm to 2:00am on Friday, May 27, and 6:00am to 2:00am Saturday, May 28, for West Campus guests.**

**Guests staying at Ithaca College**

Should check in at Emerson Hall during the following hours:

- **Friday, May 27**: 4:00pm - 11:30pm
- **Saturday, May 28**: 8:00am - 11:30pm
- **Sunday, May 29**: 8:00am - 9:00pm
- **Monday, May 30**: 8:00am - 1:00pm

**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