

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best way to prepare for the lottery?

First, read ALL of the resources available to you and make sure you fully understand the lottery rules.

If you are in a Blocking Group, make sure to discuss your priorities and do your research! In 10 years, you probably won't remember your suite number, but you'll remember your suitemates. Your relationship with your group is more important than a few extra square feet.

Determine which rooms/suites you want to live in by looking at the floor plans and the **“live” rooms available spreadsheet**. Keep it readily available because there will be changes that happen between the time the lottery is launched and your time to select a room/suite.

When you arrive at the lottery and it's time to select your room/suite you should come with a long list of ranked possibilities. Being prepared will save you A LOT of stress and confusion. Having back-up plans is important - DO NOT come with just a few suites that represent your “dream” housing. Other students will be waiting to select their housing and time limits on selections are enforced to keep things moving.

Whatever you choose, you and/or you and your group are ultimately responsible for this decision. **Your choice is final**, so be sure to prepare!

Is there a way to guarantee that I get a good lottery number?

Lottery numbers are produced by a random number generator. Your number is 100% random.

What is the likelihood that our Blocking Group will get a N+1 suite? Obviously, the lower your lottery number, the better your chances are of getting a N+1 suite. So, Blocking Groups of all seniors will be more likely than a Blocking Group of mixed Seniors and Juniors or all Juniors to get an N+1 suite. Outside of this basic principle, it is very hard to predict how the lottery will run and there are many factors to consider, including the size of each class, the number of off-cycle students participating in the Senior Lottery, the number of students planning to study abroad or take a leave of absence and how those with lottery numbers ahead of you select their housing.

Can I change my Blocking Group after I sign up for the lottery?

No. You can't make changes to your rooming group after the registration deadline for your class.

I may be taking fall term off, but I'm not sure yet. Should I enter the lottery? That is a personal decision. Communication is key and you should discuss with your Blocking Group if they would mind getting a Free Agent if you decide to leave, or whether it would be better if you entered the lottery as a Free Agent (or as a single).

Can we form a mixed gender Blocking Group? Absolutely!

We have two people in our Blocking Group who are studying abroad in the spring. What happens if we're missing part of our Group the second half of the year? The short answer is that any student who is going to be living on-campus in the fall and wants to select their housing, needs to participate in the Lottery. The spaces these students vacate in your suite/s next spring will be filled by students returning from leave/study abroad/off-campus housing. So, you need to decide whether you want to stay together and welcome others to your suite/s when your group members leave, or if you want to split up. Your Blocking Group can also consider whether you know any students who will be studying abroad in the Fall whom you would like to live with when they return in the spring. Similarly, if you'll be studying abroad in the Fall '25 and returning Spring '26, and want to live with a particular Blocking Group, ask your friends to consider rooming with a student who intends to study abroad next spring. This would result in an empty bedspace in your desired suite when you return, and I would place a high priority (NOT guarantee) on your request to be assigned to that space.

We are a 5-person, mixed Senior & Junior Blocking Group. If there are no quints available at the time of our room selection, can we choose a double and a triple? Yes, so long as each suite is N+1 and has not been designated to house any additional students.

What can I do to make my lottery experience less stressful? A. Do your homework -- visit rooms, talk with the House Administrator and tutors who have been through this process as students, and come to the lottery with a list of all the rooms for your group size, in the order you wish to pick them. If you're in a double group, and there are 24 other double groups in the lottery, then if you come with an ordered list of your top 25 available doubles, then all you need to do is tick them off one by one until your lottery number is called. You may also want to decide in advance at what point you would rather pass and regroup later. If you have other considerations (i.e., you want to be close to or far from certain people), then you just need to put together a longer prioritized list.

