

# BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR HOUSING PREFERENCES REVIEW THIS INFORMATION

The Penn College Houses are looking forward to welcoming approximately 2,500 new students this fall and want to make sure that your experience is a great one. We are fortunate to have a wide variety of housing options and types of rooms for you to consider. With such a variety of options it is important for you to think about what type of housing may be best for you. As you prepare to complete your housing preference information, please review and consider the information below.

## What type of room is for me?

Many students arriving at Penn have never shared a bedroom with a sibling at home, so sharing a bedroom will be a new experience. This can be, and is for most, a wonderful experience. Other individuals find the need for privacy in their bedrooms extremely important and as a result should select those buildings and room options that offer private bedroom space. Suites and single bedrooms offer this type of privacy.

## What is the bathroom situation like?

Bathroom arrangement is another item to consider as it relates to privacy. There are three types of bathroom arrangements in the College Houses: shared bathrooms, private bathrooms and semi-private bathrooms.

<p><b>Shared Bathrooms (traditional style)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located outside of your room</li><li>• Shared with other members of your floor</li><li>• Standard stalls</li><li>• Used by multiple individuals at one time</li><li>• Cleaned by the University</li></ul> <p>Which Houses have shared bathroom arrangements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Quad (<b>Fisher Hassenfeld, Riepe, Ware</b>)</li><li>• <b>Kings Court English</b></li><li>• <b>Stouffer</b> - in Stouffer Hall</li></ul>	<p><b>Private Bathrooms (suites and apartments)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located inside your suite or apartment</li><li>• Shared by the other occupants of your suite only</li><li>• Full bathroom used by one individual at a time</li><li>• Cleaned by you and your suitemate(s)</li></ul> <p>Which Houses have private bathroom arrangements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Lauder</b></li><li>• <b>Du Bois</b></li><li>• <b>Gregory</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Semi-private Bathrooms (hybrid style)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located outside of your room</li><li>• Shared with other members of your floor</li><li>• Individual rooms with either shower or toilet, used by one individual at a time</li><li>• Cleaned by the University</li></ul> <p>Which Houses have semi-private bathroom arrangements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hill</b></li></ul>	

## Where will first year students be living?

House	Residents (approx.)	
Lauder	344 (all classes)	Opened in 2016, Lauder College House is composed of suites that accommodate two to six students. Each student in the suite will have a private bedroom, and will share a living room.
The Quad (Fisher Hassenfeld, Riepe, Ware)	475 each (all first year students)	Made up of three College Houses in the historic Quadrangle surrounding central courtyards. These buildings are traditional in design with one room singles and doubles, as well as some two room or three room triples.
Hill	502 (all first year students)	Renovated in 2017, Hill College House offers one-room doubles.
Kings Court English	345 (all first year students)	As in the Quad, one room singles and doubles are offered to the residents in Kings Court English College House.
Stouffer	290 (all classes)	Stouffer College House is composed of two distinct buildings, Stouffer and Mayer Halls. The rooms available to first year students in Stouffer include one room singles and one room doubles. Mayer Hall offers a limited number of three person apartments that contain one bedroom, kitchen, and living area.
Du Bois	160 (all classes)	Du Bois College House offers new students a three-bedroom suite that contains private bedrooms, living room, cooktop and fridge.
Gregory	240 (all classes)	First year students in Gregory College House live in four person suites that contain four private bedrooms. Gregory was renovated in 2021 to include air conditioning in student rooms.

## Should I apply to a Program Community?

The simple answer is only if you want to. Applying to a Program Community does not provide any guarantee that you will be accepted nor does it provide an advantage to get into the House you desire. In 2019\*, 403 spaces were available within Program Communities, and 628 students applied. Clearly interest exceeded our ability to accommodate all students who were interested. The Program Communities offer opportunities to live and work with other students who have similar interests, so apply to one if you are truly interested. If you are not interested, don't worry: there will be other opportunities for you to interact with classmates in your House.

## Should I find a roommate that I want to live with?

This is clearly up to you. Some students want to enter College Houses with someone they know, and many others are looking forward to rooming with someone they do not know. Last year approximately one-third of the entering class requested a specific person as a roommate on their housing form. If you wish to room with someone you know, please make sure that you both fill out the housing preference form information in the same way. For example, if you say you want to live in Kings Court English and your intended roommate says Lauder College House, we will not be able to match you up. Your forms need to mirror each other in terms of preferences.

## How can I promote roommate and suitemate success?

Communicate with each other! No matter where you reside you will constantly be sharing space with others. The only true way to insure a good experience is to communicate with those you live with in your room, your suite and your neighbors on the floor. The RA staff will help you do this, but you must be willing to express your desires and concerns to those you live with.

\*2020 numbers not available due to COVID

## Seven tips for a successful roommate experience

- 1** Before you arrive on campus make contact with your roommate to discuss what each of you is bringing to your new space. Consider using this as an opportunity to begin to get to know each other in advance!
- 2** Be aware that first impressions may not always be accurate. While Instagram and Snapchat are fun, they often do not give an accurate representation of another person. Keep an open mind and expect a few surprises!
- 3** Using the roommate agreement that you will receive the first week of the semester as a guide, talk with your roommate about your preferences immediately. Are you an early riser? Does your roommate like to listen to loud music? Do you require complete silence when working on assignments? Discussing these preferences can help you establish helpful ground rules at the beginning of your relationship.
- 4** Living together involves the blending of lives and lifestyles. You may have similar or very different personalities, values or habits. For instance, your roommate may not start working on homework until late, while you prefer to be finished and in bed early. In this situation, you will need to find a compromise. A compromise does not mean one person is surrendering to another person; it means that two people are working together toward a solution both can accept.
- 5** If you are housed in a suite or apartment, you should discuss cleanliness in the bathroom and determine a cleaning schedule for the bathroom and kitchen area if available that is fair to all. In all instances, you should discuss with your roommates and suitemates when it is ok to have guests in the room, sleep hours, noise in the room, sharing of food or clothing and other items.
- 6** If you are frustrated about something, tell your roommate. Your roommate can't read your mind any better than you can read his or hers. Problems will arise, that's to be expected. The best advice is just to talk it out together. Communicating doesn't mean being critical or nitpicking. Instead it means being honest and open. Choose your battles carefully. Complaining about everything is annoying. The key to a successful relationship is having balance. You'll have good times and not-so-good times. Focus on the positive!
- 7** If an issue arises, you need to engage in a face-to-face conversation about the matter. In our experience assisting students resolve roommate issues, we have learned that texting and leaving notes to resolve a conflict is actually counterproductive. Honest, direct and respectful conversation helps to create the strong foundation healthy and successful relationships are built upon.

Some roommate pairings turn into lifelong friendships and many others do not. Based upon our experience, you should not expect to become lifelong friends; however, you should expect that you can live together well as roommates.

## Welcome to your home at Penn!

You can find more resources for making your time at Penn amazing, happy, and safe by visiting the College Houses website at [www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/resources](http://www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/resources) and, once you're on campus, by getting to know your RA, your House Director, and the faculty who live in your College House. Your House staff and faculty will be here to help any time!