



## HOUSING LOTTERY PROCESS FAQs

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Please read these FAQ's completely and thoroughly. We also encourage you to review the [proposed housing rates](#).

### **Who is eligible for the Lottery process and how does it work?**

To get a lottery number, a student must have submitted a housing application and have not yet chosen a space through any other room selection process.

You will receive your lottery number via your VCU email account on Monday, March 13 by lottery numbers are generated at random, and are not based on the date you submitted your housing application. If you do not receive a lottery number and think you should have, please contact us first thing Tuesday morning so we can research your situation.

The Housing Lottery schedule will be posted on the website by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 13. Your lottery number will correspond to a specific date and time, which will be noted on that schedule.

On the date and time that corresponds to your lottery number, you will log into the [Housing Application](#) and follow the prompts in order to search for a room. You can access the [Housing Application](#) by visiting [vcuhousing.vcu.edu](http://vcuhousing.vcu.edu) and clicking [Housing Application](#) in the top navigation bar.

### **How do I prepare for the Housing Lottery process?**

Before logging onto the housing portal to choose your room, you should review the descriptions, room types, amenities and costs for our upper class residence halls. These halls are Ackell Residence Center, Broad and Belvidere, Grace and Broad and West Grace South. These descriptions can be found on our website in the [Halls](#) section.

The lottery sign up process is a timed process. Once you choose the room you desire, you will have 5 minutes to finish the process so you do not need to rush. If you do not complete the process within the 5 minutes allotted, you will lose the room you chose and it will return to the general lottery. Keep in mind, many students are searching for a room at the same time you are, so being prepared will benefit you.

### **My Friend(s) and I want to live together next year. How can we do that?**

You all must have completed a 2017-18 Housing Application and you all must be a part of the same Roommate Group. You can change your Roommate Group at any time up until you actually choose a space.

Prior to the start of the lottery, make sure to discuss with your roommates which residence halls and room styles you prefer. Be sure to consider several options, as not all halls and room styles may be available when it is your turn to choose a space.

Whoever in your Roommate Group has the lowest lottery number will be able to choose rooms within one apartment for him/herself and the rest of the members of the group assuming spaces are available in the unit. Be sure the person with the lowest number chooses all of the spaces your group needs at once before moving on to the next page. If you do not choose enough spaces, you will not be able to go back and add more. Once you choose the number of spaces you need, the system will guide you through the actual assignment process.



**VCU**

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**What if we can't find an apartment with enough spaces for our whole roommate group?**

As the lottery progresses and students sign up for rooms, apartments will begin to fill up. Therefore, you and your roommate/s should discuss how you will "divide up" if you cannot find an apartment which has enough vacancies for everyone. For example, you received the lowest lottery number and you have two friends in your Roommate Group. You can only find an apartment which has 2 available spaces. You will be able to sign yourself up for a space and assign one person from your Roommate Group, but the remaining roommate will not get a space. He/she will need to search for a space independently based on the date and time slot of their own lottery number.

**What if I change my mind about the room I pick in the Lottery? Can I cancel that room and choose another?**

No. Once you have selected and confirmed your room/s, you will not be allowed to cancel the spaces and choose again. You and your roommate/s are urged to review room vacancies carefully before you decide on a final room selection.

**What if I miss my scheduled time for the Housing lottery? Will I still be able to sign up for a room?**

The online system gives you access beginning at a specific date and start time, based on your Housing lottery number. However, you can access the system any time after your specific date and start time, up until the lottery ends at noon on Friday, March 17.

**I got a high lottery number. Does that mean I won't get a room?**

No. Some students who receive a lottery number decide not to participate. Some students are "pulled in" to a room on their friend's number and do not use their own number. No matter how high your lottery number, you should still log in to [Housing Application](#) at your scheduled lottery time to check available rooms.

**What is the Cancellation Policy if I choose a room space during the Lottery and later decide I want to move off campus?**

You should not choose a space on-campus as a backup plan. Once you choose a space you are committed to that room. There is not a cancellation grace period.

Please be sure to carefully review the [Housing Contract](#) which you electronically signed when you completed your housing application. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us at [vcuhousing@vcu.edu](mailto:vcuhousing@vcu.edu) or 804.828.7666.