A Guide to Applying to the Upperclass Honors Communities

WHO CAN APPLY?
- ANY current Freshmen and Sophomores with Guaranteed Housing (confirm status with Panther Central)
- Preference is given to those with a 3.25 GPA and above. Applicants with GPAs below 3.25 will be considered, but should answer the optional GPA question in the application.
- If applying with suitemates, everyone must be the same gender & complete a separate application, which are considered individually. There is a part of the application where you are asked how you want us to consider your application if one or more of your roommates are not accepted.

THE PROCESS
This application process occurs before the traditional room selection that is based on your lottery number (received from Panther Central in early January). What that means is that if you apply and are selected for Honors Housing, you forgo the typical room draw lottery process, as the LLC selection process is complete before the typical lottery process begins. Until you accept an LLC offer, merely applying does not affect your regular lottery number, so there is no harm in applying if you are interested.

Honors LLCs - and any other LLC - cannot, however, be a backup option to what space you get through the lottery. If you don’t apply to an LLC (or apply, but turn down an offer), you cannot come back after the regular housing lottery and ask to be in an LLC as our spaces will be filled. Think about if you want to be part of one of these value-added communities and make your decision accordingly.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES
- Complete the Housing Application through Panther Central and pay the housing deposit by February 1, 2016 at 11:59pm. This must be done PRIOR TO completion of the Upperclass Honors Housing application – your housing guarantee is forfeited if the Panther Central application is not completed by the deadline.
- Complete the online Upperclass Honors Housing application by Monday, February 1, 2016 at 11:59pm. The link for this application will be provided at the end of the Panther Central application.
- Notification regarding selection into Upperclass Honors Housing will occur by Friday, February 5, 2016 via email and, if accepted, you will be asked to complete an electronic agreement by Sunday, February 7 at 11:59pm committing to Honors Housing.
- Honors Housing Apartment/Suite Selection will be an in-person process on Saturday, February 13th. Selection times will be pre-assigned and only one member of each group will need to be present, but paperwork will need to be signed by all roommates in advance. If selected for Honors Housing, you will already know the type of space – ex: Forbes Craig 3-person apartment – you’ve been assigned to, but will select the exact suite location at this event and divide rooms among suitemates.

THE HOUSING OPTIONS
There are two Upperclass Honors Housing Communities at Pitt:
- Pennsylvania Hall: located on uppercampus, home to 420 students (200 in the Honors LLC) in air-conditioned four-person suites and doubles. There are nine floors in PA Hall and 4 floors will be Upperclass Honors Housing LLCs
  http://www.tour.pitt.edu/tour/pennsylvania-hall
- Forbes Craig Apartments: primarily junior housing that is located across from the Carnegie Museum and is home to 102 students in two- and three-person apartments. Priority is given to junior applicants, but the division in the building ranges annually from 50/50 to 70/30 sophomores to juniors
  http://www.tour.pitt.edu/tour/forbes-craig-apartments

STILL NOT SURE?
If you are wavering on whether or not to apply, read through this packet and the FAQ section. If you have any questions, contact Greg Lucsko in Honors Housing at hhousing@pitt.edu
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if I am applying to be a Resident Assistant?
A: You can still apply for Upperclass Honors Housing. Basically, you have two options. Apply with roommates who are flexible about having a single applicant placed with them if you are selected as an RA or apply as an individual and you will take part in a roommate selection process with others applying as singles. If you are selected as an RA we will fill your space with another applicant.

Q: Do suite/apartment mates have to be of the same gender?
A: Yes.

Q: Can I apply on my own to Upperclass Honors Housing or do I need suite/apartment mates?
A: Yes you can apply as an individual. If accepted into Honors Housing, you will be invited to a Facebook group where you can meet others seeking roommates and choose to go through the room selection process as a group. You can also opt to proceed on your own and be randomly assigned roommates; in this case you will select your suite/apartment and bedsparse after all of the groups have selected.

Q: What are the differences between Pennsylvania and Forbes-Craig?
A: Forbes-Craig is a mix of student years – anywhere from a 50/50 to a 70/30 ratio of sophomores to juniors - whereas Pennsylvania is more heavily a sophomore community. Current freshmen are welcome to preference Forbes-Craig in their application, but should be aware that priority for that building is given to sophomore applicants (rising juniors). Both communities stress UHC values of mutual respect, community development, and intellectual/personal growth.

- Forbes-Craig is a University-owned apartment building at the corner of Forbes Avenue and Craig Street; apartments are furnished, house two or three students and have a living room, bathroom, and kitchen as well as a commons room on the ground floor. Forbes-Craig is more independent living (staffed by a Housemaster) in an on campus setting, but the Student Code of Conduct still applies.

- Pennsylvania Hall is located on upper campus (staffed by Resident Assistants) with air-conditioned four person suites and doubles that all have private bathrooms. The building also features two common spaces and laundry facilities on each floor as well as lounge areas and a workout space in the building.

Q: What kinds of accommodations are available in each? Can I get a single room?
A: Forbes-Craig has two and three person apartments. The two-person apartments share a double room. The building features two types of three person apartments: ones with three single rooms and ones with a single room and a double room. Pennsylvania Hall is comprised of 4-person suites and doubles; all are shared double rooms. The best resource for seeing your options is the housing website which includes floor plans of the buildings:

- Pennsylvania Hall (http://www.pc.pitt.edu/housing/halls/pennsylvania.php)

Q: If I apply to Upperclass Honors Housing and don't get in, what happens?
A: The application deadline is February 1, 2016 at 11:59pm. It is that early so that we can make our decisions before the regular housing lottery process begins; merely applying does not affect your chance in the regular lottery. Applying to Honors Housing has many benefits, including a unique and supportive living learning community, in-person selection of your room, and avoiding the lottery process. However, even if you are accepted to Honors Housing, you can turn down our offer prior to signing our electronic Honors Housing agreement (by February 7, 2016) and still opt to participate in the regular lottery selection pending your completed Panther Central Housing Application and guaranteed status.

Q: What if I only want to live in Pennsylvania or Forbes-Craig, but not in the other building?
A: You can indicate that preference in the rankings section of the application by selecting “X” for the space options in the building you do not want to live in. However, we encourage you to consider both buildings as we always have to turn people away and if you want to be part of an Honors LLC, giving us options for placing you is beneficial.
Upperclass Honors Housing Application – Due by 11:59pm February 1, 2016

The text below is a resource for you. The application must be completed online and a link for the application will become available once you have completed your Panther Central application.

*Preference is given to those with a 3.25 GPA and above. Applicants with GPAs below 3.25 will be considered, but should answer the optional GPA question in the application.

** Note: You are only permitted to apply for one Living Learning Community, which includes Upperclass Honors Housing. You cannot, for example, apply for both the Engineering LLC and Upperclass Honors Housing.

This is the online application for Upperclass Honors Housing for the 2016-2017 academic year at the University of Pittsburgh. To apply to live in an Upperclass Honors Housing community – Pennsylvania Hall or Forbes-Craig - you and your preferred roommates must have Guaranteed Housing and maintain your housing guarantee by completing the housing application through Panther Central with the deposit by February 1, 2016. If those steps are not completed, your Honors Housing application will not be considered. You and your roommates must EACH complete separate applications, list each other as preferred roommates, and preference the same buildings and spaces in the same order; please consult with each other to ensure your applications are completed properly. If you have questions, e-mail hhousing@pitt.edu.

The whole application appears below, so feel free to take note of the essay questions now and complete the actual application later.

Do you qualify to apply for Upperclass Honors Housing?
Before beginning the application process, read each prompt below and check the box to indicate that you have read, understand, and assert each statement to be true.

I understand that, once submitted, I will not be able to return to my application to alter it.
I Agree

I understand that preference will be given to those with a 3.25 or above GPA. Applicants with GPAs below 3.25 should answer the optional GPA question in the application.
I Agree

I have guaranteed on-campus housing from the University and have/or will complete the Housing Application through Panther Central and paid the housing deposit by February 1, 2016. Failure to do so will render this Honors Housing LLC application void.
I Agree

What is your current university status?
(* Note: if you were admitted in fall 2015 as a first-year student with 30+ AP credits, for the purposes of housing you are still considered a freshman.)
Freshman
Sophomore
Junior (w/guaranteed housing for senior year)

Biographical Information
First Name
Last Name
People Soft #
Current Address
Pitt E-mail
Preferred Phone Number
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)
What is your campus housing lottery number assigned by Panther Central?
Sex (male, female)
Are you applying to be a Resident Assistant?
Demographic Information

Demographic information is optional. We request it to better understand the diversity of our community. It does not impact Honors Housing decisions. The race/ethnicity questions mirror what is asked on applications to Pitt.

Are you of Hispanic or Latino/a ethnicity?
Please select one or more race(s)/ethnicity(ies) from the following groups that you identify with
Are you an international student? (If you marked yes, please indicate your home country here)
Are you a first-generation college student?
Are you a first-generation U.S. Citizen?

Academic Information

Current GPA (cumulative):
*If your GPA is below 3.25, please answer this supplemental question.
Please explain the circumstances that led to your GPA falling below 3.25 and what steps you are taking to improve your GPA moving forward.

What is/are your current school(s) at Pitt?
Major(s)
Minor(s)/Certificate(s)
Did you receive a scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh?
Please indicate your current interest in pursuing the following: Medical School, Dentistry School, Graduate/Professional School in other health professions, Law School, Other Graduate/Professional Schools, None of the Above

Short Essays

Interests and Activities
Please list up to five activities/interests in order of importance to you, most important first.

University Honors College Involvement Essay (150-250 words)
Prior involvement in the UHC is not required to apply. However, if you have been engaged in Honors College activities, we’d like to know about your involvement. If you have not been involved with the UHC, why do you want to be a part of this Honors LLC and how do you hope to be involved in the broader Honors community?

UHC involvement might include - but is not limited to - living in Honors Housing & participating in the Honors Housing experience [attending programs, forming study groups, serving as an RSA floor rep], attending special events, participation in a Brackenridge Research or Community Engagement Fellowship, seeking out supplemental advising [general, pre-health, national scholarships/fellowships] or taking an Honors Course.

Short-Essay: Development of Social Consciousness (300-400 words)
One of the UHC’s three core values is the “Development of Social Consciousness” defined as “students should recognize the responsibilities of citizenship and understand how their knowledge and skills can be applied to benefit their communities.” Propose a community---engagement project based on your passions, interests, and knowledge where you think you can make the most impact. It can be based here in Pittsburgh or anywhere in the world, but be realistic. Outline your inspiration for the project, how your knowledge, skills, and interests connect to the initiative, and what it will look like in practice. Who would be involved (just you or you + others) and what would they do?
How do you define success and know if you made an impact?

LLC Programming Ideas (1-2 sentences)
Programming in Upperclass Honors LLCs is driven by the interests of the community and is often coordinated by community members themselves. Share two separate ideas for two different types of programs – one that is social and/or cultural in nature, and one that is more intellectually engaging – that you’d like to see offered next year in the LLC. Please provide a program name and 1---2 sentence description for each. (For example: Social/Cultural Program Idea --- Bollywood Night / An evening of Bollywood movies, Indian Food, and learning a traditional Indian dance.)

Honors Housing Options

*For Forbes-Craig Apartments, preference will be given to juniors, although it is a mixed class residence and the ratio of juniors to sophomores varies from year to year depending on applications. Rising sophomores are welcome and encouraged to rank Forbes-Craig in their selections, but should strongly consider ranking Pennsylvania Hall as well if they really want to be part of an Upperclass Housing LLC.

**There are limited singles available in Forbes Craig 3-person apartments. Some of the 3-person apartments in Forbes-Craig are comprised of 3 singles and some are comprised of a double and a single. You cannot specify what type of apartment you would like at this stage. If accepted into Honors Housing, at the in-person room selection you
will pick from available apartments and will know then if you have an apartment with one single and one shared double or an apartment with three single bedrooms.

If selected for Honors Housing you will be assigned a space type – ex: Forbes--Craig 3--person apartment – and will choose the exact space/apartment at the in-person Honors LLC Selection Event on Saturday, February 13, 2016. Coordinating with roommates in advance for a single is the best route. If you are applying on your own and you are interested in a single, be sure to indicate that in the comments section, but know that the chances of getting one are limited.

If accepted, you will be notified on February 5, 2016 at which time you will receive notification of what building and type of space you’ve been placed in. Actual room selection within each building will take place in-person on February 13, 2016. This enables groups of friends who aren’t living together in the same room/apartment to try and select spaces on the same floors.

Please rank your suite/apartment preference by using numbers 1 through 4 where 1 represents your first choice and 4 represents your least desirable choice. You do not have to rank all choices. If there are any locations where you do not want to live, please leave the ranking for that option blank.

Pennsylvania - 4-Person Suite
Pennsylvania - Double
Forbes Craig – 2- Person Apartment
Forbes Craig – 3- Person Apartment

Comments [If you want to share any additional information – friends you aren't applying to live with who you hope are selected to live in the same building, specific accommodation issues we should be aware of, etc --- this is the place to do so.]

**Roommate Preference**

**You do not need a roommate(s) to apply. If you apply on your own you will be invited to an event prior room selection where you can meet others seeking roommates and choose to go through the room selection process as a group. You can also opt to proceed on your own and be randomly assigned roommates; in this case you will select your suite/apartment and bedspace after all of the groups have selected.**

We encourage you to try and identify roommates to list on your application (you must all list each other). To help facilitate the process, we’ve set up this Facebook page where students seeking roommates for Honors LLCs can hopefully connect in advance: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/213450812319976/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/213450812319976/)

Roommate Preferences *
- I do not have a roommate preference.
- I do have roommate preferences and am listing them below. I also understand that the people I indicate as my roommates must also complete an Honors Housing application and list me on their application. I agree to connect with potential roommates prior to completing this application so that we all list the same apartment/suite rankings on our applications.

Roommate 1. / Pitt Email
Roommate 2 / Pitt Email
Roommate 3 / Pitt Email

Please check one of the boxes below regarding if you’d still want to be considered for Honors Housing even if one or more of your preferred roommates are not selected. *

- Yes, I would still want to be considered.
- No, I would not want to be considered.

If you have any questions, contact Greg Lusko in Honors Housing at [hhousing@pitt.edu](mailto:hhousing@pitt.edu)