

# The University Honors College

2017 – 2018

## 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.

### 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.

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, 2017 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 **Wednesday, February 1, 2017 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 **Tuesday, February 7, 2017** via email.
- ❖ Honors Housing Apartment/Suite Selection will be an in-person process on **Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto: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 sex?

A: Yes. At this time, we do not offer gender-neutral housing options within Honors Housing.

Q: If I previously haven't lived in Honors Housing, am I still eligible to apply for Upperclass Honors Housing?

A: Although students currently in Honors Housing have a slight advantage, any student is eligible to apply regardless of where they live on campus. Roughly 1/3 of students in Upperclass Honors Housing did not live in Honors Housing prior to this year. However, students with no previous experience in Honors Housing will be required to attend a short information session about the University Honors College if accepted for a space.

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 bed space after all of the groups have selected.

Q: What are the differences between Pennsylvania and Forbes-Craig?

A:

- ❖ 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. Although rising sophomores are welcome to apply, priority is given to rising junior applicants.
- ❖ 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. It is a more heavily sophomore community.

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. You cannot preference getting a single room in your application, as that will be determined via the room selection event on **Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** and through negotiations with your suitemates. 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>)
- ❖ Forbes Craig (<http://www.pc.pitt.edu/housing/halls/forbescraig.php>).

Q: If I apply to Upperclass Honors Housing and don't get in, what happens?

A: The application deadline is **February 1, 2017 at 11:59pm**. It is that early so that we can make our decisions before the regular housing lottery process begins. Students will be notified if they've received a space by **February 7, 2017**, which gives you time to still participate in the General Housing selection if you do not receive a space in Honors Housing. If you previously completed a Suite/Apartment Application in addition to the Honors application and are turned down from Honors Housing, you can also participate in that process. Please note that if you are *accepted* into Honors Housing and turn down the offer, you WILL NOT be able to take part in the Suite/Apartment selection process (only the General Housing selection process).

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, 2017**

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.

*\*\* 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 2017-2018 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, 2017**. **If those steps are not completed, your Honors Housing application will not be considered.** You and your roommate(s) 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](mailto: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, 2017**. Failure to do so will render this Honors Housing LLC application void.

I Agree

I understand that, if I am accepted into Honors Housing, I will be automatically withdrawn from participation in the Upperclass Suite/Apartment Selection process, as well as the Retention Process.

I Agree

What is your current university status?

(\* Note: if you were admitted in fall 2016 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

*(Please note: If you have never lived in Honors Housing (i.e. Sutherland West, Pennsylvania Hall-Honors LLC, or Forbes Craig) and are conditionally accepted for a space in Upper Class Honors Housing, you will be required to attend a brief information session about the University Honors College.)*

Sutherland West (Honors LLC)

Pennsylvania Hall (Honors LLC)

Pennsylvania Hall (non-Honors LLC)

Forbes Craig Apartments (Honors LLC)

Amos Hall

Bouquet Gardens

Brackenridge Hall  
Bruce Hall  
Centre Plaza Apartments  
Forbes Hall  
Holland Hall  
Lothrop Hall  
McCormick Hall  
Nordenberg Hall  
Oakwood Apartments  
Panther Hall  
Ruskin Apartments  
Sutherland East Hall  
Tower A  
Tower B  
Tower C  
Fraternity Complex/House  
Off-Campus House/Apartment  
Other (e.g. study abroad, co-op, etc)

Pitt E-mail:

*(Note: \*Include @pitt.edu & check it often. Pitt email is the official means of communication with students, and this is the way that we will correspond with you about Honors Housing. When we notify students a response will be required within 48 hours or, if an offer was extended, it will be rescinded. To set up e-mail forwarding go to <http://technology.pitt.edu/email/pitt-email/pitt-forward.html>)*

Preferred Phone Number:

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY):

What is your campus housing lottery number assigned by Panther Central?

*(If selected for an Honors LLC, your lottery number will be used to determine the order you select your specific room at the Honors Housing Room Selection event (if roommates, best number will be used).)*

Sex

Male

Female

Are you applying to be a Resident Assistant for the 2017-2018 academic year?

Yes

No

### **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? *(meaning Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race)*

Yes

No

Prefer Not to Answer

Please select one or more race(s)/ethnicity(ies) from the following groups that you identify with

Alaskan Native

American Indian

Asian

Black/African American

Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander

White

Prefer Not to Answer

Are you an international student?

Yes

No

Prefer Not to Answer

If you marked yes, please indicate your home country here

Are you a first-generation college student? *(Note: A first--generation college student is defined as a student whose parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have not completed a bachelor's degree at a four--year college or university. This means that you are the first in your family to attend a four--year college/university and to attain a bachelor's degree.)*

Yes

No

Prefer Not to Answer

## **Academic Information**

Current GPA (cumulative):

*\*If your GPA is below 3.25, please answer this supplemental question.*

In no fewer than 150 words, 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?

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Swanson School of Engineering

College of Business Administration

School of Nursing

School of Pharmacy

School of Education

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

College of General Studies

Major(s):

Minor(s)/Certificate(s):

Did you receive one of the following scholarships from the University of Pittsburgh?

Chancellor's Scholarship

Diversity Scholarship (Henderson, Faison, Lavelle, Davis)

Other Full Tuition Scholarship

I did not receive any of the listed scholarships 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 clubs/activities/interests in order of importance to you, most important first.*

### **University Honors College Involvement** (150-250 words; please be cognizant of word limit)

Please note that prior involvement in the UHC is not required to apply.

If you have been engaged in Honors College activities other than Honors Housing, please describe your involvement in the space below.

If you have not been involved with the UHC (or if your involvement has been limited to Honors Housing), please describe why you want to be a part of this Honors LLC and how you hope to be involved in the broader Honors community.

*UHC involvement might include - but is not limited to - attending Friday lectures or 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: Residential Contributions** (250-350 words; please be cognizant of word limit)

Regardless of where you have lived on campus, it is an expectation for residential students that they be active members of their community. The expectations for those in Honors Housing are even greater than the standard residential population.

Use the space below to describe 1-2 ways you have contributed to your residential community. Be specific and use anecdotes where appropriate.

Then, describe 1-2 ways in which you plan to contribute to the Upper Class Honors Housing community.

### **LLC Programming Ideas** (please be cognizant of 1-2 sentence limit per idea)

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 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: Intellectually Engaging Program – How to Make Dip-N-Dots / A professor from the Department of Chemistry will come to the floor, discuss the chemical processes involved in making Dip-N-Dots ice cream, and make samples for everyone in the audience.)*

## **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 18, 2017**. Coordinating with roommates in advance for a single is the best route.

If accepted, you will be notified on **February 7, 2017** 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 18, 2017**. 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. For example, if you only wish to be considered for rooms in Forbes-Craig, then mark those options as "1" and "2" and use the placeholder rankings ("I only want to be considered..." ) for "3" and "4".

Pennsylvania - 4-Person Suite

Pennsylvania - Double

Forbes Craig – 2- Person Apartment

Forbes Craig – 3- Person Apartment

I only want to be considered for one housing style (*mark as "2"*)

I only want to be considered for two (or fewer) housing styles (*mark as "3"*)

I only want to be considered for three (or fewer) housing styles (*mark as "4"*)

Comments [If you want to share any additional information –specific accommodation issues we should be aware of, if you may possibly be abroad for one semester, etc --- this is the place to do so.]:

## **Roommate Preference**

\*\*You do not need a roommate(s) to apply, although 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/1317511691632669/>

If you apply on your own, you can also opt to wait until the room selection event to find other students seeking roommates or be randomly assigned roommates; in this case you will select your suite/apartment and bedspace after all of the groups have selected.

Roommate Preferences \*

- I do not have a roommate preference at this time (Contact [hhousing@pitt.edu](mailto:hhousing@pitt.edu) by February 1<sup>st</sup> if that changes)
- 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

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