

FOR PROSPECTIVE RESIDENTS

ABOUT BROWN: GENERAL INFORMATION

What is Brown College? Contrary to popular belief, Brown is not just a color or an Ivy League institution. Brown is one of the University of Virginia's three residential colleges. Although we have no official objective, we focus on building a strong community of students, faculty fellows, and local residents, as well as a place where residents can be themselves.

So what makes Brown so special? Brown is a nationally recognized, self-governed community that accepts first-years as well as upperclassmen. Though you have to fill out an extra application, you get to live with very active and caring people with tons of events going on *all* the time. Brown is especially diverse - there are plenty of art and drama students, engineers and computer scientists, and philosophers and politics majors - and Brown does its best to make sure you fit in. Though we're a tight knit community, we still provide an extremely accepting and intellectually-stimulating atmosphere for people of all backgrounds.

Who lives in Brown? "Brown is for the interested and interesting," according to a past resident. We currently house about 280 residents of different years, majors, interests, and talents. Brown is open to all undergraduate students; incoming first-years as well as current first-, second-, and third-years can apply. We also have a few faculty fellows, graduate students, and associated professors who either live along with the students or within a stone's throw away from the college.

How will I know if I'll be a good fit for Brown? To get a better idea of what Brown is like, check out our application (https://www.virginia.edu/browncollege/doc/current_application.pdf); it's sort of our calling card. Our application is written, read, and scored by current residents. If you read the application and think, "Wow, I really want to meet and live with the people who wrote these questions!" then by all means apply. If you're put off by the application, then other housing options may be better suited for you; we're a great community for some people, but aren't the best fit for everyone.

What types of events and activities does Brown hold? There is something always going on in Brown. Activity are hosted by both students and faculty fellows and include, but are definitely not limited to, weekly movie showings from our Academic and Cultural Events co-chairship, games of Mafia, sword fighting with foam weapons, Free Food Fridays, open mic nights, monthly banquets, intramural sports, and other events hosted by specific portals (ranging from water gun fights to going to midnight premiers of movies, playing with legos to making giant gummy bears). Every semester, Brown hosts its own semi-formal, usually in a rented out club on the Downtown Mall. Every Halloween, Brown also builds and staffs its own haunted house (Hauntings) for charity. Every May, Brown hosts a carnival for its residents with the likes of inflatable slides and cotton candy. On a normal night, you can always find someone or something going on in one of our two communal lounges, including watching movies, playing games, cooking, doing homework or just hanging out. If you see any activities missing, Brown makes it extremely easy to host an event yourself. You can reserve any communal space online and send out notifications to all of Brown's members for your event.

ABOUT APPLYING TO BROWN

Is the application for Brown different from normal UVA housing application? Yes, as a residential college, Brown has a separate application to gain membership. The applications are written, read, and scored by our current residents. The current application can be found on the “Membership” tab of our website.

When can I apply to live in Brown? When is the application due? Incoming first years and transfers apply in the early summer around May; upperclassmen apply in the late fall around November for the following academic year. The specific due dates can be found on the “Membership” tab of our website, or on a copy of the current application.

Is the application to Brown binding? If I get in, do I have to live there? For upperclassmen, we strongly encourage all those who apply and get into Brown to accept their housing offer. However, you do not have to accept. For first years, if you apply to Brown, make it your first choice housing option, and get in, you are assigned to live in the residential college.

If I get in, do I need to apply again? Once you get offered a spot in Brown and accept the residential college contract, you will have a guaranteed spot in Brown for the remainder of your undergraduate career at the University of Virginia. That being said, you can still move off-Grounds for a year, or study abroad for a semester or more. If you decide you want to return to Brown, you will still be guaranteed a room. However, if you are sent an offer to live in Brown and choose to decline it, you must reapply if you are later interested in living here.

Where can I find the current application? The current application can be found on the “Membership” tab of our website. Previous applications can be found under the “Resource” tab under the “Archive” section. However, we will only accept answers to the current application if you are applying to Brown.

How often does the application get updated? Every spring, Brown creates a new application to be filled out by prospective residents. Before filling out an application for Brown, make sure it is the most up-to-date version of the application. Though we don’t want to restrict your creativity, we would like all the applicants to answer the same questions to standardize scoring.

Who writes the application? The application is written one hundred percent by current and former residents of Brown College. Each Spring we ask our residents for potential questions. Current residents come together to determine which questions are the best. Those that make the cut get assembled as our application.

Why is the application so... eccentric? With all due respect, we don’t care about your extracurricular activities or your GPA, and résumés are for jobs. When you apply to Brown, we want to know who you are without having had the chance to meet you. We feel that our application is an ideal way to express yourself and display your personality. We hope that this format lets you show us why you are “interested and interesting.”

How are applications scored? Brown applications are reviewed solely by past and current residents of the college. Individuals independently read and score each application on a scale from 1 to 5. Later, the readers assimilate into groups to decide on a group consensus score. Applications are ranked in order of final score with the average score given to it by individuals used as a tiebreaker. When reading the applications, grades given are solely based on two questions: 1) Do we want to live with this person? and 2) Would this person be involved in the Brown Community? Remember, this is your chance to have fun

and show off your personality, not to fill out another boring college application. Try to stand out in the crowd of applicants, but most importantly, be yourself!

ABOUT APPLICATION RESULTS

When and where are application results posted? The dates can be found on the “Membership” tab of our website, or on a copy the current application. The current application results are posted on the “Membership” tab of the website under the “Selection Results” heading.

What does the result list mean? The lists online contain the top selections of applicants in ranked order; those closer to the top of the lists received a higher score on the application (as determined by current residents of Brown) than those lower on the lists. Brown Membership does not give out housing offers itself. Instead, the complete ranked list of applicants is forwarded to UVA Housing. They determine how many room offers they can give giving preference according to application rank.

How many people does Brown let in? We wish we could accept everyone who had a quality application for Brown, but sadly we do not have enough rooms to do so. Ultimately, Housing determines the number of room offers it can give to Brown. Typically twenty to twenty-five spots are available for first year males. The same number goes for first year females. Only a handful (2-4) of spots are available for transfer students for each gender. For upperclassmen, usually twenty-five or thirty spots are open for each gender.

My name is on the list online. Does this mean I’m in Brown? Not necessarily. Housing has the final say; they determine who gets an offer to live in Brown. Offers are sent based on application rank. The further up on the list you are, the better your chance of actually getting in.

My name is not on the list online, but I applied to Brown. Why is this so? The list on the website only reflects the top portion of applicants this summer. If your name does not appear on the list, your application was still processed and scored. However, its score was not high enough to be one of our top applications.

When does Housing send offers to live in Brown? Brown offers go out the same time as other housing assignments. Once Housing sends them out, Brown Membership will be notified and highlight those names given offers green on the website. For summer applications, this usually happens at the beginning of July. For fall applications, this usually happens at the beginning of December.

Why are some names colored green and others not? Names are colored green as Housing offers are sent. Green names reflect applicants who have received an offer to live in Brown. If no names are green, then no housing offers have been sent yet.

Is there any way to improve my position to receive an offer to live in Brown? Applicants who do not originally receive an offer to live in Brown are put on a wait-list to receive an offer. The wait-list, like the acceptance list, is ordered based on application score. Sadly, there is nothing you can do to bump up your position on the wait-list besides waiting to see if others ahead of you decline their housing offer for Brown.

ABOUT ROOMS IN BROWN

What is the basic room set-up for Brown? Brown is made up of twelve buildings, or portals. Each building has a stairway with three floors. Brown is sex segregated by floor; males always live on the first floor, females always live on the third floor, and the residents of the second floor depend on the portal. Each floor of a portal has four numbered rooms. Think of each numbered room as a suite. Each "suite" has two rooms for two students (you and your roommate) and is either connected to one or three other suites via a shared bathroom.

What are the dimensions for a room in Brown? Taken from the housing website:

Note: Exact dimensions and layouts differ with room location.

- 12'L x 11'6"W tile floor, air conditioning
- Captain's beds
 - 80" x 36" (extra long)
 - 6 drawers underneath
 - Drawer size: 26"L X 18½"W X 7"D
- Closet area: 81½"H x 34¼"W x 19"D
- Closet shelf: 14½"H x 34¼"W x 12"D
- Shelves above closet (4): 14½"H x 34¼"W x 12"D
- Desktop: 48"W x 27½"D
 - Side drawers: 3 each (1 large, 2 small)
 - Large drawer: 14½"W x 17½"D x 9½"H
 - Small drawers: 14½"W x 17½"D x 4½"H
 - Keyboard drawer: 26"W x 17½"D x 2"H
 - Bookcase on top of desk: 48"W x 13⅞"D x 30"H
 - Wooden chair with upholstered seat
- Towel bar: 24"W
- Mirror above fireplace: 48"W X 26"H
- Window
 - Inside: 65½"H x 41"W x 8½"D
 - Outside: 72"H x 49½"W

What furniture comes with a room in Brown? Every room comes with a bed with captain drawers, a nightstand, a chair, a desk, and a hutch. Unfortunately, Housing requires that these items must remain in the room and cannot be taken out.

Are bathrooms communal in Brown? Rooms in Brown are connected to a shared bathroom. The bathroom is not public and can only be accessed through the rooms of those sharing it. Bathrooms are usually shared between two or four rooms (four or eight people). If you are a first year or newcomer to Brown, chances are you will be sharing a bathroom with more than four people. A four person bathroom will have one stall, two sinks, and a shower. An eight person bathroom will have two stalls, four sinks, and a shower.

Are students responsible for cleaning their rooms and bathrooms? Yes, residents are responsible for cleaning their own rooms and bathrooms. This also means that you are responsible for providing your own toilet paper, soap, and other essential bathroom items as well as emptying out your trash. However, if there is a maintenance or repair problem in either your room or bathroom, you can fill out a work order with Housing (https://hms.housing.virginia.edu/work_order/) to have your issue resolved for no charge.

Does Brown have air-conditioning and heating? Yes, all of Brown is fully air-conditioned and heated.

FOR CURRENT RESIDENTS

What is BC-Chat? How do I subscribe to it? How do I unsubscribe from it? BC-Chat is Brown's internal social mailing list. Often used for requests for help or items, sharing of ideas and links, and especially event notifications, it grows and changes throughout the year with the residents. It is both a

vital tool and part of the soul of the College. While it is informal, it is not lawless. Here are instructions to help with subscribing, unsubscribing, and managing other list options.

To subscribe, unsubscribe, or edit your options, go to <https://lists.virginia.edu/sympa>. You can log in with netbadge if your (desired) subscribed address is your UVA computing ID email, i.e., mst3k@virginia.edu. Otherwise, you will need to create a password if you have not logged in to Sympa before. Click on "First Login?" to create a password, which will be sent to your desired email you will input.

SUBSCRIPTION: To subscribe, you must be logged in. Search for bc-chat02 at the bottom or go directly to <https://lists.virginia.edu/sympa/info/bc-chat02>. Then click subscribe.

UNSUBSCRIPTION: To unsubscribe or change options, you must be logged in. Click on "bc-chat02" in the left hand menu. This will give you links to unsubscribe or change your options.

To send out a BC-Chat, simply email bc-chat02@virginia.edu. This will send an email to all of the listserv's subscribers.

I want to borrow this movie. Does anyone have it? Maybe. The most efficient way to find a movie is to search in this order:

1. Log into the Brown website and look at the movie library to see if any of your fellow residents have the movie you're looking for. You can use the movie reservation system to automatically notify the person who has that movie that you're interested in borrowing it, and they can in turn tell you when to stop by and pick it up!
2. If it's not on Brown's website, search the UVA library website for the movie you want. Clemons Library has thousands of DVDs, and you can see online whether or not they're currently checked out.
3. After trying both of these, you can go to BC-Chat and ask if someone has it, but did not list it on the website. A somewhat unorthodox solution involved finding out if your movie is on netflix streaming, then using someone's Xbox to play it on the HDTV in Tucker. Don't forget to use the reservation system!

How do I reserve one of the lounges or Tucker Kitchen? Anyone in Brown can use the kitchen or the lounges at any time, but those with reservations have the right to ask others in the reserved area to leave. To make a reservation, go to the Brown College website, click on "Resources" and then "Reservations". You will have to log in using your Netbadge (email) ID. Once you have logged in, click on "Reservation System", the "Create a New Reservation." An automated email will be sent to BC-chat to inform other residents of the reservation.

My friend is coming into town for the weekend. Where are some good places for parking? Consult this map: <http://www.virginia.edu/parking/documents/maps/ParkingMap.pdf>. Most lots on this map that are green and labeled by a 1 (C1 behind Clark near Kerchoff, R1 behind Physics, etc...) have the following restrictions: Lots are reserved for permits between the hours of 7:30am and 5pm on weekdays. This means that you can park in them after 5pm on weekdays and all day during the weekends for free. However, these lots are also normally closed during special events such as football games or concerts. If this is the case, there will be a sign in front of the lot blocking the entrance. Also, note that the first parking ticket on a license plate at UVA is a warning ticket and is free. If your friend still screws up after reading this guide, they'll probably still be okay. As an alternative, free street parking is available on Jefferson Park Avenue and some of the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Beware of residential

areas that have "reserved parking" signs, as this WILL probably result in you getting a \$25 fine. Street parking on Jefferson Park Avenue is very hard to find during the week (people who work at the hospital and drive to school park there), but is marginally available at night/weekends. To find a valid parking spot, make sure that there is a white line parallel to the sidewalk that marks a spot, and there is not yellow (sometimes very faded) paint on the sidewalk. In addition, watch out for "no parking" signs where the bus stops are. Finally, make sure that your car is not touching, but no more than 1ft away from the sidewalk.

How do I arrange to be roommates with my friend? When applying to live in Brown for the next year, there should be a space to request a specific roommate, or you can leave a note in the comments box. (Make sure you pay the housing deposit on time!) If you and your desired roommate are assigned other people, you must each check with your respective roommates and ask them if they would be okay with switching rooms. Everyone must agree on who is living in which room. Once room switches are allowed, usually about two weeks into the semester, contact Accommodations in Page House: <https://www.virginia.edu/housing/contact.php> to request a room switch. These changes can usually be made two weeks after the new semester starts, but not before then. Check housing's website for their official room change policy and the exact dates when switches can be made: http://www.virginia.edu/housing/policy.php?id=room_change

What do I do in the event of an emergency (medical, fire, etc.)? If it is a dire emergency, you should not hesitate to call **911**. Seeking out an RA, who is trained to deal with emergencies, is recommended after that. RAs are not allowed to drive residents to hospitals due to legal reasons, but they will do everything possible to help you. It's their job. If it's a weekend, look for the emails announcing who is on coverage and save their phone numbers. RAs have to walk around for 'rounds' and won't always be in their rooms, so it's very important you know how to reach them beforehand.

Having problems with anxiety, stress, or anything personal? There are a few resources at your disposal.

First is UVA's CAPS, run by professionals entirely through the school: <http://www.virginia.edu/studenthealth/caps.html>. They are completely free to use for all current students. They take appointments, walk-ins, and can offer extremely qualified support to students in need. Something like 45-55% of UVA students have problems with anxiety, so don't feel alone or unusual seeking help from CAPS. They are very professional and are widely accepted as one of the institutions of the school that really does its job well.

Second is HELP Line, an anonymous, confidential hotline run by student volunteers through the Madison House (**295-TALK**). Volunteers will offer referrals to services that may be of assistance if you call in with a particular problem. They are trained to listen--if you don't know where to find a solution to your problem, or just feel like talking, this is an outstanding resource. If you're interested in getting involved, visit their webpage for more information: <http://www.student.virginia.edu/~madison/students/programs/helpline/index.html>.