**Senior Housing Exemption FAQs**

# How are priority numbers determined? What is the calculation?

Priority numbers are determined by anticipated graduation year, then GPA and/or lottery. Rising seniors and juniors are ranked within a GPA group and then randomized through a lottery system. Rising sophomores’ priority numbers are determined by lottery only. GPA groups are as follows: 4.0-3.5/3.49-3.2/3.19-2.7/2.69 and below.

# How was this formula determined?

With input from Student Government, senior RA input, administrative constraints, respect for academic achievement and individual responsibility that draw on and reflect Juniata’s mission and learning outcomes. Each academic year the GPA groups will be assessed and adjusted to ensure there is an even amount of students in each group.

# Why accept applications from both individuals and groups?

Last year, students encountered challenges when plans were made to live with specific others, but off-campus exemptions were received for only part of that roommate group. Allowing small groups of students to apply together assures that plans for roommates to live together are respected in the process.

# When can I sign a lease?

You should only sign a lease AFTER you have received conditional approval from the Office of Residential Life. In the meantime, you may work with local landlords, view properties and make tentative arrangements to sign a lease pending decisions communicated on December 20.

Students who receive conditional approval may sign a lease after December 20. A copy of the signed lease must be returned to ORL to advance the application from conditional to full approval.

Students who receive pending status may have to delay signing a lease until second round applications are considered in mid-March.

A lease is a legal and binding commitment. While landlords in Huntingdon were exceptionally flexible with leases in the confusion and uncertainty of the 2015-16 process, it is unlikely that students who sign leases will be released from them moving forward. Students who sign a binding lease with a local landlord, and are not exempted from the housing requirement will still be billed for campus housing and board.

# Why can’t all Seniors live off-campus?

Juniata is a residential campus with a four-year housing expectation. Students who live on campus are more likely to remain highly involved in campus life and learning leading to higher GPAs, a greater likelihood of graduation in 4 years and an overall increased satisfaction with collegiate experiences.

Furthermore, the fees that students pay for housing and board are significant and substantial in providing essential support for the annual operational budget; Juniata must maintain campus occupancy to continue to provide exceptional learning experiences and support the educational enterprise.

Therefore, a limited number of students may be exempted from the housing requirement such that occupancy is balanced with student preferences for more independent living options.

# How many students will be released in the first round?

We anticipate that approximately 90 students will receive conditional exemption in the first round.

# How many students will be released in subsequent rounds?

This will be determined based on the composition and size of the incoming class. Past years have seen an average of about 150 Seniors in total released from the housing expectation. However, this number depends strongly on enrollment projections for the incoming class, and as such exemptions may be extended on an ongoing basis as more concrete information is received regarding housing needs for incoming students.

# What if my exemption hasn’t been approved by the time of room draw in the Spring?

Students that have not received approval should select housing during Room Draw. In the event more exemptions are not granted it is sensible to have a backup. Participating in Room Draw does not cancel the exemption request. If the exemption is granted at a later date the student(s) will be removed from housing.

# Who can I contact if I have further questions or concerns?

Please stop by the Office of Residential Life (located on the first floor of Terrace Hall), call the office at 814-641-3323, or send an email to [residentiallife@juniata.edu](mailto:residentiallife@juniata.edu), and one of the professional staff members will happily assist.