**Sophomore Guarantee FAQ**

The Sophomore Guarantee policy at USC Housing is in line with the University’s directive to ensure space for every current, returning, freshman. Current freshmen who apply for housing through the University Housing Renewal process (UHR) and follow its procedures and deadlines will be assured a housing assignment.

The following answers to frequently asked questions concerning the Sophomore Guarantee will more clearly explain the program so that residents may take full advantage of what it offers.

**Q: What is the definition of a sophomore for the purposes of this guarantee?**

**A:** The guarantee applies to those students that are current new freshman in university housing that are applying to return to university housing for the following academic year. This would include new freshman who entered university housing in either the fall or spring terms.

**Q: Is there a timeline or expiration of the guarantee?**

**A:** The guarantee will cover all those applying during the current USC Housing Renewal process. Once the deadlines on the UHR process have passed, sophomores applying for university housing will be treated like any other continuing, non-resident student regardless of class-standing. They will lose the priority given to students participating in UHR.

**Q: Will certain locations or groups of spaces be ‘Sophomore Designated’ similar to the current ‘Freshman Designated’ spaces or buildings currently allocated in housing?**

**A:** The buildings and spaces that are currently ‘Freshman Designated’ will remain so in order to accommodate the next incoming freshman class. The remaining buildings and spaces will be divided into allocations for sophomores and upperclassmen. This will ensure that undergraduates of all class years will have an opportunity to select spaces in all buildings, subject to availability at their lottery appointment time. It is important to note that the Sophomore Guarantee ensures a housing space for those who qualify. It does not promise or guarantee acceptance into a Special Interest program or any particular location, building, configuration, or roommate assignment.

**Q: How will USC Housing ensure that all qualified sophomores are offered a space in housing?**

**A:** The assigned lottery times will be in three blocks based on class standing. Qualified sophomores will be assigned numbers in the first block. By going first, all sophomores in the process will have a space available in housing when their opportunity to self select comes up. The space allocations described in the prior question will ensure that no buildings are completely filled during this period and that spaces will be available in all buildings when the remaining upperclassmen have their opportunity to self select.

**Q: Past practice has allowed roommate selection based on the highest priority or lottery position among the group of roommates. How will this work in the General Lottery?**

**A:** Please see the section on roommate self selection on page 6 of the USC Housing Renewal brochure for details of the on-line process. For the on-line selection and contracting periods sophomores will only be able to pull in roommates that are also sophomores. Sophomores and juniors/seniors wishing to room together, should first secure housing assignments through UHR, and then submit a group reassignment request when the reassignment process opens on March 9. (Reassignments are not guaranteed.)