New Vassar First-Year Room-Assignment Action Plan
2021-2022

1. Please describe, in detail, your house’s updated room-assignment process for first year students. This should include details of the process over the summer and the process during REX and Orientation.

New Vassar assigns first-year students based on a lottery system. After receiving a list of first year students assigned to New Vassar, the New Vassar Room Assignment Chairs will decide upon single and double room distribution for all students based on their listed preferences. In the case that all requests cannot be satisfied because of space limitation, Room Assignment Chairs will randomly select which requests will be fully satisfied. First year students assigned to doubles will be paired using responses from their housing application regarding topics including sleep schedules, hobbies/interests, etc. Once all roommates have been assigned, all the first years will be randomly assigned rooms from the pool of remaining rooms.

During REX, first years will have the opportunity to switch rooms/roommates on a first-come first-serve basis.

2. How does the process allow for students who are overwhelmed to opt out of exploration and moving?

Students who wish to change their room assignments can feel free to do so with the pool of available rooms being those that are still vacant after the initial wave of assignments and and the rooms belonging to other students who want to switch. However, if a student wishes to stay in their originally assigned room, then they do not have to do anything.

3. What is the level of upper-level student involvement? Are the first year students being assigned through an algorithm or another way?

New Vassar first-year students are assigned by Room Assignment Chairs who will match and rank first years to roommates that match the interests and preferences they’ve stated on the housing form. We will then randomly assign first year roommate pairs or individuals to sections based on the availability of rooms in each section.

4. Please describe your house’s upper-level student room-assignment process. This description should include any information about mid-semester room switches.

For upper-level students, students are guaranteed to keep their current room in New Vassar or they have the option to switch to a different room, based on availability. The room switching process prioritizes seniority (seniors had a higher preference than juniors) and those that currently live in New Vassar (over students who did not live in New Vassar before). Students were first asked to rank their top 5 sections in New Vassar (2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, etc.) and had the option to be in a group of 4 students who are all placed in the same section. Then after sections were assigned, each student was asked to rank all the singles or doubles (depending on room preference) in their section. And rooms were assigned in the previously described priority order.
Requests by students to change rooms within New Vassar during the semester will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis pending space availability. To begin a room change request, residents must reach out to the Room Assignment Chairs (nv-rac@mit.edu) or the Area Director.

5. **What is the role of the AD in these processes?**

The Area Director will be available to assist the Room Assignment Chairs as needed during all parts of the room assignment cycle. In addition to helping with room assignments as needed throughout the year, the Area Director also serves as a point of contact for students seeking room changes.

6. **What forms of evaluation are being considered for assessing the effectiveness of the new process? What ideas do you have for evaluation?**

New Vassar Room Assignment Chairs plan to survey all first-year students about their experience with the assignment process. This feedback will be particularly important because New Vassar is a new residence hall, and student feedback from Fall 2021 will help shape New Vassar’s room assignment process moving forward.