Faculty/Staff Seat Selection Process

OHIO STADIUM
The Department of Athletics, in conjunction with various representatives throughout the University, have conducted significant research and given much attention to this initiative and believe this is a process that will give faculty/staff season ticket holders more choices and allow you to be more involved in the seating process.

While the faculty/staff ticket ordering period will remain during the month of March, there will be an online service that allows you to select your own seats during the months of April and May. This technology has been used recently by other peer institutions and will display real-time data on what seat locations are available for selection. You will have the capability to compare multiple seat locations and become familiar with the web-based program in the months leading up to your appointed selection time.

In the pages that follow, we will explain in detail the faculty/staff seat selection process. We recognize that there will be questions and concerns along the way. Many of your questions may be answered in our “Frequently Asked Questions,” section but if not, please do not hesitate to email us at seatselection@osu.edu or call 1-800-GO-BUCKS.

We encourage you to read through this publication and familiarize yourself with all of the information. Thank you for your continued support of The Ohio State University.

GO BUCKS!
THE SEAT SELECTION PROCESS

What
• The faculty/staff Seat Selection Process will allow faculty/staff members purchasing the full season ticket package to select their season ticket locations through an online process. This online seat selection process will occur after all season ticket requests have been processed.
• The online seat selection process will be conducted using the new Ohio State Football Virtual Venue™ developed by IOMEDIA, a fully-immersive 3D seating diagram of Ohio Stadium.

Why
• The Ohio State University wants to empower each faculty/staff full season ticket holder with the opportunity to choose their own seat locations based upon the faculty/staff priority point system.
• Full season ticket holders will have the chance to utilize the newest state of the art technology in professional and collegiate seating selection. This technology has been used successfully by other major collegiate and professional sports programs and promises to make seat selection an easy, transparent and convenient process.

How
(This process will only apply to full season ticket holders)
• Faculty/staff full season ticket holders will be provided a scheduled window in which to log-in and choose their seats using the 3D interactive seat map.
• Selection windows will be assigned based on the faculty/staff priority point system as established by the Athletic Council.
• Following the completion of the season ticket ordering period, faculty/staff full season ticket holders will be notified in April via USPS mailing and e-mail of their scheduled window to select their seats.
• The seat selection period will begin in April and continue through May.
• Ticket holders will receive a specific appointment time that their seat selection window opens, but may log into their account any time after their window opens to select their seats.
• Appointment times will be staggered, with a new window opening every 30 minutes. Seats may be selected any time after an appointment window opens through the end of the entire selection period.
• Specific step-by-step instructions for using the online site to select seats will be provided to each season ticket holder when appointment times are communicated.

Notes to consider
• Faculty/staff full season ticket holders who have additional season tickets will have the option of having their faculty/staff seats assigned together with their other seats or selecting their faculty/staff seats separately from other seats using the Seat Selection Process.
• In the case of identical faculty/staff point rankings, selection order will be determined at random.
• Faculty/staff full season ticket holders that would like to sit together will have to select their seats during the selection window of the faculty/staff member with the lowest point total.
A LOOK INSIDE THE OHIO STATE FOOTBALL VIRTUAL VENUE™

The new Ohio State Football Virtual Venue™ is a fully-immersive 3D interactive seating diagram of Ohio Stadium. Developed by IOMEDIA, this technology allows customers to virtually place themselves inside any section at Ohio Stadium and experience the view from that location.

Customers will have several options to virtually explore Ohio Stadium.

- Overview provides an aerial view of Ohio Stadium with the option of viewing the stadium from different vantage points.
- Section view provides customers a 360 degree panoramic view from the seat and allows for the comparison of two different seat locations simultaneously.
- Expanded view provides a more immersive, full screen experience.

During the seat selection process, additional functionality will allow customers to see real-time seat availability during their seat selection window.
HOW FACULTY/STAFF POINTS ARE DERIVED

Ohio State’s Athletic Council (AC) uses a priority point system to rank its faculty and staff (including retirees) with the total number of points determining football and men’s basketball ticket eligibility and seating assignments. The priority point system, which has been in effect for decades, provides a systematic, orderly, and fair process for order fulfillment and seat assignment from the faculty/staff pool of tickets.

Eligibility

Each regular, or auxiliary faculty member, principal or senior administrative officer, professional staff member, regular unclassified professional staff, or Classified Civil Service staff member, if appointed by January 31 of the current year, is eligible to apply. Retired faculty and staff are eligible to apply, provided they have 25 years of service or emeritus status prior to retirement.

Eligible faculty and staff will be limited to two full or non-conference ticket packages per household from the faculty/staff pool. First time purchasers, or those who did not purchase tickets the previous season, are limited to the non-conference ticket package, or a pair of tickets to a single game through the faculty/staff single game lottery. Faculty, staff, and retirees may continue to receive additional tickets as a result of joining the Buckeye or President’s Clubs. Once a faculty, staff member, or retiree deceases, all ticket privileges from the faculty/staff pool cease.

Faculty and staff will continue to have the flexibility either to maintain their faculty/staff discount or to upgrade their ticket package to the public ticket rate. Discounted faculty/staff tickets, however, require a BuckID for admittance. There is a limit of one faculty/staff application per family.

Have questions about your faculty/staff priority point total? Contact your College/Unit Human Resources representative for more information.
Part-time Faculty and Staff Points
Part-time faculty and staff will receive points based on the percentage of FTE; e.g., someone appointed at a 70% FTE will receive points (rounded down to the nearest integer) for rank (or salary) and years of service x 0.7 and correspondingly a 30% FTE appointment will have rank (or salary) and years of service x 0.30. Some employees, such as visiting and adjunct professors and some clinical staff at the dental clinic and OSU Medical Center are not paid directly by Ohio State, and are considered no-salary appointees, or 0% FTE, and thus the point reduction calculation results in 0 points for this group.

Retiree Points
Retired faculty and staff are eligible to apply for two tickets provided they have 25 FTE years of service or emeritus status with The Ohio State University prior to retirement (early buyout, medical disability, and student employment does not qualify towards years of service).

Once a faculty or staff person retires, the total amount of points accrued based on rank or salary, respectively, will be frozen, no matter if the faculty/staff member is rehired at a later date. At cessation of employment, service points for emeritus and retired faculty and staff will be recalculated and awarded a half point for every full year of service.

Loyalty Bonus
A bonus of 0.1 point is credited for each year of the preceding 10 that the person has purchased tickets up to a maximum of 0.9 points. Since the point threshold for buying tickets is an integer, this bonus will not affect eligibility to receive a ticket package, but will have an impact on seat assignments within a group with equal points.

TIMELINE

- March 2, 2015
  Faculty/Staff season ticket ordering begins

- March 31, 2015
  Faculty/Staff season ticket ordering deadline

- April 27, 2015
  Online seat selection begins

- May 22, 2015
  Online seat selection complete

- Mid-April, 2015
  Selection windows are assigned and sent to all Faculty/Staff season ticket holders via mail and email

- September 12, 2015
  First Ohio State home game vs. Hawaii
OHIO STADIUM FACULTY/STAFF SEATING ASSIGNMENTS

In order to help frame expectations for seat selection, the information below is provided. Over 7,000 faculty/staff members purchase season tickets in Ohio Stadium. This color-coded diagram and corresponding point total chart represent an estimation of which seating areas in Ohio Stadium might be available to you during the seat selection process based on your faculty/staff point total.

Points to consider when reading this diagram:

- This is a representation of the faculty/staff seating assignments based upon priority points from the 2013 football season.
- This map does not reflect actual inventory that may be available during the Seat Selection process. When logging in to select seats, you may see more or less desirable seating inventory available. This is simply due to the seating preferences of those people who chose their seats before you. You’re welcome to select any available seats from the online map once your seating window opens.
- Seats eligible for selection will only be available within designated faculty/staff seating areas.
- Gray areas represent donor seats, former player seats, student tickets, visiting team tickets, player guest tickets, and other Athletics Department contracted tickets. The majority of these locations will not be available during the seat selection process.
- For questions regarding your faculty/staff point total please contact your respective College/Unit Human Resources contact.

Please note: This data is only an estimation based on previous faculty/staff ticket ordering statistics and seating level preferences. It is provided to help you form expectations for seating, and is by no means given to guarantee seating within a specific section at a specific point total.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there a website to view information regarding the seat selection process?
Yes. There will be information online at OhioStateBuckeyes.com/seatselection beginning in March. From this site, customers will have the opportunity to explore the Ohio State Football Virtual Venue™, become familiar with how it works, and ask any questions well before seat selection takes place beginning in May. Specific step-by-step instructions for selecting seats will be provided on this site when available.

Who do I contact for questions about my eligibility and points?
You may contact your respective College/Unit Human Resources contact for more information regarding your faculty/staff point total.

Why is the seat selection taking place now?
This program empowers season ticket holders the opportunity to select their own seats in a transparent and convenient way. By utilizing this new technology, ticket holders will be able to take ownership of their seating assignment. Each customer will be able to establish his or her own preferences (seating deck, low or high, aisle or middle, etc.) and choose accordingly.

How many tickets can I order?
Season ticket qualifications will not change. Eligible faculty/staff can each order two tickets. You may continue to qualify for additional seats if you are a member of the Buckeye Club and/or President’s Club.

Can I still have my Faculty/Staff seats next to other season tickets I am eligible to purchase?
Yes. Faculty/Staff full season ticket holders who wish to have their seats assigned next to their other season tickets (i.e. President’s Club or Buckeye Club tickets) will be able to indicate that choice during the online season renewal process, in which case all of their seats will be assigned by the Athletic Ticket Office as they have been in the past. Faculty/staff members who wish to have their faculty/staff seats assigned separately from their other season tickets will be able to select their Faculty/Staff seats using the Seat Selection Process, and have their other tickets assigned by the Athletic Ticket Office.

What other universities/colleges utilize a similar program?
Numerous schools use a similar process to adjust their seating on a regular basis, including: Iowa, Virginia Tech, Mississippi State, Penn State and Tennessee. Some of these schools conduct a seat selection on an annual basis while others may stagger their seat selection process.

How often will the seat selection process take place?
Faculty/Staff season full season ticket holders will select their seats each season.

How will I be notified about my Seat Selection Window?
Faculty/Staff members will be sent seat selection window information via email and US Postal Mail around the middle of April. This mailing will include step-by-step instructions for using the online site to select seats.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I purchase season tickets during the seat selection process?
No. There will be two separate processes.
As in past years, you will receive your ticket renewal email in early March and will complete the online ticket renewal process during the month of March.
You will receive your seat selection time in April and the first selection windows will open for season ticket holders to select their seats in mid-May.

How will the seat selection process take place?
The faculty/staff seat selection will utilize the Ohio State Football Virtual Venue™ to assist in the seat selection process. This online system allows season ticket holders to choose seats during a specific window of time. Each faculty/staff full season ticket holder will have a scheduled window of time in which to log-in to their online ticket account and choose their seats. A 3-dimensional view of Ohio Stadium from the seats will be available to preview before choosing your seats.
Appointment times will be assigned based on the faculty/staff priority point system, with those faculty/staff members with the highest point totals selecting first. Appointment times will be staggered, every 30 minutes. Within each 30 minute period there may be as many as fifteen season ticket holders logged in and choosing seats.

Can I see the Ohio State Football Virtual Venue™ before I log in to select seats?
A link to the Ohio State Football Virtual Venue™ is available at www.OhioStateBuckeyes.com/seatselection. While this Virtual Venue won’t show you the exact seat inventory available for you to select, it will allow you to familiarize yourself with the look and feel of the seating map. You won’t be able to see actual seating availability until you log into your Ohio State Buckeyes Account during your seat selection window.

What if I miss my appointment time?
Your assigned seating window reflects the earliest time you may log in to select seats. Those who miss their scheduled appointment time may log-in to self-select seats at any time after their appointment time has begun. Please keep in mind that if you miss your scheduled appointment time, other season ticket holders may be choosing seats at their assigned times which will affect seating availability.

Is there an option to select my seats if I do not have access to a computer?
Yes. Many libraries have free computer access and you can always ask a family member or friend to help you with this process.

Can I log back in and select different seats after I’ve already selected seats?
You can browse available inventory for as long as you would like after your seat selection window opens. But, you may only complete the actual seat selection process one time. Once you have finalized your seat selection, you will not be able to log back in and alter your seat selection.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I want to sit with a group of people?
With the online selection process, each individual will be given an appointment time for seating based on their respective faculty/staff priority point ranking. Each group member needs to coordinate his or her selection with the appointment time of the lowest ranked person within their group; and, at that time, each group member can log into the online system and choose their seats together. NOTE: since all seats will be selected online, each person in the group will need access to a computer when coordinating the location of their seating location to simultaneously make their selections. Each group member can log in at their assigned time and check the availability of seats, having the opportunity to make their selections at that point, should they wish to forgo their group seating based on the lowest ranked person’s selection time within the group.

Will anyone retain their current seats?
Seats contractually committed by the university to club seat holders, corporations, as well as commitments to student seating, visiting teams, media, government officials and other athletics/university departmental commitments are not subject to re-seat during the selection process. All faculty/staff full season ticket holders will receive a selection time per their faculty/staff priority point total, and, if their previous seats are available, will have the opportunity to select them.

How do I obtain handicap accessible seats or seats due to mobility issues?
Faculty/staff full season ticket holders will be asked about special seating needs during the season ticket renewal process. All individuals requesting disability seating will also be required to submit a disability needs form indicating their particular needs. Individuals requiring seating in wheelchair accessible rows, or specific seating to meet other disability needs will be able to call 1-800-GOBUCKS during their assigned seat selection window for assistance with selecting seats from the available inventory that meet their specific needs. Once your disability needs form has been received, a member of the Athletic Ticket Office Staff will follow up with you to give you instructions as to how to select appropriate seats during your seat selection window. NOTE: A signed disability needs form must be received by the Athletic Ticket Office by April 7th to ensure you have access to disability seating during your selection window.

What if I only purchase the Faculty/Staff Non-Conference ticket package or single game lottery?
The seat selection process will not be utilized for the non-conference package or single game lottery. Seats for the non-conference package and faculty/staff single game lottery will be assigned in priority point order by the Athletic Ticket Office from available inventory.

Who do I contact for questions that may not be answered in this brochure?
You may email us at seatselection@osu.edu or call 1-800-GOBUCKS. You may also contact your respective College/Unit Human Resources contact for more information regarding your faculty/staff point total.