

Resident Advisor Frequently Asked Questions

What is the compensation for being a Resident Advisor?

Resident Advisors are compensated with housing, assigned by the Office of Residence Life based on placement. RAs placed in traditional and suite style housing also receive a meal plan. RAs placed in apartment style housing (Evergreen, Southwood, and Gateway) are provided a stipend that is credited to their account.

Would being an RA affect my Financial Aid package?

Financial Aid from the University may be affected by the compensation received for the RA position, depending on your individual circumstances. You should consult with your Client Services Representative at Student Administrative Services for more information.

Would being an RA prevent me from holding other leadership positions or being on an athletic team?

Students are not able to hold the Resident Advisor position and the Peer Advisor position in the same year (although students may apply for both positions, they will only be able to accept an offer for one of them). Students are able and encouraged to be involved in additional leadership positions, with the understanding that they remain able to meet all job expectations and requirements for the RA position.

Student Athletes should consult with their coach to determine their viability for applying for the position. While we attempt to work around a student's schedule and other commitments, they are ultimately still responsible for meeting the same RA expectations and time commitments including attending all training sessions.

Where can I be an RA?

Every residence area on campus has a staff of RAs. Candidates who are offered will receive a placement at that time. Placement is based on where Residence Life staff believes a candidate will succeed given the population they would be working with, staff dynamics, and how their displayed skills would match with the needs of that area.

While the experiences may differ from area to area, basic job functions and requirements remain the same. Therefore, a student offered the position is considered to be capable of fulfilling the role in any area. If a student chooses to decline an offer based on placement, they will be removed from the applicant pool and not considered for any future offers within that academic year.

Would I need to arrive to campus earlier or stay later for the position?

RAs are required to arrive to campus up to two weeks early in August for summer training. This is an extensive training program with all-day scheduling that does not allow for other commitments that are not previously approved by the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Residence Life. RAs also arrive up to four days early for spring semester for a winter training, with similar expectations as the summer training.

RAs are required to be on campus at the conclusion of finals week in both semesters to complete closing of Residence Halls. They are also required to be on campus for commencement ceremonies that take place one week after spring Closing. RAs who are not graduating will work at commencement or checkouts of senior areas.

Additionally, the University is required to provide appropriate staffing during break housing. This may include requiring RA coverage in residence areas during Thanksgiving, winter, and spring Breaks. An RA would work with their supervisor and staff to determine coverage and requirements for these breaks, if any.

What is required for being on duty and how often is it?

Every residence area has at least one RA “on duty” each night starting at 9:00pm. These RAs must stay in their area until the following morning. They complete regular rounds of the area to ensure safety and security of residents. They carry a master key for their area and a two-way radio that can be used to contact University Police for assistance responding to incidents or violations of University policy. RAs are actively doing rounds and on the radio until 12:00am Sunday-Thursday and 2:30am on Friday and Saturday.

The number of nights on duty varies depending on the residence area’s staff size and time of the year. Generally, RAs can expect to be on up to 3-7 weeknights a month and 3-4 weekend nights a month. The exact schedule is determined with their staff and supervisor. Duty may include University breaks when classes are not in session.

What is the application process to be an RA?

Applicants will need to submit their application, resume, cover letter, and have references completed by Friday, January 26. Upon turning in your application, you will sign up for an interview time*. You will be interviewing with two members of the professional Residence Life staff. All candidates will complete a group interview on the evening of Sunday, February 18. Candidates will receive decision letters the week of February 26.

*Please contact RAselection@wne.edu for more information if you are studying abroad during this time.