

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Related Questions:

Q. When are applications due?

A. Applications must be submitted online by 5:00pm on Friday, February 4, 2011.

Q. How long will the individual interview last?

A. Individual interviews will last approximately 15-20 minutes.

Q. How long will we be at the Group Activity Day?

A. Depending on the number of applicants, it may be necessary for us to run 2 sessions (morning and afternoon). Each session will last approximately 4 hours. You will be assigned to a session and given your specific time and location at your individual interview. Please leave your calendar open from 9:00am-6:00pm on Saturday, February 12th or 19th.

Q. What do I need to do to prepare for my interview?

A. Think about why you are applying for the RA position, what it means to be an RA, and ideas that you have.

Q. What kind of questions will you ask me in my interview?

A. We will ask you questions related to the RA position (Why are you applying? What does it mean to be an RA?, etc.). We will also ask questions about previous work or volunteer experience and a few questions to get to know you.

Q. How competitive is it?

A. Last year we had over 150 new applicants for approximately 30 open positions. We will hire 84 RAs this year. Returning RAs re-apply and go through a hiring process as well.

Q. Who should write my letter of reference?

A. Reference letters should be from faculty, staff, current or former employers, or volunteer coordinators. We are looking for letters from someone that can speak about your skills, character, and work ethic.

Position Related Questions:

Q. How often will I be on-call?

A. RAs are on-call once a week (set weekday throughout the semester) and once every 5th weekend.

Q. How much work is this really?

A. The RA position is based on an average of 20 hours per week. Some weeks you may work over 20 hours, but others you may need to only focus on RA tasks for 15. Your work load depends on resident concerns, and items that are due (safety inspections, bulletin boards, etc.) Check-in and Check-out periods are the busiest times.

Q. How much do I get paid?

A. This depends on the community you work in. All RAs receive free housing. In addition, North Lake and West Lake RAs receive a \$750 stipend per semester. The stipend is split through bi-weekly paychecks (you get a paycheck every other week). South Village RAs receive a 100 block meal plan that also includes some dining dollars in lieu of a stipend.

Q. How many hours per week will I work?

A. The RA position is based on a 20 hour workweek. Some weeks will be more, some will be less. It depends on the time of the year and month.

Q. How many residents will I oversee?

A. This also depends on the community you work in. Most North Lake RAs oversee 47 residents. South Village RAs oversee between 39 and 41 residents (depends on the floor assignment). West Lake Village RAs oversee about 42 residents.

Q. What do all these letters mean: RA, RD, RLTA, RHA, NLV, WLV, SoVi?

A. RA stands for Resident Assistant
RD stands for Resident Director
RLTA stands for Residence Life Team Assistant
RHA stands for Resident Housing Association
NLV stands for North Lake Village
WLV stands for West Lake Village
SoVi stands for South Village

Q. Do I get to choose where I live?

A. We will ask you to rank your community preference on your application. We may also ask if you have any specific building preferences during your interview. Ultimately, placement is up to the RD staff. We make placement decisions based on your skills and what will be good for team dynamics.

Q. Do I get to pick my roommates if chosen?

A. If you are chosen as a North Lake RA or West Lake Village RA, you will have the opportunity to invite your friends to live with you. They will need to complete a housing agreement and a supplemental RA roommate agreement. If you only choose 1 or 2 roommates, we will fill the other room(s) in your apartment. If you are chosen as a South Village RA you will not have any roommates.

Q. Are you able to leave on weekends and during breaks?

A. Yes. If you are not on-call, you are permitted to leave for the weekend and during breaks. You will need to double check with your RD to make sure it is ok. Residents are still around on the weekends, so our expectation is that you are around more often than not. 1 weekend a month away is usually a good guideline.

Q. Can I have another job?

A. First semester RAs are not permitted to have another job during the first 6 weeks of the RA contract (includes the 2 weeks of training prior to classes beginning). All RAs must have another job approved through their Resident Director prior to accepting another position. In general, the RD will look at your performance as an RA, your time management skills, and your ability to handle working more than 20 hours per week.

Q. What are “programs” and how many do we have to do?

A. Programs are events or activities that you plan for your residents. The purpose of programs is to provide opportunities for your residents to interact and learn. Each community has a specific Community Development Model that you will use to plan programs. Each RA is responsible for completing 8 programs per semester.

Q. I want to be an RA, but I also have summer plans that continue past August 1st, can I miss part of training?

A. No. Our expectation is that you are here for all of summer training. Training occurs the two weeks in August prior to move-in. If offered a position, the specific dates will be listed on the contract that you will sign and turn into us.