Resident Assistant FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions
2018-2019 Academic Year

Residence Life & Housing ● 1016 Brush Hill Road, 1st Floor ● Milton, MA 02186 ● (617) 333-2252

Below are some commonly identified and asked questions regarding the Resident Assistant position. Candidates with any additional questions are encouraged to view the Position Description found on the RA Selection page under the Student Life tab on the myCurry Portal. Candidates can also contact a member of the Resident Assistant Selection Work Team, at 617-333-2252 or dcline@curry.edu.

What are the general requirements to be a Resident Assistant?

Candidates for the Resident Assistant position must plan on being a full-time matriculating undergraduate student with no less than 12 credit hours per semester for the 2018-2019 academic year. Candidates must have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.25 or higher. Candidates must be in good financial and student conduct standing (not on a conduct status at the time of beginning the position). While candidates with on-campus residential experience are preferred, students who are of commuter status are strongly encouraged to apply.

What is the compensation I will receive for being a Resident Assistant?

Compensation for satisfactory performance as a Resident Assistant includes 70% off the Standard Room Rate, 70% off B Meal Plan rate (regardless of the meal plan you enroll in), free parking pass, and a single room. *Please consult with Student Financial Services to see if this impacts your financial aid awards.*

Aside from the compensation, what other benefits are there to being a Resident Assistant?

Much of the benefits of the position are intangible. Among some of the greatest benefits of the position includes growing and developing relationships with fellow staff and residents. These relationships form close bonds and support networks for staff. Staff also gain value experiences and strengthen skill sets in areas such as leadership, networking, confrontation and mediation skills, teambuilding skills, time and project management, problem solving, and oral and written communication skills. These skills are all desired by potential employers in your future career. All staff receive training in the areas above as well as has opportunities for additional professional development.

Will students in certain majors be considered for the position?

Any student studying any major can and will be considered for the Resident Assistant position. While certain majors may require additional commitments, much depends on the student's ability to manage his/her time.

If you are a student-athlete or a commuter student, will you be considered for the position?

Currently, there are Resident Assistants on staff who are student-athletes and/or have been commuters in the past. Much depends on the student's ability to manage time and coordinate Resident Assistant position responsibilities with those of the chosen sport. While not mandatory, commuters should find ways to get to know more about the on-campus population and life in the residence halls.

I have another job (on/off campus). Can I keep it and still be able to be an RA?

It is not uncommon for many Resident Assistants to have additional jobs while being in the position. In fact, in the vast majority of instances, the answer is yes. However, keep in mind that the other job commitment(s) should not significantly interfere with the ability to establish supportive relationships with residents and be present on the floor. Any outside job should come second to academics and the RA position. The number of hours for additional commitments must not exceed 20 hours each week, cumulatively. The RA position is typically identified as at least 20 hours per week.

What is the difference between a Living-Learning Community (LLC) Resident Assistant and a Resident Assistant?

Very few differences exist between these two types of position. In fact, the position expectations, compensation, and requirements are all the same. The difference lies within the intentional connections being made between the LLC/course themes and hall programming/resident interactions. Ideally, LLC Resident Assistants would be individuals who have previously been part of the specific LLC or have connections to the LLC themes (i.e. a Nursing major for the Health Careers LLC). However, any Resident Assistant interested in working with LLCs is encouraged to share this and will be considered. Students interested in working with an LLC as an RA should review the LLC RA position description.

I am involved in co-curricular/extracurricular activities. Can I still be an RA?

Yes. Many RAs are involved in co-curricular/extracurricular activities. Many serve in leadership capacities within those organizations/clubs. In fact, Residence Life & Housing encourages staff to participate in activities and organizations outside of the position. However, keep in mind that other commitments should not significantly interfere with your ability to establish supportive relationships with your residents and be present on your floor. Any co-curricular involvement should come second to your academics and the RA position. The number of hours for additional commitments must not exceed 20 hours each week, cumulatively. The RA position is typically identified as at least 20 hours per week.

Can I student teach or intern if I am an RA?

Past RAs have student taught and have completed internships. However, due to the time commitments for an RA and the requirement to complete an internship or student teaching experience, it is recommended that RAs student teach or participate in an internship only if the expectations of the RA job are not compromised (i.e. missing duty nights/weekends; inability to program; inability to make constructive relationships with residents, etc.).

If I am an RA, do I have to be on campus 24/7 or can I leave?

It is well understood that RAs have lives outside of the position. RAs are encouraged to be active in the Curry College community, succeed in their academics, and, if necessary, have job/internship opportunities outside of the RA position. RAs are encouraged to keep their own personal health and wellness in mind. RAs are permitted and encouraged to take time away from the position to support their personal health and wellness.

I see RAs "on-duty." What does that mean?

Every night that residence halls are open, there must be RAs available for the residents of their building area. This is referred to as "duty." Duty shifts for residence halls begin at 8:00PM each evening and ends at 12:00AM Sunday-Wednesday, 1:00AM Thursday, and 2:00AM Friday-Saturday. After these times, RAs On-Duty may be called upon to assist students or staff. During duty, RAs are expected to perform rounds throughout the building(s), maintain building safety and security, and interact with residents. During these hours, RAs cannot leave the building.

If hired, will I be able to decide what building I work in?

The short answer is no. The long answer is that RA placements are determined by numerous factors and after considerable thought. Most importantly, assignments are based on personality, fit with staff, and the needs of the floor/building community.

Is the RA position better fit for someone who is extroverted or introverted?

The RA position is great for both! The Office of Residence Life & Housing and RA staff contains an even mix of both extroverted and introverted individuals. This helps create strong staff dynamics, and benefits the staff as a whole. It is a myth that you must only be outgoing and vocal to get a position. In fact, the characteristics of both introverts and extroverts are widely appreciated and looked to in order to assist our floor/building communities.

Will the RA position affect my financial aid package?

All students considering the RA position are encouraged to speak with a member of Student Financial Services (617-333-2354) to see if this impacts your financial aid awards.

Stay Connected & In the Loop – Visit RA Selection under the Student Life tab on the myCurry Portal for complete information