Resident Assistant FAQs

What are the general requirements to be an RA?

Must be a full-time Elizabethtown College student, who has preferably lived in the residence halls for at least two semesters. The candidate must have an exemplary disciplinary record, and have a cumulative and semester GPA of 2.5 or higher. Outstanding leadership, team building, organizational, and interpersonal communication skills are essential. This individual must have a demonstrated commitment to fostering a multiculturally inclusive living-learning community that fosters student growth and cohesion and may not be engaged in curricular or co-curricular activities that will significantly interfere with their ability to establish supportive relationships with their residents.

Will I have to sign a contract?

Yes. Every RA must sign a contract that they will abide by the requirements of the position. Violations of this contract can result in termination from the RA position.

Will I have control over what building I work in?

Building assignments are made based on your personality, and the needs of the buildings. Preference is asked during the application process, and all efforts are made to place staff where they wish to be, but not guaranteed.

What compensation will I receive for being an RA?

The Resident Assistant will be granted a room waiver, and receive a stipend of $900.00 distributed over the course of the academic year.

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

Every night that school is in session, there must be an RA available for the residents of their building. This is referred to as "duty." Duty shifts for residence halls begin at 8:00PM each evening and ends at 7:00AM the following morning. The RA is also expected to perform rounds throughout the building(s) while on duty.

How many nights per week will I be on duty?

RAs are typically on duty one weeknight per week and one weekend a month, but based on the size of the staff, each building may have a different rotation. They are expected to be accessible, visible, and available throughout the week. The RA is also expected to be on duty at least one weekend per month.

Do RAs have to stay over breaks?

RAs will be expected to remain on campus/on duty the evening of closings (Fall Break, Thanksgiving break, Winter break, Spring break, Easter Break, End of the year closing) and return to campus the day that buildings open (Fall Break, Thanksgiving break, Winter break, Spring break, Easter Break).
Are there any weekends that I must be on campus?

Yes! RAs need to be available for special event weekends, which include but are not limited to the first and last weekends of the semester or further specific events which may require attendance, including RA Training, Homecoming, TGIS, and others as designated by Residence Life.

Do RAs have roommates?

Typically, no. On rare occasions, RAs have been assigned roommates in instances of overcrowding of the halls.

I have a job off-campus. Can I keep it and still be able to be an RA?

In the vast majority of cases, the answer is yes. Many RAs have other positions on and off-campus. However, keep in mind that your other job commitment should not significantly interfere with your ability to establish supportive relationships with your residents, and RAs must have approval from their Area Coordinator to work more than 10 hours per week.

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

Yes. Many RAs have also been involved in co-curricular/extracurricular activities. Again, keep in mind that other commitments should not significantly interfere with your ability to establish supportive relationships with your residents.

Can I join a student organization while an RA?

In consultation with your Area Coordinator, an RA may be permitted to join outside activities. Sometimes joining an organization can be a major responsibility that takes an RA out of the residence hall. It is imperative that an RA consider how the RA job will be affected by taking on another organizational commitment.

How many credit hours may I carry?

Enrollment in at least 12 credit hours per semester is required. RAs must appeal to continue their appointment if they are registered for fewer than 12 undergraduate credit hours.

Will being an RA affect my privacy?

It can. The very nature of being an RA means that you are someone that residents can come and talk to in times of stress and crisis. Sometimes this means right before you are about to do something else, or while you are studying for a test. The spirit of teamwork among the staff in each of the halls means that this is kept to as much a minimum as possible.
What happens if I am an RA and decide to “date” one of my residents?

While engaging in a relationship with a resident in your own building is not necessarily a terminable offense, it is strongly frowned upon. The nature of the RA position requires contact with information that is sensitive and private in nature. A relationship with a resident may hinder the RA’s ability to adequately perform his/her job, and may cause conflict between other staff members and/or residents in the building.

Can I student teach or intern as 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.).