

Resident Assistant (RA) Description

The role period is from September 2, 2026-June 16, 2027**

General Summary

The RA is an essential member of Northwestern's Residential Services team whose primary role is to create safe and inclusive communities that foster student success by facilitating the social, academic, and personal transition of residential students as they enter and move through their Northwestern experiences. RAs provide support and encouragement, as well as facilitate programs and services designed to both respond to student needs as well as to provide opportunities for education and personal growth. RAs must be comfortable interacting with university officials, faculty, parents, and guests. RAs report directly to a Resident Director or Assistant Resident Director and work with the Residential Experience Leadership Team to advance the mission and values of Residential Services.

General Responsibilities and Duties

1. Community Development: (35%)
 - a. Develop relationships through intentional interactions with assigned residents and be able to communicate interactions with supervisors.
 - i. Build community by implementing components of the Residential Experience Framework, including area and community development programming, intentional interactions, community meetings, and roommate/suitemate agreements.
 - b. Develop relationships with and between residents in assigned floor/wing, building and Area.
 - c. Plan and implement programs that meet the needs of the community, as well as support Area Programs, Area offerings, and departmental initiatives. Collaborations should include but are not limited to the Area Leadership Team (ALT) and include Faculty-in-Residence, Resident Directors and/or Assistant Resident Directors and elected student leaders in Area Council.
 - d. Create a welcoming and supportive environment for residents through active and passive programming efforts.
2. Communication (15%)
 - a. Communicate regularly with Resident Directors, Assistant Resident Directors, fellow Resident Assistants and central office staff. Complete administrative tasks, including but not limited to weekly team and supervisor meetings, paperwork, and training.
 - b. Submitting work requests for facility issues. Assist residents with submitting work requests for their specific spaces.
3. Serve on a duty rotation in your assigned Area and provide Area Desk coverage (25%):
 - a. Ensure safety, security, and policy enforcement within the residential space while on duty during weekdays and weekends during the academic year, as well as work portions of break periods, specifically Thanksgiving and Spring breaks.
 - b. Duty nights and weekends as assigned. Duty is from 8:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m. during the weekdays and 24 hours on the weekends.
 - i. Complete walking duty rounds of assigned Area on nights and weekends. Two rounds Sunday-Thursday nights and three rounds on Friday and Saturday nights. Additional rounds may be needed at the discretion of the Resident Director.
 - c. Work at the area desk, providing customer service and a welcoming atmosphere to all.
4. Administrative Responsibility (20%):

- a. Submit reports to the RD with details of incidents. Respond to both emergency and non-emergency situations. Properly confront, refer, and report on incidents.
 - b. Attend department trainings, including but not limited to Fall RA Training (which may include off-site training) and regular RA in-services.
 - c. Collaborate with Residential Services in support of hall openings/closings as well as midyear moves. Ensure proper keycard distribution/collection and verify occupancy as needed.
5. Perform other duties as assigned (5%)

Continuous Housing Duties (select candidates in 710 Emerson, 1856 Orrington, and 1871 Orrington – select candidates)

1. During the application and/or interview process, candidates will be asked to indicate interest in Continuous Housing. RAs in Continuous Housing agree to additional duties that take place over the December Winter Break period, which requires the RA(s) to stay on campus. Duties during this time include:
 - a. An assigned number of days on duty based on the total number of days the residence halls are closed during Winter Break. A minimum of 1 RA will be on duty each day and evening; in general, these are 12-hour shifts.
 - b. A minimum of 1 activity community program per RA during the Winter Break period
 - c. A minimum of one community-wide meal during the Winter Break period. All Continuous Housing RAs will plan this event together with the supervising RD(s)
 - d. Additional compensation for meals and a stipend will be provided. The stipend is set at \$500 for the duration of the Winter Break period and meals are determined at a set amount for the number of days Campus Dining is closed via Grubhub credits (approximately \$50.00/day when the dining halls are closed and items from the Purple Pantry provided as supplement).

Important Dates

The appointment period is from September 2, 2026-June 16, 2027. Resident Assistants must be fully available for the entire training and opening period and **may not** participate in other activities/employment during this time. This includes, but is not limited to: Internships, NU Marching Band, NU Athletics, Peer Advisors and Family Ambassadors. Resident Assistants may not serve on an Executive Board for a Residential College or the Residential College Board, including Chairperson roles during their appointment. RA appointments are for one academic year (Fall, Winter, Spring). RAs must be in good standing (i.e., no significant performance concerns or current outstanding and significant conduct cases) to apply.

RAs must be available to attend the following functions on the following dates. ****All dates are subject to change.****

Summer Return Dates

1. New RAs move in: Wednesday, September 2, 2026
2. Senior RAs move in: Thursday, September 3, 2026
3. All other Returning RAs move in: Friday, September 4, 2026
4. RA Fall Training Dates: Thursday, September 3, 2026-Saturday, September 12, 2026
5. Wildcat Welcome: Wednesday, September 16, 2026-Tuesday, September 22, 2026
6. Tentative Resident Move-In Days: Tuesday, September 15, 2026, and Friday, September 18, 2026
7. Every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 p.m. (individual team meeting times may shift based on team availability, but all RAs must maintain this time available for full-team meetings).

All Hall Opening and Closings

1. Fall Opening (First Year Students): Tuesday, September 15, 2026
2. Fall Opening (Returning Students): Friday, September 18, 2026

3. Fall Closing: Saturday, December 12, 2026 @ 12:00 p.m. Noon
4. Winter Opening: Saturday, January 2, 2027 @ 12:00 p.m. Noon
5. Spring Closing: Saturday, June 12, 2027 @ 12:00 p.m. Noon AND Tuesday, June 15, 2027 @ 12:00 p.m. Noon
 - a. Note: RAs are released on Wednesday, June 16, 2027 @ 9:00 a.m.

Additional Required Dates

1. Teams are responsible for covering some break shifts over Thanksgiving and Spring Breaks as the residence halls do not close
2. Resident Assistant Selection: February 2027
3. Dillo Day Weekend: TBD (late May 2027)

Minimum Qualifications

1. Be a full-time, degree seeking undergraduate Northwestern student, enrolled in at least 3 courses per quarter
2. One year of living on campus, or similar experience (upon starting the role)
3. Have a minimum quarterly and cumulative GPA of 2.75 or above
4. Be in good academic and conduct standings (good standing can be interpreted as not on probation)
5. First year RAs cannot participate in opportunities that require significant time off campus including but not limited to: Chicago Field Studies, internships, or student teaching

Physical Requirements

This role requires frequent overnight response to student emergencies which includes interrupted sleep and ability to wake up from a phone call while sleeping, as well as the ability to lift up to 10 lbs., and be able to ascend and descent multiple stairs.

Compensation

RAs are provided with a stipend to pay for their single room at a rate of \$9,500, paid over a 10-month period (September-June at \$950.00/month) and an Open Access Meal Plan (when the meal plan is in service). RAs also receive earnings of \$1500, paid over a 10-month period (September-June at \$150.00/month).**

Senior Resident Assistants (SRAs) are provided with a stipend to pay for their single room at a rate of \$9500, paid over a 10-month period (September-June at \$950.00/month) and an Open Access Meal Plan (when the meal plan is in service). SRAs also receive earnings of \$3,000, paid over a 10-month period (September-June at \$300.00/month).

**International Students serving as Resident Assistants and some Domestic Students may be impacted by Federal Tax Guidelines. More information can be [found here](#).

RA Compensation may impact your Financial Aid Award

See the 2026-2027 Financial Aid and Resident Assistant information available on the [Undergraduate Financial Aid Website](#) (updated late 2025).

Additional Information

Northwestern University is an equal opportunity employer. Northwestern University does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or other protected group status in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.

Residential Services asks if you require housing accommodation to request one early in the process and no later than January 13, 2026. Housing accommodation requests must be submitted to the [Office of Civil Rights and Title IX \(OCR\)](#)

prior to Resident Assistant Selection. Further, they must be resubmitted each year. Accommodation requests received after January 13, 2026, cannot be guaranteed. Information about requests generally made can be found on the Residential Services website under the "[Housing and Dining Accommodation Requests](#)" marker. In the event you are not selected as a Resident Assistant and still need to be considered for housing accommodation, it is expected that you complete both the OCR and the Housing Accommodation processes by their intended due date.

Applications for new Resident Assistant candidates are due on Friday, January 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Interviews for new candidates will be held virtually Monday, February 2, 2026-Thursdays, February 5, 2026. Students will receive individual communication regarding status updates in the candidate pool.

Current RAs must be in good standing to reapply with supervisor support. Current Resident Assistants are not guaranteed a return placement. All Intent to Return forms are due on Wednesday, January 30, 2026 by Noon. Late intents will not be considered.

Please direct inquiries about the Resident Assistant role to selection@northwestern.edu.