

A Week in the Life of a UP RA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Class 8:10 am - 9:05 am </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Class 11:20 am - 12:45 pm </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 1:1 w/ HD 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px;"> RA Duty @ 7 pm </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Class 11:25 am - 3:25 pm </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px;"> Hall Mass + After Mass Social @ 10 pm </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Class 8:10 am - 9:05 am </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Class 11:20 am - 12:45 pm </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Class 4:10 pm - 6:10 pm </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px;"> Staff Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Class 11:25 am - 3:25 pm </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px;"> RA Duty @ 7 pm </div>	<div style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Wing Dinner @ 5 pm </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px;"> RA Duty @ 7 pm </div>

Meetings

Every week RAs have meetings they need to attend to complete their job and to meet the needs of their residents. Weekly meetings include a one-on-one meeting with their supervisor (Hall Director) and a weekly meeting with their RA staff group. RAs are aware of these meetings in advance as they are scheduled at a regular time before the beginning of each semester.

Gatherings

In addition to weekly meetings, RAs regularly attend Hall Mass and invite community members to attend. Other potential gatherings that RAs participate in can include Hall Council meetings (occur on a weekly basis), Community Nights with Residence Life Staff (occur on a monthly basis), Winter Retreat, and Staff Days Away (occur once a semester). While most of these gathering do not occur on a weekly basis, it is important to be aware of other community gatherings that RAs participate in.

Programming

An essential component of the RA job is to develop a wing/floor community that is conducive to living and learning; programming is one of the most important components of community development. Programming is a fun way to connect with and provide opportunities to residents. While it is a fun part of the job, programming does take planning. RAs have a set requirement of the number of programs they need to host each semester. The number of programs required, the types (passive, community events) and requirements can vary by the community an RA works in. Programming requirements are crafted to meet the needs of each hall community. RAs also complete Mission Programs, which are intended to link out-of-class experiences to the University's academic mission.

Duty

As you've noticed in your residence hall, there is an RA on Duty every night to assist the residents of the building, and to ensure the safety and security of the building and residents. While on duty, the RA on Duty is required to be present to their community by completing walk-throughs of the building, greeting residents, and responding to crisis situations. Duty-day requirements vary between building depending upon the size of the community and the size of the staff. Depending on which building an RA works, he/she will be on duty between 5 – 8 days per month.

Administrative

RAs complete a number of administrative responsibilities including weekly community reports, incident reports, duty logs, programming paperwork, and following up with residents. RAs assist their Hall Director and Assistant Hall Director in completing various processes on a more seasonal basis as well such as Fire and Life Safety inspections and Room Condition Reports.

The RA Lifestyle

The most difficult part of the RA job to explain and quantify in hours is the *lifestyle* of being an RA. Understand that you will be an RA 24/7, meaning that residents, staff, and other UP community members will always see and recognize you as an RA. Both on and off campus, you will see your residents and will have conversations with them and respond to their questions as an RA, whether you are in your building or not. You will also have to confront certain behaviors or actions when you are not on duty.

Balance

Some students have an easier time balancing the RA position than others. RAs have many other demands: academics, the RA job and lifestyle, a personal life, clubs and organizations, jobs, etc. Each RA must work to find life balance and are supported by their supervisors to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This could require RA staff members to give up some extracurricular activities in order to balance their individual time demands. All RAs are expected to be students first and RAs second, and put all other extracurricular activities and jobs third.