Office of Residential Life

The Office of Residential Life is responsible for managing residential living programs and facilities for over 7,300 on-campus students in 31 residence halls. The mission of the Office of Residential Life is to create a respectful, healthy, and safe living community for our residents. We are committed to integrating the Ignatian tradition into the formation of each student by connecting their intellectual, ethical, religious and spiritual lives through a wide range of programs and services.

The Office of Residential Life staff consists of:

1. Associate Vice President
2. Directors
3. Associate Directors
10. Assistant Directors
2. Area Coordinators
12. Resident Directors
10. Support Staff
3. Graduate Resident Directors
13. Graduate Staff Assistants
184. RA’s
12. Resident Ministers
7. Graduate Ministry
6. Pathways Graduate Assistants

Skills Gained From the Position

Responsibility—RA's are responsible for managing a large influx of emails and contact from residents, help coach students with personal and life issues, and handle stressful crisis situations in accordance to university policies and procedures.

Networking—RA's have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with student organizations, faculty, university administration officials, and organizations in the BC and Boston communities.

Communication—RA's receive direct supervision and feedback from a full time residential life professional, work with multiple peers to complete tasks, and work with a variety of residents and coworkers with a vast range of experiences and perspectives.

Teamwork—An RA staff can range anywhere from 8-20 RA’s, and often have between 30-50 residents assigned to them. They will spend up to several hours undergoing comprehensive training, helping to organize departmental processes (such as opening or closing), or responding to crisis situations in their hall. All of this is done in groups and will require you to trust your teammates, and vice-verse.

Confidence—RA’s are faced with a variety of tasks, challenges, and obstacles throughout the year. This could range from a difficult situation with a resident, staff conflict, time management, or other personal issues. Being a part of your RA team and working through those situations will help them build skills and confidence in their abilities.

Leadership—RA’s are trained to trust in their teammates in scenarios such as duty, co-programming, and various other activities. RA’s learn how to take charge of a situation and effectively manage it from start to finish.

Visit www.bc.edu/reslife for more information on the Office of Residential Life.
Resident Assistant (RA)

A Resident Assistant (RA) at Boston College is a full-time undergraduate or graduate student who lives in the residence halls. They provide support, act as a resource for students, coordinate social and educational programs, and work together as a staff to enforce policy.

General Position Responsibilities

- Know, support, and advise the residents living in your community
- Act as a resource for residents regarding campus services
- Plan, implement, and evaluate monthly programs for the community or building
- Encourage conversations with residents about personal issues, academics, social concerns, future plans, and spirituality
- Conduct building rounds and participate in a weekly duty rotation, enforcing University policy and reporting any damage to the building to facilities
- Support the Office of Residential Life in its mission to create inclusive and supportive educational living and learning environments

Our ideal Resident Assistant staff is made up of individuals with a wide-range experiences, backgrounds and academic majors. Successful RAs are open-minded and enjoy working with diverse groups of people. They are organized, responsible, and able to make good ethical decisions. Candidates must demonstrate leadership, interpersonal skills, and a commitment to diversity.

RA Selection and Training

RA Group Process

Qualified candidates, with completed applications, will be invited to participate in the Resident Assistant Group Process, which involves active participation and group interaction and allows the Office of Residential Life staff a chance to make sound hiring and placement decisions.

RA Individual Interviews

Qualified candidates who continue through selection beyond the group process will be asked to return for an individual interview with Office of Residential Life staff.

Final placement decisions with regard to community and building are made after the completion of the application review, group process, and individual interview.

Training

In order to prepare for their important role, RA’s undergo two weeks of training prior to the start of the academic year, and then have continued professional development throughout the semester. Their training consists of team building exercises, resources on campus, crisis intervention, community building techniques and theories, confrontation skills, safety protocols, and inclusiveness for all students.

Commitment to ALL students

The Office of Residential Life is committed to hiring a diverse population of students from all backgrounds, experiences, and abilities.

Graduate Students

We welcome graduate students to apply for the RA Position. Those students in the Higher Education Masters Program may also apply to a Graduate Staff Assistant (GSA) or Graduate Resident Director (GRD) position. Further descriptions of these positions can be found at www.bc.edu/reslife.