

New Candidate Process

Resident Assistant Selection Timeline

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026



Mon. October 27th	New Candidate Info Session, 12-1:30pm, WPU Kurtzman Room
Week of November 3rd	Applications available on Residence Life Website
Mon. November 10th	New Candidate Info Session, 6-7:30pm, WPU Nordy's Place
Thurs. November 13th	New Candidate Info Session, 12-1:30pm, WPU Dining Room A
Thurs. December 4th	New Candidate Info Session, 6-7:30pm, Virtual (Zoom link to be sent to registrants)
Tues. January 13th	New Candidate Info Session, 2-3:30pm, WPU Kurtzman Room
Wed. January 14th	New Candidate Applications due online by 5:00pm
Tues. February 10th	New Candidate Interviews, WPU Ballroom
Wed. February 11th	New Candidate Interviews, WPU Ballroom
Thurs. February 12th	New Candidate Interviews, WPU Ballroom
Week of March 9th	Notification of selection status
Tues. March 24th	Eligible for Selection Candidate Drop-In Event, 1-4pm, Lower Lounge
Thurs. March 26th	Newly Selected Candidate Drop-In Event, 1-3pm, Office of Residence Life, 935 WPU
Week of April 13th	Tentative Placement Notification <i>*(note that assignments can be subject to change over the summer months)</i>

See below for some frequently asked questions regarding the Resident Assistant selection process:

1. How does the Resident Assistant selection process work?

The selection process consists of several steps:

1. **Application:** Submit an online application, providing your resume and answering specific questions about your interest in the Resident Assistant role. The application is the first part of the selection process; it will be reviewed alongside an application rubric. There will be a limited number of in-person interviews scheduled based on application, conduct review, and GPA review.
2. **Interview:** Qualified candidates will be invited to an interview, where you'll be asked about your leadership experience, problem-solving skills, and approach to navigating community and resident support.
3. **Final Decision:** After the interviews, decisions will be made based on your qualifications, fit for the role, and the community's needs. You will be notified of the outcome via email.

2. Are there certain requirements to apply for a Resident Assistant role?

- Must have at least a 2.5 cumulative and semesterly QPA.
- University conduct records are reviewed. Additional steps in the selection process may be required when there is a history of a conduct violation.
- Must have sophomore, junior, or senior status for the fall and spring terms while holding the Resident Assistant role.
- Cannot be on academic or disciplinary probation.

3. There seems to be a lot of time between the due date for applications, interviews, and notice of outcome. Why is this?

Application materials for new applicants are thoroughly reviewed. Determinations will be made on invitations to interview from the application documents. The Office of Residence Life also conducts an academic review and conduct review during this period. After the interview process candidate files are once again reviewed in preparation for selection decisions.

4. What are the outcomes of the Resident Assistant selection process?

There are 3 outcomes to the RA selection process. The first outcome is that a candidate is offered an RA position. The second outcome is that a candidate is not offered an RA position. The third outcome is that a candidate is offered a space on our Eligible for Selection list. This is a list of candidates who are selected to fill vacancies as they arise during the academic year for which they applied to be an RA. For example, if an RA graduates in December 2026, we will need to fill that RA role. A candidate from the Eligible for Selection List would be selected to fill that vacancy. Students can accept or decline a space in the Eligible for Selection List when offered. Candidates can also remove themselves from the Eligible for Selection List at any time. It is also important to note that not all RA positions are filled right away. During early July an additional 10-15 positions are filled from the Eligible for Selection List.

5. How can I prepare for the selection process?

Here are some tips to help you succeed:

- **Understand the Role:** Familiarize yourself with the RA responsibilities and expectations. Know what you're signing up for and how you can contribute to the community.
- **Reflect on Your Experiences:** Think about past leadership roles, team activities, or situations where you've helped resolve conflicts. Be ready to discuss them during the interview.
- **Practice Interviewing:** Prepare for common interview questions, such as how you'd handle specific resident issues or manage time with academic responsibilities. The University Career Center is an excellent resource.
- **Be Yourself:** Authenticity matters. Showcase your strengths but also be open about areas where you're still growing. We ask you to highlight your candidacy through your own unique perspective and experiences. With this, we expect all application materials and responses are created without the use of ChatGPT or other generative AI tools.

6. I will be studying abroad; can I still apply to be a Resident Assistant?

- If you are studying abroad Spring 2026 – be sure to mark this on your application and you will be contacted for a virtual interview.
- If you are studying abroad Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 – please note this on your application; you may still go through the selection process.

7. I can only be a Resident Assistant for half of an academic year. Am I still eligible to apply?

Yes. You are still eligible to apply to be an RA even if you can only commit to the role for one semester. Please note this on your application.

8. If I am applying to be a Resident Assistant, should I submit a housing application?

We strongly encourage you to do so! If you apply for on-campus housing and receive an RA position, you will be released from your housing application and refunded your housing deposit. If you do not complete your housing application and are not offered an RA Position, you will not be eligible for on-campus housing for the 2026-2027 academic year.

9. When will I find out if I get a Resident Assistant position?

Candidates will know if they have received an RA position by the beginning of March 2026. See the full timeline above for all important dates.

10. Do I get to pick where I want to be a Resident Assistant?

No- candidates go through the selection process and are placed in a community. After notification of selection status, the Office of Residence Life will communicate steps for requesting any housing accommodations if needed. Any requests for accommodation must go through the correct university resources which includes Disability Resources and Services.

11. If selected to be a student staff member, what responsibilities will I have this academic year?

Applicants placed on the eligible for selection list are invited to attend the Eligible for Selection Candidate Drop-In event to meet with Residence Life staff to ask questions and learn more about the eligible for the selection process. Applicants selected for an RA role will be expected to attend the Newly Selected Candidate Drop-In Event. For specific dates, times, and locations see the timeline above.

