

University Housing & Dining Job Description

Title: REACH Resident Assistant (RA)

UI REACH Resident Assistant

UI REACH is a comprehensive transition program for students ages 18-25 years old with intellectual, cognitive and learning disabilities. UI REACH offers an integrated college experience in the Burge and Daum Hall communities. With support from UI REACH staff, students improve their daily living skills, get involved in campus life, engage in courses, complete an internship, and interact with their undergraduate peers. Upon completion students receive a two, three, or four-year certificate

Basic Function and Responsibility

Resident Assistants serve in a required live-in position to assist in the day-to-day operations and develop welcoming communities for residents of a specific residence hall. This is a 10-month position from August 5, 2026 – May 16, 2027, and requires an average of 20-hours a week. Hours will vary and include night and weekend hours. Due to RA positions being one-year academic appointments, current RAs must reapply each academic year to be considered again for an RA position.

Duties and Responsibilities

Community and Individual Development

- Create and maintain a supportive and welcoming environment for all residents.
 - Get to know residents and build rapport individually and as a group.
 - Be available and visibly present to residents.
 - Regularly interact with the floor community, in person and/or virtually.
 - Maintain an atmosphere conducive to academic focus, self-discipline, and student success.
- Demonstrate a commitment to individual student and community success
 - Plan and implement regular community building socials within the floor communities to build relationships and promote a welcoming environment among all residents of the floor. '
 - Maintain regular contact with all residents in the community through one-on-one interactions and community-wide communication.
 - Facilitate the roommate agreement process by assisting residents in completing agreements, mediate roommate conflicts.
- Stay informed of resident concerns, serve as an advocate, and report concerns to a supervisor in a timely manner. Appropriately refer students to university resources that will support their success.
- Encourage residents to respect the rights of others and approach one another with concerns.
- Mediate conflicts and assist with conflict resolution within the residence hall community.
- Be knowledgeable of and follow University and UI REACH policies and procedures; help residents to understand these policies and procedures.

Commitment to Belonging, Engagement, and Welcoming:

- Support the University, University Housing & Dining Welcoming Community Statement, and UI REACH Program expectations on welcoming communities by educating residents on these policies and expectations
- Always conduct yourself in an honest, conscientious, and ethical manner showing respect for persons of all backgrounds, races, sexual or affectional orientation, gender identity, religion, abilities, etc.
- Advocate for students within the Residence Halls and refer appropriate resources.
- Appropriately confront and/or report students who are not showing respect for all people.
- Actively engage and further educate yourself in topics related to belonging, engagement, and empowerment.

Decision Making and Critical Thinking

- Support and communicate University of Iowa, University Housing and Dining, and UI REACH policies

- and procedures; appropriately confront and document policy violations.
- Assist residents in concerns that may arise and provide referrals to resources when appropriate.
- Participate in the on-call duty rotation, primarily evenings and weekends, for UI REACH communities.
 - Be able to effectively respond to emergencies, facility issues and safety concerns.
- Effectively manage time to meet deadlines and proactively ask for help and advocate for yourself.

Interpersonal Skills and Leadership

- Promote a welcoming environment that encourages personal development and academic growth.
- Empower residents to make healthy decisions in all aspects of well-being by being a resource and a role model.
- Develop and maintain appropriate personal connections with residents utilizing early intervention tools.
- Communicate effectively and create collaborative and positive relationships with campus and community partners, staff within University Housing & Dining, UI REACH staff, and residents

Administrative Duties

- Complete job tasks and assignments thoroughly, appropriately, and by deadlines.
- Be punctual and prepared for all weekly staff meetings, meetings with supervisor, professional development series, annual performance evaluation and other departmental communication.
- Be present and assist with UI REACH move-in and orientation in August and closing the building at semester.
- Assist in recruitment and selection of new UI REACH RAs.
- Implement special policies and protocols that come up as needed (example: in past years RAs had to implement isolation and quarantine housing protocols).

Responsibilities unique to the UI REACH Resident Assistant positions include, but are not limited to:

- Provide leadership to a small community of young adults with learning, intellectual, and cognitive disabilities and model positive interactions.
- Empower UI REACH students to increase independence, engage in positive interactions, and use problem solving skills.
- Implement strategies that promote individual growth.
- Build community among UI REACH students and undergraduate students on floor.
- Support the students in daily living and social skill development.
- Collaborate with University Housing and UI REACH Program staff.
- Understand and commit to effectively work with a diverse population and adjust to challenging situations.

Supervision Received

General supervision is received from the UI REACH Student Life team, Hall Coordinator, Assistant Hall Coordinator, or other designated officials.

Compensation and Housing

- Single room in residence hall as assigned.
- Stipend of \$5,250 prorated over a 10-month employment period, plus an option to choose from two meal plans.

Demonstrate the following Knowledge and Skills:

- Effective communication and organization skills.
- Understanding of and commitment to effectively work with students from a wide range of backgrounds and adjusting to challenging situations.
- Reasonable experience in using computers; including Word, Excel, and e-mail.
- Ability to show responsibility for own time-management.
- Willingness to grow and learn.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective student and staff relationships.
- Awareness and commitment to the mission of University Housing & Dining and UI REACH.

Qualifications and Requirements

- Must be a current University of Iowa full-time student.
- Attend mandatory pre-fall training (dates will be between August 6 – August 13, 2026) and winter training (dates will be between January 13 - 15, 2027).
- Attend ongoing training such in-halls & compliances, and professional development sessions offered through in-services.
- RAs are required to work during Opening Week and On Iowa! (August 14 – August 22, 2026)
- Must be in good conduct standing with the University.
- Must be enrolled in at least 12 credits during the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters.
- At the time of employment have an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5.
- Must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 each semester during the term of employment.
 - For each semester of employment, RAs must achieve a minimum of 2.0 semester GPA and pass 70% of all credits attempted each semester.
- Employment is for an entire academic year, single semester employment (due to study abroad, student teaching, early graduation, etc.) is not available.
 - This means that Resident Assistants cannot student teach at the same time as employed as an RA.
 - Continued employment is contingent upon performance evaluations conducted throughout the academic year.
- May be involved in up to ten (10) hours of additional involvement (on or off campus) with supervisor approval.
- Resident Assistants cannot serve concurrently as a member of the Undergraduate Student Government Cabinet, including Speaker and Speaker Pro Tempore, for the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Your financial aid package can be affected if hired as an RA, and it is your responsibility to contact the office of Financial Aid to learn how your financial aid may be impacted.
- Must successfully complete a criminal background check.

The University of Iowa is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment free from discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, religion, associational preference, status as a qualified individual with a disability, or a status as a protected veteran.