The goals of the Resident Assistant programming activities at The University of Akron are to:

- Educate residents and staff
- Supplement classroom learning
- Facilitate meaningful interactions between residents and faculty, staff, and members of the community
- Foster citizenship and community development among residents, residence halls, the campus community, the City of Akron, and beyond

The Residence Life Coordinators, Senior Resident Assistants, and Resident Assistants will engage residents through events and interactions designed to achieve these four goals.

Community Activity and Programming Requirements

All Resident Assistants are required to complete individual community activity requirements:

- 4 floor activities (one per month / 4 per semester)
- 4 university activities (one per month / 4 per semester)
- 4 bulletin boards (one per month / 4 per semester)
- Assist with additional hall and floor programs and activities as assigned

All Residence Hall Staffs are required to complete hall programming requirements:

- 4 hall programs (each semester)

Note: Living Learning Community Programming will be assigned to Resident Assistants serving on Living Learning Community floors. These programming responsibilities will be completed in addition to those noted above.

Individual Resident Assistant Activities

To be completed on an individual basis each semester by each Resident Assistant.

- **Floor Activity** (one per month / 4 per semester) – RA sponsored activity that supports floor community. Examples: pizza party, game night, playing cards, video games, lunch, dinner, recreation center, birthday party.
- **University Activity** (one per month / 4 per semester) – RA sponsored activity that supports other initiatives on campus. Examples: RHPB, RHC, NRHH, Athletics, ARC, Faculty Lecture, University Art, University College, Advising, CTCC Calendar, plays/cultural programs.
- **Bulletin Board** (one per month / 4 per semester) Note: Floor Newsletters, email list-serve, floor website can be substituted for an individual bulletin board.

- **Additional Hall Program Support Assignments** - Resident Assistants will also be required to support Hall Government, Residence Hall Council, Resident Assistant Committee Sponsored Initiatives, and Departmental Theme Weeks. Should a Hall Government fail to sponsor a theme week program, the Resident Assistant Staff will be asked to step in and ensure a program is sponsored for each hall.

### Group Resident Assistant Programs

To be completed each semester by residence hall resident assistant staffs under the supervision of the Residence Life Coordinators.

Each Resident Assistant staff will split into four smaller groups to complete the following hall programming requirements. The four small groups will organize programs that focus on one specific programming area: **Diversity, Human Issues, Life Skills, and Scholarship**. The hall program will be presented for the entire building or area.

1. **Diversity** – a program that celebrates plural community, affirms human dignity, embraces persons who are marginalized, or confronts hateful behavior. These programs should provide an opportunity to witness or experience an event which positively impacts our community. Examples of program topics: ethnicity, gender, age, race, politics, and religion.

2. **Human Issues** – a program that engages residents in the process of developing a more healthy life. Human issue programming should assist residents in reaching their full potential as a human being. Examples of program topics: sexuality, disordered eating/eating disorders, alcohol, recreational drug use/misuse, and nutrition.

3. **Life Skills** – a program that engages residents with opportunities to participate or prepare for participation in our community as a citizen leader. Examples of program topics: safety and security, career planning, résumé writing, dress for success, finance/credit information, apartment hunting, student loans, cooking, laundry, car maintenance, leadership development.

4. **Scholarship** – a program that supports student learning outside of the classroom. These programs may or may not involve a faculty or staff member, but should involve factual information and/or appropriate research. Examples of program topics: college survival (study skills, testing taking skills), tours of employment opportunities, alumni panel, grad school prep, faculty social.

### Program Planning and Execution Process

**Individual Programming Process:** The floor and university activity requires a five-step planning and implementation process:

1. Actively plan activity.
2. Submit activity proposal form for approval.
3. Actively recruit and advertise for floor members to attend the activity.
4. Attend the activity with the group.
5. Complete the activity form.

**Hall Programming Process:** Hall programming requires a multi-step planning and implementation process:

1. The entire staff team will brainstorm ideas for each topic. This will occur during staff retreats near the beginning of each semester.
2. The Residence Life Coordinator will divide the staff into four small programming groups.
3. Each small group will actively plan one program for one of the four areas.
4. The small group will consult with the Residence Life Coordinator and the Senior Resident Assistant throughout the planning process.
5. The small group will delineate tasks, develop supply inventories, secure resources, find appropriate location, contact guest presenter(s) and complete any additional tasks necessary for presenting the program.
6. The group must submit a program proposal to the Residence Life Coordinator for approval before planning the event.
7. The small group must complete and execute program advertising plan.
8. All hall student staff and the Residence Life Coordinators must attend and support event.
9. After the event, the small group needs to complete a program evaluation.

**General Expectations**

- Small group programming teams will take ideas developed by the whole staff during the staff retreat under consideration while planning programs.
- Residence Life Coordinators will discuss individual activities and hall programs with Resident Assistants during 1:1 supervision meetings.
- Senior Resident Assistants will meet with and discuss hall programs during bi-weekly programming meetings with Resident Assistants.
- If an outside presenter is used during a hall program, the small group is still required to help facilitate and/or present at least 50% of the program.
- Programming forms for hall programs must be submitted three weeks before the event or they will not be approved by Residence Life Coordinators.
- Activity forms for individual activities must be submitted prior to the activity for approval by the Residence Life Coordinator.
- Hall program advertising plans must be developed and approved ten to fourteen days before the program.
- Support for hall programs will include attendance at program unless excused by the Residence Life Coordinator, distributing publicity, and generating enthusiasm within floor and hall community.
- Program evaluations should be distributed to participants at the conclusion of all hall programs.
- Program assessment will be completed by the small group and will include but will not be limited to completing, in detail, the programming form. The group will also send thank you notes to the presenter(s), follow-up with the staff team to see how the event went, review program evaluations, and complete outcome assessment under the direction of the Residence Life
Coordinators.

- If any written or attached information is missing or incomplete when a program proposal is submitted it will not be approved by Residence Life Coordinators.
- If information is distributed at a hall program via a handout it must be pre-approved and integrated into the program presentation in some way. This information must also be verified with a scholarly source.
- “Word of Mouth” and flyers may be used as portions of advertising plans but together still do not meet advertising requirements.
- Hall meetings do not constitute programs although they may be followed with programs or activities.
- Resident Assistants must complete 4 different Floor Activities over the course of the semester.
- Resident Assistants must complete 4 different University Activities over the course of the semester.
- No one program will be counted in more than one category.
- The determination that programming requirements have been completed successfully will be made by Residence Life Coordinators. It is the responsibility of the Resident Assistant to ensure that they have met their Residence Life Coordinators expectations.

Programming Model Definitions

For the purpose of providing clarity and consistency to our programming model we have adopted the following language. We ask that you use this language in reference to the Resident Assistant Programming Model which outlines your programmatic responsibilities as a Resident Assistant. We recognize that others in the university community might use these words or similar language in other contexts. It is not our goal to define these terms broadly for the entire university community, instead we would like for all of you to know clearly what we expect of you as our employees. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a Residence Life Coordinator.

**Student Interaction:** Impromptu conversations between students and staff concerning issues affecting their lives are desirable and often may achieve our programming goals. In fact, it is our hope that students take more ownership for their hall or community blurring the lines between activities, programs, and student interaction. We hope students will begin to engage in ongoing and meaningful conversations about their daily life, values, and interests. We call these conversations student interaction. Although this is not outlined in our programming model it is a vital part of building community and we trust and know you will engage your residents with such conversations.

**Activities:** Even as we achieve the vision of student engagement described above, it is important to offer structured opportunities for students to interact with others whom they may not regularly come into significant contact with. Through student interaction we can have a meaningful impact with individual students. But our programming goals challenge us to do more than 1:1 interaction. The goals challenge us to engage students with each other and members of the university community. For these reasons we define preplanned events where residents watch or interact with other members of the university community as activities. Activity requirements are outlined in our programming model under individual responsibilities as Floor Activities and University Activities.
**Programs:** Our programming goals also challenge us to support classroom learning and engage students in the process of becoming citizen leaders. While we begin this process through student interaction and activities we must provide even more structured opportunities for students to engage their values, knowledge, and behavior in more meaningful ways. For this reason we define program as a preplanned event where Resident Assistants facilitate an experience where residents are challenged to learn and grow together. Because of the commitment necessary to successfully engage college students in these events we have asked Resident Assistants to work collaboratively to complete program requirements. We have also focused on quality not quantity with our expectations. Program requirements are outlined in our programming model under Group Resident Assistant Requirements.

**Bulletin Boards:** Our programming goals also challenge us to inform residents. We understand that contemporary college students do not have the time and opportunity to attend all the events that we plan or provide for students. In an effort to still reach out and inform these students of university events, policies, procedures, rules, knowledge, and to supplement their classroom learning we have included Bulletin Boards in our programming model. Bulletin Boards inform, educate, challenge, support, or engage students. Bulletin Boards are not decoration.