



VCU Residential Life and Housing

Residence Hall Association Student Leadership Agreement

Purpose

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) serves as the official voice of students living in the residence halls. This unique leadership opportunity allows students to make a difference in the residence hall as well as the greater VCU community. It is the intent that when students take on such an important leadership position they will gain new skills through meaningful experiences, and develop an appreciation for the development of future student leaders. This agreement allows student leaders as well as their advisors to ensure the leadership experience is appropriate and positive, by setting clear guidelines for student leaders. While it is fully anticipated that student leaders will meet all expectations of their position, guidelines are in place to help each member of the RHA executive board understand what is expected of them. The following are expectations of the Executive Board Position that must be fulfilled.

Academics

As a student leader, I understand the importance of academics and I am a student first. I also understand that I am a role model for other students.

- As a student leader in the residence halls I will work to achieve an effective balance between my academic work and my leadership responsibilities.
- I understand my cumulative and semester GPA can be no lower than 2.5
- I understand my advisor may ask for specific updates regarding my grades, including but not limited to mid-semester grade check, copies of syllabi, and discussions during one on one meetings.

Attendance

As a student leader, my attendance is required and necessary at organizational events and meetings.

- I will attend all RHA Meetings.
- I will attend all major RHA & Residential Life & Housing events, including but not limited to, All Hall Basketball, Step Show, Homecoming, and the End of the Year Banquet.
- I understand that it is important that I arrive to these events in a timely manner, and will notify my peers and advisors of any reasons for which I may be tardy.
- I understand specific attendance requirements are listed in my job description, found in the RHA Constitution and By-laws.

Fulfillment of duties

As a student leader I know the programs and projects I work on have an effect not only on my direct peers but on the greater on-campus population. If my duties are not completed, it is not only me that will be affected, but my colleagues, my advisors and the greater student population.

- I understand I must fulfill all specific duties of my position in a timely and thorough manner.
- I understand I must fulfill obligations of office hours (10 hours per week) in the RHA Office.
- I understand I must arrive back to campus early in August and January for training and participate in all departmental training.
- I understand there may be extra duties assigned if the need arises throughout my term of office.

Ethical behavior

I understand one of the most important qualities of a leader is ethical decision making and behavior. This includes but is not limited to:

- Appropriate relationships, following departmental and university policies
- Respect for members of the organization as well as professional staff of the department
- Appropriate use of office equipment and organizational resources including student monies
- Demonstrate a positive impression of Residential Life & Housing through action and attitudes at all times.
- I understand if I have a question about an action, I should consult with my peers and advisors before I act to ensure that I handle situations with the character and integrity needed of student leaders.

Commitment

I understand to be an effective leader I must be committed to RHA, the members of RHA, Department of Residential Life & Housing and Virginia Commonwealth University. This commitment includes:

- Academic Integrity
- Appropriate Attendance
- Communication with Peers and Advisors



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- Fulfillment of duties
- Ethical behavior
- A desire to assist the organization in its growth and development.

Professionalism

In my position as an RHA Executive Board Member I will have the opportunity to interact with many different people. I understand I am a representative of this organization and I understand it is important for leaders to act in a professional manner at all times. I know my actions may impact not only myself, but also the organization, the department and Virginia Commonwealth University. I will demonstrate my professionalism by:

- Wearing appropriate attire while in the RHA office and at all RHA Events.
- Engaging in meaningful personal and professional development through one on one meetings with advisors
- Engaging in developmental opportunities including but not limited to facilitation of the leadership model, attendance at NRHH meetings, and attendance at a minimum of one regional or national conference each year. (NACURH, SAACURH, No-Frills)
- Promoting myself and RHA in a positive light through my social media and online accounts.
- I will expect my advisors, colleagues, and students I work with in this organization to practice professionalism as well, and will hold them accountable to that level of professionalism.

Service

I recognize a major component of leadership is service; I am in a leadership position to serve and develop others. I understand I am a representative of RHA and in my service to others I am developing myself. I will demonstrate service by:

- Working to assure the students in RHA have meaningful experiences through their interactions
- Working to assure the students in RHA benefit from their involvement.
- Working to assure that this organization contributes to VCU and the Richmond Community.

Inclusiveness

As a leader of this organization, I will recognize and celebrate the differences in each person with whom I interact. I will promote an inclusive environment:

- At all regulated and unregulated RHA meetings
- At all RHA sanctioned events and activities
- At all programs that this organization promotes, sponsors and implements.

I have fully read and understand the above requirements in this agreement and the importance of following through with them. I understand that I am accountable for these responsibilities and that I have made a commitment to the organization and to the residence hall students in taking on this position. I understand if I do not follow through with this Leadership Agreement, I will first be placed on probation by my advisors, and an action plan shall be created to improve my interactions with RHA. Should I fail to be successful with the action plan I understand my compensation/scholarship of room cost, currently paid for by the Department of Residential Life & Housing, shall be taken away, and my position on the executive board will be reviewed by my peers, which could result in removal from my position.

Student Leader

Date

RHA Advisor

Date

Senior Associate Director of Residential Life

Date