Academic Learning Assistants (ALA) are live-in part-time, student employees of Residential Education within the department of University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS). ALAs are responsible for providing academic support and faculty engagement opportunities in their assigned residential community. ALAs play an integral role in OSU’s First Year Experience (FYE) program, supporting first year students in their adjustment to the academic culture of Oregon State University.

Academic Learning Assistants are primarily supervised by a Resident Director, and will receive training and programmatic direction from Academic Success Center staff.

Academic Learning Assistants provide an array of services to support residential students in the adjustment to the academic rigors of Oregon State University. ALAs work to cultivate strong academic habits and college knowledge, promote engagement with university resources, and assist students in navigating the university landscape. These services range from 1-on-1 meetings with students to hall-wide programming initiatives.

As employees of Oregon State University, ALAs are university representatives, and are to abide by university policies, state, federal, local laws, and UHDS policies in their relationships and contacts both on and off the campus throughout the duration of their appointment. ALAs, therefore, are expected not to engage in activities on or off campus that jeopardize their credibility as staff members or activities that make the university legally vulnerable.

University Housing and Dining Services staff members are advocates for an inclusive environment and community through understanding, enhancing, promoting, and celebrating the uniqueness of our student residents and department staff.

OSU commits to inclusive excellence by advancing equity and diversity in all that we do. We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community.

A personal and professional commitment to providing excellent customer service and creating inclusive environments is a core value of University Housing and Dining Services. UHDS will provide a transformative on-campus experience that will ENGAGE our students in community, ENRICH their lives, and help them flourish and THRIVE.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The primary objective of the ALA is to cultivate strong academic habits and OSU college knowledge for students living in the residence halls. This objective will be achieved through the following duties and responsibilities:

I. Academic Coaching
   a. Maintain availability to meet with students 1-on-1 (via appointment or drop-in) to help them navigate their academic transition to OSU
   b. Help students to identify personal success goals and strategies
   c. Assist students to develop confidence in the navigation of the institution
   d. Provide opportunities for individual reflection and academic conversations in the residence halls
   e. Conduct weekly, regular office hours (consult with your Resident Director to determine the best space)
   f. Make weekly rounds of your hall, checking in with students and offering academic support while helping to monitor resident well-being

II. Academic Programming
   a. Lead academic success programming efforts in the residence halls in alignment with the expectations laid out in the ALA programming model; programming will be done with the support of the hall staff
   b. Design and construct academically focused bulletin boards. Included in this expectation is the integration and posting of the “Advice from Benny” tips from the academic advising community
   c. Facilitate the creation of/remain a resource for study groups

III. Outreach & Intervention
   a. Provide necessary referrals to campus academic support services
   b. Outreach to students experiencing academic difficulty
c. Support in-hall and campus-wide academic intervention initiatives

IV. Departmental and Institutional Support
   a. Encourage residents to attend and participate in UHDS and university programs, specifically those geared towards the FYE
   b. Facilitate UHDS and ASC assessment activities as directed
   c. Participate in marketing and orientation activities (Welcome Week, Beaver Open House, Spring Visits, etc.) as directed by Residential Education Leadership Team, Resident Directors, Academic Success Center, and New Student Programs and Family Outreach
   d. Assist in the recruitment and selection of future ALA staff throughout the academic year

V. Training and Other Professional Development Opportunities
   a. Participate in initial training and staff orientation activities, which may include the following:
      i. Periodic meetings with new and returning staff members in tentatively assigned hall
      ii. Various training sessions and independent assignments
      iii. Student Staff Class (AHE 199 or equivalent) when offered and required – typically in the spring quarter
   b. Actively participate in all trainings as required.
      i. Fall Training: as early as August 28, 2017
      ii. Winter Renewal: as early as the Friday before the start of Winter term
      iii. Additional trainings and in-service opportunities as designated
   c. Take advantage of other University, UHDS, and ASC trainings as appropriate

VI. Administrative
   a. Meet regularly with the Resident Director
   b. Meet weekly with hall staff and with ALA team / Academic Success Center
   c. Be a visible peer resource in the residence hall, available to answer questions
   d. Provide coverage at the hall front desk as assigned by the Resident Director
      i. ALAs generally staff a front desk from 8 PM – 12 AM once a week on weekdays (Sunday – Thursday), unless otherwise instructed by the Resident Director.
      ii. ALAs are expected to complete administrative tasks while staffing the front desk, including: checking out items to residents, resolving issues, and other tasks as assigned
      iii. While staffing the front desk, administrative tasks assigned by the Resident Director and other UHDS staff will have priority over personal tasks
   e. Use voicemail, email, phone, in-person, and written communication as needed and directed
      i. Check voicemail and ONID e-mail at least twice daily and respond as requested in a timely manner
   f. Perform administrative tasks and recordkeeping as assigned. These tasks include, but are not limited to
      i. Reporting student contact, interactions and programs as directed
      ii. Checking staff mailboxes and hanging up advertisements

VII. Other duties as assigned

MINIMUM/REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS
I. Full time OSU student or degree partnership student with an OSU or overall GPA of 3.0 or higher by start date, and be able to maintain good academic and conduct standing with OSU for the duration of the position
II. Ability to complete administrative tasks
III. Ability to manage time effectively
IV. Effective communication skills
V. Understanding of difference and inclusion
VI. Ability to adapt to a dynamic environment
VII. Ability to work independently
VIII. Ability to successfully pass a Criminal History Check

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS
I. Prior experience in a leadership or mentoring role
II. Demonstrated commitment to diversity
III. Ability to lead a group
IV. Previous experience in leadership opportunities either on or off campus.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In addition to the duties outlined in this position description, ALAs must abide by the following terms and conditions. Failure to abide by any term and condition may result in termination:

I. The Academic Learning Assistant position is a one-year student leadership opportunity, currently for the 2017-2018 academic year. The employment period is for one full academic year (Fall, Winter, and Spring terms).

II. GPA and Student Status
   a. ALAs are required to meet full time student status. Consider in advance the maximum load that realistically could be handled in conjunction with position duties. Enrolling in more than 16 credit hours requires prior approval from the supervising Resident Director.
   b. Undergraduate students are expected to stay in good academic standing and maintain the GPA minimum qualification. Graduate students must remain in good standing with the Graduate School. Failure to do so may result in removal from the ALA position.

III. Meeting and Training Requirements
   a. Successful completion of all required training sessions prior to and during service, particularly Spring and Fall training.
   b. Fall Training may begin as early as August 28, 2017 and lasts throughout Welcome Week. All ALAs are expected to participate in Fall training in its entirety. Students interested in taking Summer 2017 courses will be expected to plan their schedule around all training sessions.
   c. No scheduled commitments on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-9:30 pm to allow for team meetings and in-service training sessions. If a class during this time is absolutely needed to complete graduation requirements, please consult as soon as possible with the Resident Director for approval.
   d. Academic Learning Assistants are expected to assist with Hall Opening and Closing and have to stay on campus until the Saturday after finals for Fall and Winter Terms, and may be asked to stay as late as the Sunday after Spring Term finals. Academic Learning Assistants may also be required to return on the Friday before opening for Winter and Spring Terms.

IV. UHDS is the position’s primary employer/leadership opportunity. The university allows student employees to work on campus for 20 hours per week. On average, ALAs work 15 hours a week. Therefore, ALAs are allowed to work up to 5 hours per week on campus outside of the ALA role. Other employment, assistantships, campus involvement requires serious consideration and advance discussion and approval with the supervising Resident Director, and should be considered as secondary to ALA duties.

V. Any weekend absence from campus or any special situations must be cleared in advance with the Resident Director.

VI. Maintain eligibility for employment by successfully completing all necessary hiring paperwork, including but not limited to passing the Criminal History Check, submitting the I-9 form and materials, and self-reporting any circumstances which may change eligibility for employment.

VII. ALAs may be expected to be on campus during all-campus event weekends, as assigned by the Director of Residential Education, including but not limited to:
   a. Welcome Week and the weekend before first full week of Fall Term
   b. Halloween Weekend
   c. Homecoming Weekend
   d. Fall & Spring Family Weekends
   e. The weekends prior to Finals Week (all terms)
   f. Beaver Open House Day
   g. Home Civil War Football Game Weekend
   h. The weekend after Finals Spring Term

VIII. Exceptions to the above responsibilities of the Position Description may be approved at the discretion of the Director of Residential Education or the Residential Leadership Team.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Typically, ALAs work indoors in positive residence hall environments. The ALA position is routinely a night and weekend role. Occasionally, ALAs encounter the following circumstances:

1. Occasionally lifting up to 10 pounds, and rarely up to 70 pounds.
2. Effectively communicating with members of the OSU Community, and the public, some of whom may be hostile.
3. An unpredictable and dynamic work schedule/setting.
4. High risk medical and emergency situations.
COMPENSATION

1. Residence hall room. ALAs may be assigned roommates on a temporary basis as part of the UHDS Temporary Housing Plan.
2. All ALAs receive a Student Staff Meal Plan for Fall (14 weeks including Training and Welcome Week), Winter and Spring Terms (11 weeks).
3. ALAs receive a $150 per term stipend.

**Please Note: The ALA position could affect your financial aid package, typically in the following way.** Check with your financial aid counselor for information on your specific circumstances. Financial Aid is required by the US Department of Education to include ALA compensation as part of a student’s financial aid package. However, it cannot be counted against a student’s “entitlement” monies (Pell Grants and Need Grants).

The ALA is an “At Will” employee. As such, the employee, or UHDS may terminate the position at any time.