



Department of Housing & Residence Life

Tips for the Interview

We know this position could be your first leadership experience at Georgia Tech. We want to get to know you and see if your skills, experience and desire to serve residents match our needs. During the selection process to become a Student Staff Member (SSM) you will gain experience that may be helpful when you enter a search for a job after college. You will request recommendations, write essays and be part of an interview. We will evaluate you on your ability to work with a team and ask you to share your experiences with conflict and communication. You should brush up on what a behavioral interview is before the day of your interview. Below are some tips to help you succeed through the formal spring process will entail.

All our RAs and PLs candidates will typically experience an interview with two professional staff members and a current SSM.

- **Dress:** We recommend candidates attend the interview with the intention to "dress to impress." What this means may look different to each candidate, but above all, make sure that no matter what you decide to wear we still get a glimpse of the real you. Often candidates will wear business attire.
- **Preparation:** The first step to a successful interview is preparing yourself for what could be asked as well as gaining an understanding the organization you are interviewing with. A great resource is your current RA or PL or another trusted member of the housing staff. They can give you their perspective on what happens in the daily life of a SSM.

Another great resource is the Housing website (www.housing.gatech.edu). The website outlines our values, our mission and our philosophy about Residence Life at Georgia Tech. Reading through this material and being able share how you would support our department's philosophy and mission could make you a stronger candidate.

Our interviews are behavioral based so thinking about your experiences with communicating ideas, campus clubs/organization or in leadership can help you prepare for the interview. We want you to talk about your experiences and your actions.

Georgia Tech Career Services is also another strong source for tips for your interview.

- **What are we looking for?** During an interview it is important to give examples of your experience, thoughts, values and/or actions. Focus on your strengths, but candidates should also be reflective and be self-aware enough to recognize your weaknesses and share how you are working on improving them. Be sure to be honest about who you are and what you believe.

We are not looking for a ready-made leader but rather the potential leader who has a desire to serve our residents and help us build a strong community where our residents can thrive!