

THINK GREEK

A Parent's Guide to Fraternity and Sorority Life at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

As your student prepares to attend the University of Illinois, they have many options to become involved in campus life. Becoming a part of the largest fraternity and sorority community in the nation is one of them! The Office of the Dean of Students Fraternity and Sorority Affairs want to make sure that as parents you know the benefits of joining a fraternity or sorority. This collection of 90 organizations, with over 6000 students, is commonly referred to as the Greek community. Chances are there is a fraternity or sorority that is right for your student.

Where can I go to learn more?

Contact the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (217-333-7062) with questions or concerns.

Office of the Dean of Students: www.odos.uiuc.edu

Black Greek Council: www.illinigreeks.com/bgc

Interfraternity Council: www.illinigreeks.com/ifc

Panhellenic Council: www.illinigreeks.com/phc

United Greek Council: www.illinigreeks.com/ugc

William L. Riley, Dean of Students:

Membership in a fraternity or sorority provides opportunities to learn communication and leadership skills, become involved in campus activities, and contribute to the community through service projects. I'd encourage freshman to investigate this living/learning community alternative as one way to become involved in the student life of the campus.

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Fraternity and Sorority Community Mission and Values

Our Mission

As members of fraternities and sororities at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, we are committed to ensuring our success as students and invested partners in our organizations through celebrating *friendship, leadership, scholarship, service, and social advancement* while appreciating the *diversity* of our member organizations.

Our Values

Friendship To create an eternal bond of loyalty, camaraderie, and respect based on the pride and unity that encompasses our community

Leadership To develop the skills and talents for our members to impact our campus, community, state, country and world as undergraduate members and as graduate and alumni members.

Scholarship To encourage and provide the resources for our members to succeed academically through continuous learning, moral development, and scholastic recognition.

Service To enrich the lives of our members through meaningful involvement in service and philanthropic events.

Social Advancement To formulate meaningful friendships through a wide range of activities that bring together our members and develop personal and professional skills.

All of these are facilitated with a respect to...

Diversity To create an opportunity for people of different backgrounds, cultures and interests to come together and celebrate the common experiences that we have as fraternity and sorority members while appreciating our individual differences.

National Greek Websites:

National Panhellenic Conference: www.npcwomen.org, National Pan-Hellenic Council: www.nphchq.org

North-American Interfraternity Conference: www.nicindy.org, National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations: www.nalfo.org

UIUC Greek Facts:

At The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 42 of the 2004 Senior 100 Honorary are Greek.

The Spring 2005 All Greek GPA (3.209) is above the All University Student GPA (3.194).

It's All Greek to Me! What are all those letters? Since their first inception in 1776 (Phi Beta Kappa) many have used Greek Letters for their names:

Alpha (al-fa)	A	Beta (ba-tah)	B	Gamma (gam-ma)	Γ	Delta (dell-ta)	Δ
Epsilon (epp-see-lon)	E	Zeta (zeah-tah)	Z	Eta (ate-ah)	H	Theta (thea-ta)	Θ
Iota (i-o-tah)	I	Kappa (cap-pa)	K	Lambda (lamb-da)	Λ	Mu (mew or meu)	Μ
Nu (new)	N	Xi (zigh)	Ξ	Omicron (o-me-cron)	O	Pi (pie)	Π
Rho (roe)	P	Sigma (sig-ma)	Σ	Tau (taw)	T	Upsilon (upp-see-lon)	Υ
Phi (figh)	Φ	Chi (kigh)	X	Psi (sigh)	Ψ	Omega (o-meg-a)	Ω

Check out some frequently asked questions on the back

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Frequently Asked Questions by Parents regarding Greek Life at Illinois

What will students get out of Greek life that they would not get out of any other college organization?

Coming to college is one of the major life changes that your student will go through. Joining a fraternity or sorority can help make the transition easier. Developing life-long friendships with the members in their chapter (the local name of a nationally affiliated fraternity or sorority) helps make the campus smaller. For many members, these chapters become a home away from home. In addition to the brother/sisterhood, every chapter promotes the values of enhancing leadership, scholarship, philanthropy/service, and financial responsibility in their members.

How will joining a chapter now benefit my student after college? The life long friendships your student will make through their chapter can last into post-college years. Membership in a chapter can be a life-long experience. Joining now is really an investment in your student's future. Wherever a member ends up after college, chances are he/she will be able to find an alumni chapter or other members of their fraternity or sorority in the area. In addition, Greeks have national networks for its members that could be helpful in finding jobs or internships.

Will my student's academics be compromised if they join a Greek chapter? Academics are a priority in the Greek community. When students join, they become part of a larger group of students who value their academic goals at Illinois. This group understands what the new member is facing and can provide support in many areas. Each chapter on campus has a scholarship officer who initiates programs within the chapter to encourage high academic achievement. There are various resources for members on campus, such as, The Career Center, time management workshops, Academic Counselors, etc. The GPA among Greek members has been consistently higher than the All University Student's GPA. Information can be accessed from the Greek Affairs webpage.

What is a Philanthropy or Service Project? Greek members take it as part of their mission to support their national philanthropies (non-for-profit causes) financially and physically. Throughout the year, each the chapter spends time fundraising and volunteering to help their particular philanthropy. Some of the philanthropies that can be found on the Illinois campus are: Breast Cancer Research, Ronald McDonald House, Special Olympics, Alzheimer's Research and Literacy. Service events have benefited the campus and the Champaign-Urbana community. Some of the service opportunities are: Adopt-A-School, Achieving You, Greek Food Share, and Habitat for Humanity. The time spent together on these events is one of the many times that fraternity brothers and sorority sisters can bond, while making a difference in someone's life.

How much time does a chapter take up? The time commitment varies from chapter to chapter but the first semester is most time intensive as the new member goes through the chapter's education program. The time spent in this program will give your student the opportunity to develop their leadership and time management skills, learn about the history of the organization, develop friendships, and allow them to become involved with other organizations. After the initiation into the chapter, expectations will vary. Each chapter has weekly chapter meetings and other mandatory events (philanthropies, service, and initiation) throughout the year, but they are planned well in advance. In addition to the weekly meeting, the more your student puts in to the chapter the more they will get out of being a member!

What does it cost to be a member? The Greek Experience is an investment in your student's future. The leadership skills, the academic assistance, and friendships will benefit your student beyond their college days. The perception that fraternities and sororities are only an option for "rich" students is widespread and false. Greek organizations are quite affordable and fees go to services that will positively impact your student. To assist members, chapters may offer scholarships and grants. We encourage all interested students to ask for financial information prior to joining.

Are fraternities/sororities primarily social in nature? There is a social aspect to the Greek community and these "social" events include educational programs/workshops, community service events, intramural sports, Parents Days, Homecoming Parade and dinner exchanges in addition to parties and socials. Today's Greek communities across the nation have adopted a stringent approach to socializing thereby creating a safer, more beneficial environment for members. Each governing councils has a risk management and alcohol policy. In addition, each organization may have national rules to follow regarding the hosting of social events. All organizations sponsor education on alcohol misuse and abuse. Sororities do not permit alcohol in their facilities.

What about hazing? A holistic definition of hazing is in University's Code of Polices and Regulations Applying to All Students. The Board of Fraternity/Sorority Affairs also has a policy that is applied to chapters. National organizations also have policies. All chapters are reminded of policies each semester and required to sign documentation that they have reviewed them with their members. All chapters who completed this are listed under "Greek Affairs Expectations" on the Greek Affairs Webpage.

What is my role as a parent? Take the time to find out more about the Greek community at Illinois. Ask questions about

Parent Testimonial: *Debbie Barkau (mother of current sorority member)*
"The positive benefits of being a member of a sorority are many for the women who choose to take advantage...Sorority is a sisterhood which can build friendships that last a lifetime. Sisterhood is built by working closely together on projects and activities that help the community and help the chapter. These activities create character, leadership, maturity, and sweet memories for each woman and creates a sense of accomplishment and loyalty to the university and to the chapter..."

what the organizations will offer your student and allow them to make the best decision for themselves. Check out any information your student gets in the mail over the summer related to Greek Life. Once your student joins a chapter, there will be opportunities for involvement such as Moms and Dads weekend activities, or joining the chapter's Parents Club.

How does my student get involved? Your student received information about Recruitment/Intake in the mail in July. Check out websites listed above. Recruitment and Membership Intake are mutual selection processes with the hope there's a place for all.

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