

Welcome to Fraternity & Sorority Life at Drexel University!

Your son or daughter has embarked upon one of the most exciting times of his/her life! By joining a fraternity or sorority, he or she is joining hundreds of other students in their search for a sense of community at the university.

For your student, making the transition from a high school or a community college to a university may seem like an imposing challenge. Perhaps these questions have arisen:

- Will I fit in and make new friends?
- Will I succeed academically?
- Will I be able to get involved in campus clubs and improve my leadership skills?
- Will I find other people who are interested in the same things as I am?
- How can I best prepare for my career and my profession?
- Will I feel like a part of the campus community or will I be just another number?

About fraternities and sororities...

Fraternities and sororities exist as a proven support network for your student as he or she embarks on this new period in life. Close to one million undergraduate students across the country are fraternity or sorority members. There are currently over 900 men and women in the Drexel fraternity and sorority community, which consists of thirteen fraternities and eleven sororities.

A fraternity or sorority can help personalize your student's experience at college by offering a scholastic support system; by providing hands-on leadership experience in leading work groups, managing budgets, and interacting with other students, faculty, and university administrators; by exposing students to potential career tracks through educational programming and alumni discussions; by offering the chance to give back to the community through philanthropy and community service projects; and by creating close friendships with men and women who will cheer them on when the times are tough. With all these opportunities available, it is no wonder that fraternity and sorority members tend to graduate from college at a higher rate than those not involved in fraternity and sorority life.

What Are Fraternities and Sororities Really Like?

For many parents, fraternities and sororities conjure up images of "Animal House." There are many myths about fraternity and sorority membership, but the reality is these men and women focus on academics, volunteer time in the community, develop and strengthen their leadership skills, and form a campus network with other fraternity and sorority students and alumni.

What about alcohol and Greek organizations?

The social component of Fraternity & Sorority Life is highly valued by Drexel University. Alcohol abuse is unhealthy and inconsistent with fraternity and sorority ideals. All fraternities and sororities are expected to uphold state and city laws, University, fraternity/sorority, and IFC/PHC/MGC (the governing boards for fraternities and sororities) policies as they pertain to building and fire safety as well as the consumption of alcohol and other substances.

Today's fraternities and sororities strive to promote responsibility concerning alcohol.

What about pledging or hazing?

New fraternity and sorority members all experience a period of orientation and education. During this time, your student and other new members will participate in weekly meetings to learn about the university and the fraternity/sorority history, leadership retreats, community service projects, and activities designed to build friendships among new members (pledges/associate members/candidates) and the initiated members.

Drexel University and *ALL FRATERNITY AND SORORITY POLICIES STRICTLY FORBID HAZING* and are committed to a membership education period which instills a sense of responsibility and commitment in the new members.

Doesn't it cost a lot of money to be in a fraternity or sorority?

Each fraternity & sorority is self-supporting through dues charged to members. In the first year of membership, a few one-time expenses may be assessed. After those initial payments are made, your student's only expense will be the regular monthly or quarterly dues. Costs associated to membership in a Greek organization usually amount to 2% to 3% of the total cost for an undergraduate education. Where housing is offered, it is competitive and many times cheaper than other housing options, both on and off campus.

Doesn't being in a Greek organization take up a lot of time?

Participating in any worthwhile activity always requires an investment of one's time. Research has shown that involved college students are more likely to graduate and they report greater satisfaction with their college experience. Through fraternity/sorority involvement, your student will learn how to balance academics, work, campus involvement, and social commitments. Drexel University fraternity and sorority members are 13% more likely than the average Drexel student to return to the university for their sophomore year.

How does my student go about joining a Greek organization?

Greek organizations utilize a process commonly referred to as "rush" in order to meet prospective members. Rush offers nonaffiliated students an opportunity to meet a number of other people on campus and to learn what each group has to offer. "Rushes" (as prospective members are called) are encouraged to ask questions and secure answers to each question from several members. Just like researching, visiting, and choosing a college, your student should seek out the fraternity or sorority that best fits his or her personality, needs, and desires.

What is my role as a parent?

- Encourage your son or daughter to get involved on campus. Being involved is the best way to meet active fraternity and sorority members and learn about their Greek experiences.
- Students need support throughout the process of recruitment/intake and new member education. Be supportive and learn as much as you can about fraternity and sorority life by asking questions of your student as he or she meets members in fraternities and sororities.
- Keep an open mind . . . Greek life is not for everyone. Just because you may have been a fraternity or sorority member doesn't mean that it is the right choice for your son or daughter.
- Fraternities and sororities are different on every campus. Groups that may have been strong on the campus where you attended school may not have the same reputation at Drexel University. Let your son or daughter choose the group that he or she feels the most comfortable joining.
- Talk to your son or daughter beforehand about the financial obligation. Determine who will pay for what and where the limits are.
- Too often, parents do not allow their students to "fight their own battles." It helps the student mature and gain some assertiveness when encouraged to call various offices if they have questions or concerns about their decision to go Greek.
- Keep the Fraternity & Sorority Life contact information on hand if you have any questions or concerns about Fraternity & Sorority Life at Drexel University.