

## FAQ about Greek Life

### **Q1: What is Greek Life**

A1: Greek Life is the collective term referring to the sororities and fraternities on a campus. Each fraternity and sorority is a group of students bound together by brotherhood or sisterhood, common goals, and aspirations. Together these members learn, grow, and make the Greek organization stronger.

### **Q2: How will my student benefit from joining a sorority or fraternity?**

A2: Fraternities and sororities are rooted in founding principles that foster academic achievement, student involvement and leadership, community service and philanthropy, and life-long friendships. Advantages include:

- A support group to help ease the adjustment to college.
- Scholastic resources to help student achieve their academic goals.
- Leadership skills acquired through hands-on experience.
- Encouragement to get involved, stay involved and maximize their potential on campus.
- Opportunities for active participation in community service projects.
- Furthermore, National studies conducted annually consistently indicate that students who choose to join Greek-letter organizations experience many positive benefits, including the following:
  - Greek students are more likely to stay in college than non-Greek students.
  - College graduates who belong to a sorority or fraternity tend to be more financially successful than other college graduates.
  - Greek alumni give both more money and more frequently to their alma maters than non-Greek alumni.
  - Greek students are more active on campus and in community activities. Upon graduation, these members are also more likely to get involved in volunteer and charitable organizations.

### **Q3: How will joining a Greek Organization affect my student's academic pursuit?**

A3: Historically, Greek-letter organizations were founded on the principles of academic success and camaraderie. Today is no different. Our members realize that academic achievement is the main priority of NSU students. Greek-letter organizations continue to strive for academic excellence and promote scholarship by providing academic resources for their members including tutoring, academic advisors, study groups, scholarships, and awards. Chapter members know the importance of helping new students to adjust to University academics. In fact, Greek members GPA(s) are traditionally higher than their non-Greek colleagues.

### **Q4: What is the financial obligation?**

A4: Like some opportunities for involvement in college there is a financial commitment associated with a joining a fraternity or sorority. The costs go toward the Inter/National fees,

chapter operating expenses, and social functions. Financial obligations differ among individual chapters. New members can expect to pay higher dues their first semester than in subsequent ones. While your student participating in the recruitment or in-take process, make sure that he or she asks about the financial obligations of membership. Membership dues are not a payment for friends; they are financial contributions to the organization to pay for things such as social programming, special events, and insurance.

**Q5: Who is actually in charge of the fraternities and sororities?**

A5: Individual chapters elect officers to manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. These officers are assisted by alumni who act as advisors as well as a NSU staff member that serves as a faculty advisor. Each chapter is also responsible to report with their Inter/national organization, which offers support, advice, and direction through paid professional staff and regional volunteers.

**Q6: How will joining a chapter now benefit my student after college?**

A6: The lifelong 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.

**Q7: Aren't fraternities and sororities just like the ones in the movies and tv?**

A7: Unfortunately, individuals without complete information often define the image of Greek life. Since only 2% of the U.S. population is Greek, most people don't have first-hand experience and stereotypes are the norm. Greek organizations do hold social events, but most of these do not include alcohol. These "social" events include educational programs/workshops, community service events, intramural sports, Parent's Days, Homecoming, and date events in addition to parties and mixers. Today's Greek communities across the nation have adopted a stringent approach to socializing thereby creating a safer, more beneficial environment for its members. There are strict guidelines and procedures concerning the availability of alcohol at chapter events, and these rules are enforced by the inter/national organizations, the University, and by internal chapter standards.

**Q8: How much time does a chapter take up?**

A8: 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 and tradition of the organization, develop friendships with their new member class as well as the rest of the chapter, and allow them to become involved in other activities and 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. The majority of Greek students attends class full-time, work, and are active in their chapter! The important thing to remember, is the more your student puts in to the chapter, the more they will get out of being a member!

**Q9: If I go through recruitment do I automatically receive a bid?**

A9: The recruitment process is based on mutual selection. It is not a guarantee that every woman that goes through the recruitment process will receive a bid to a sorority.

**Q10: If I pledge a sorority or fraternity, can I also get involved in other areas on campus?**

A10: Yes! Greek students are encouraged to become involved as much as possible on campus. In fact, many students say that become aware of other campus organizations through other Greeks.