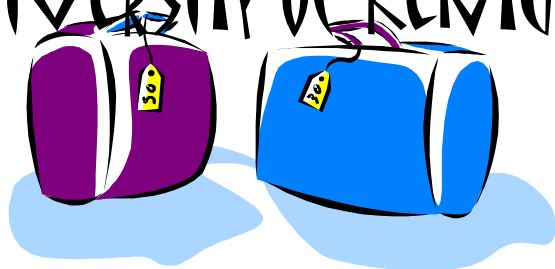


PARENTS GUIDE

TO
FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY





WELCOME...

to the University of Kentucky community. Entering college will be an exciting and challenging time in both your and your student's life. She or he will find UK to be a diverse university with almost unlimited choices and opportunities. There are many activities and lifestyles available on campus in which your student may elect to participate. As professional staff members in UK's Student Affairs Division, we encourage students to become involved in activities outside the classroom in order to enhance their academic experiences. We hope your student will consider sorority or fraternity membership as a viable option.

Unlike many other universities, the University of Kentucky takes a "hands-on" approach with its Greek community. While we encourage and support the community in its attempts at self-governance, we also provide continuous advice, education and contact with each individual fraternity and sorority on campus. We believe the challenges and rewards of collegiate life can be enhanced through a positive sorority or fraternity experience.

Among the vast student population, sorority and fraternity members become a part of a smaller group that works to achieve common goals. Sororities and fraternities strive to achieve the greatest potential from each individual member, utilizing each person's talents and addressing individual needs. Greek-letter organizations give individuals a more well-rounded collegiate experience while fostering leadership and academic success. In choosing the University of Kentucky and the Greek community, your student is choosing an outstanding institution of higher education and a Greek community that is recognized as one of the best in the nation.

The University of Kentucky is proud that your student has chosen our institution. We believe the University experience will be beneficial to his or her individual and academic growth. As the advisors to the University of Kentucky Greek community, please feel free to contact us at (606) 257-3151 if we can be of assistance.

Susan West
Sorority Advisor
Assistant Dean of Students

Tony Blanton
Fraternity Advisor
Assistant Dean of Students





YOU PROBABLY HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ...

since perceptions of fraternities and sororities tend to differ widely among both parents and students. Hopefully, this brochure will begin to clarify some of those perceptions and, at the same time, provide you with the answers to some of the questions most commonly asked by parents.

Won't a fraternity or sorority have an adverse effect on my student's grades?

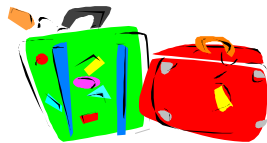
Actually, it's more likely that a fraternity or sorority will help your student's grades. The proof is in the results. The all-Greek average at UK is 2.944. The non-Greek average is 2.896. Why the difference?

When a student joins a fraternity or sorority, he or she becomes a part of a larger group of students who have already made it through their first year at UK. Not only does this group understand what a first-year student is facing, but they can also provide assistance in most of the courses your student will be taking. There are few other places where a student can gain access to the variety of resources that the Greek community can provide.

Ultimately, the responsibility for succeeding in the classroom is the individual student's. With the broad range of resources available within the Greek community, however, students are more likely to achieve their academic potential.

Aren't fraternities and sororities expensive?

Contrary to popular belief, fraternities and sororities are not just for the "rich people." Though joining a Greek organization does carry a financial commitment, that commitment is typically less than what a student would spend on housing, food and entertainment as a non-member. For example, UK residence halls cost \$1060 for rent plus \$675 for food each semester. Using a conservative estimate of \$300 for entertainment brings the total semester cost to \$2035. The average cost per semester of fraternity membership, including dues, rent and food is \$1700. For sororities, the average cost per semester is \$2000. Both of those numbers assume the student is living in the fraternity or sorority house. If rent and food are not included, the average fraternity cost is \$450 while the average sorority cost is \$460.





Isn't hazing a traditional practice among fraternities and sororities?

The University of Kentucky has a strong, zero-tolerance policy regarding hazing for all of its student organizations. Fraternity and sorority members are educated on the dangers of such practices on an ongoing basis.

Hazing, or any activity that subjects members to harassment, ridicule, intimidation, physical exhaustion or mental distress is entirely contrary to the purposes of the Greek community and the University and is not tolerated. If you ever feel your student may be participating in inappropriate activities, whether in a fraternity or sorority or any other student organization, you should contact the Dean of Students Office immediately.

Aren't fraternities and sororities primarily social in nature, like in the movie *Animal House*?

That depends on your definition of "social." The various activities of today's fraternities and sororities include educational programs, community service events, intramural sports, alumni events, Parents' Days, Homecoming, formals, and date parties. While all of those events are "social" in some ways, there are additional benefits to participation in any of them.

The "Animal House" image is extremely outdated, especially at the University of Kentucky. Not only are all of our Greek chapter

houses alcohol-free facilities (one of only nine universities in the U.S. with such standards), we pride ourselves on being a progressive, cutting-edge Greek community and have won the awards to prove it. UK's Panhellenic Association, which governs the women's Greek organizations, was recognized as the best in the nation in 1998. Similarly, the Interfraternity Council, which governs the men's Greek organizations was recognized as one of the best in the Southeast in 1999.

Won't working while in school conflict with participation in a fraternity or sorority?

Actually, many students involved in the UK Greek community are also employed outside the classroom. In today's world, the reality is that only the lucky few can afford to attend college without outside employment. Fraternities and sororities recognize that it is important for members to be able to meet their financial obligations and that many students will work to help finance their educations. Working students can still take advantage of the opportunities available through the Greek community.

Where can I go for more information?

Two information sessions—one on sororities and one on fraternities—will be offered during the Summer Advising Conferences. Though the sessions aren't mandatory, you and your student are encouraged to attend the appropriate session even if there is only a passing interest in a Greek experience.



TODAYS SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES MAY SURPRISE YOU

National research projects conducted by the Center for Advanced Social Research at the University of Missouri provide data on why membership in a fraternity or sorority may be a beneficial choice for your student.

Following graduation, Greek-affiliated alumni have higher average incomes than non-Greek alumni.

Even when accounting for parents' educational levels, graduation year, and gender, students who were affiliated with fraternities and sororities have significantly higher average incomes following graduation.

Students who join fraternities and sororities are more likely to return to college the following year.

Students who return to college will be able to complete their degree programs and graduate. Students who join fraternities and sororities are 28% more likely to return to school the following year than students who choose not to join a fraternity or sorority.

Following graduation, Greek-affiliated alumni are involved in more civic organizations and contribute more financially to charitable organizations than non-Greek alumni.

Fraternity and sorority involvement correlates positively with citizen involvement and charitable giving later in life.

- There are 39 Greek-letter organizations at UK with over 2,700 members—that's around 16% of the full-time undergraduate population.
- Many Greek organization members are employed outside the classroom in order to help finance their education.
- Each Greek organization is a self-governing business. Students, with the assistance of alumni advisors, collectively budget, collect and expend over \$3.2 million per year.
- There are over 400 leadership positions in the Greek community alone.
- Greeks live in the chapter house (31%), in a residence hall (38%) or in an off-campus house or apartment (31%).
- All of the Greek chapter houses at UK are alcohol-free facilities.
- Cumulatively, the Greek community at UK raised and donated over \$51,000 and volunteered over 20,000 service hours to the Lexington community in the past academic year.