Joining a social fraternity or sorority throughout your collegiate experience is something to consider with great care. While not for everyone, being a part of Greek life can be an incredible way to get connected on campus, hold yourself accountable, gain leadership skills (85% of Fortune 500 executives were a part of Greek life) and foster friendships. Over nine million college students are involved in Greek Life in any given year and college graduation rates are 20% higher among Greeks than non-Greeks.

**How will Greek Life benefit me?**

The benefits to joining a Greek organization are many. Below are those most commonly recognized, regardless of the chapter you join.

- Professional networking
- Leadership skills
- Academic and social accountability
- Philanthropic opportunities
- Tradition

**Are there different kinds of Greek systems?**

All Panhellenic (sorority) and Interfraternity (fraternity) Council organizations function off of the same set of founding bylaws and overarching values. However, the “feel” of a Greek organization is entirely dependent on the size of the institution, the percentage of students involved in Greek life, the number of years the organization has been on campus and the leadership currently present. Large, public institutions tend to have very established and involved chapters with large membership while at smaller public and private institutions Greek involvement varies drastically. The good news is that you can find out everything you need to know about a campus’ Greek system before you join.

**Are there costs associated with Greek Life?**

All Greek organizations have national and local membership fees, which will vary based on the specific organization you join. Additional costs to consider include housing costs, event fees and organization apparel. The average Greek member should expect to pay between $1200 and $2,600 per year, not including room and board. Most often, Greek life is more expensive for women than it is for men.

---

“Joining [my Greek organization] was the best decision I made as a freshman. I got connected quickly and felt so much more at ease on campus.”

-College Sophomore
What matters to the sorority/fraternity?

During the recruitment process, the women and men meeting you are just as curious about you as you are about them. As a potential new member, below are the factors that can most impact an organization’s decision to give you a bid.

- GPA, academic profile, major
- High school involvement and leadership
- Personal presence
- Interests, hobbies

Senior Year Timeline - SORORITIES

Fall – As you visit campuses, ask about Greek Life and/or meet with a Greek Life representative. If possible, tour a few sorority chapter facilities.

Winter – If you are wanting any letters of recommendation, start asking for these now. While letters of recommendation are not required, they can be helpful. It is important that the person completing the letter/form knows you well. However, do not feel like you need to have a letter for each chapter. Many women go through the recruitment process without any letters at all.

Spring – Check with your school(s) of choice to see when their recruitment process begins. Some will have a fall recruitment process that begins just before your freshman year. Others will not allow freshman to “rush” until they have one semester under their belt, otherwise known as deferred or delayed recruitment.

Summer – If the school operates on a formal fall recruitment schedule, be sure to register for recruitment (usually online) and remind any women writing you a letter of recommendation to complete and submit their letter before the deadline.

August – Move in and begin formal recruitment! This normally occurs the week before school begins.

Senior Year Timeline - FRATERNITIES

Fall – As you visit campuses, ask about Greek Life and/or meet with a Greek Life representative. Ask about upcoming informal recruitment events.

Winter – Attend informal recruitment events. Look at all of your options.

Spring – Continue attending recruitment events. Begin to received bids – only accept a bid when you are ready to commit to that chapter.

Summer – Begin pledging your fraternity of choice. If available, move into the chapter facility before the start of school in August.

August – Move in and start the school year!