

# PARENT'S GUIDE TO GREEK LIFE



## WELCOME!

On behalf of the Greek community at Concord University, WELCOME! You may not have had experience with Greek Life before, so we have developed this guide to give you some basic information about the Concord University Greek community. Membership in a fraternity or sorority can be a valuable experience for your student. We need you, as parents, to be active partners in your student's fraternity or sorority experience by becoming familiar with the community and the organization.



## BENEFITS OF JOINING A GREEK ORGANIZATION

Greek membership provides immense opportunities for members to grow and develop. Our students give to the CU community, and Greek Life offers many benefits in return, including:

- Opportunities to develop leadership skills and experiences to include on their resume
- Establishing networking connections that will be crucial when job searching upon graduation
- Ability to give back to the community through philanthropic and service events
- Friendships that last a lifetime
- CU students in Greek Life, on average, have higher GPAs than their non-Greek counterparts



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# RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOINING A GREEK ORGANIZATION

## Financial Obligations

It is important that your student understands that membership involves semester dues. Annual membership dues vary per semester and chapter. These fees are used to pay chapter insurance fees, local and national dues and fees, community service events, scholarships, intramural participation, and many of the social events offered. Every fraternity and sorority is self-supportive. Each chapter and its local and national Headquarters determine the monthly/semester dues and membership fees. Some chapters also include a one-time initiation fee and can often offer a payment plan.

## Academics

The main priority for your student is their education. One of the main focuses of the Greek community is academic success. Each chapter strives to help every member reach their highest potential, starting with their grades. Study sessions, tutoring, and other programs are offered to assist and encourage members' academic success.

## Anti-Hazing Campus

Concord University unconditionally opposes any situation created intentionally or unintentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. CU is committed to providing a hazing-free environment in which students can succeed socially and academically. It is the responsibility of our entire Concord University community to keep an eye out for the wellbeing of our fellow Mountain Lions!



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# WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT OR FAMILY MEMBER?

When your student is considering membership in a Greek organization, start asking what has piqued their interest in membership. Students consider membership for many reasons, but those reasons should be well-vetted.

Learn as much as you can about the Concord University Greek community and the fraternities/sororities in which your student is interested. Be sure to discuss the time commitment, finances, academic obligations, and membership responsibilities with your student beforehand to affirm that going Greek is the right decision for your student.

Lastly, keep an open mind and be supportive. Joining a Greek organization is a life-long opportunity. Talk to your student about what they plan to contribute to their selected organization. Greek Life, like many other opportunities, is only as great as they make it. Beyond social activities, membership is about philanthropy, community service, personal and professional development, and leadership. Being Greek is about working to make oneself, and their community better. The t-shirt and letters are just the souvenir of their experience.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS A FRATERNITY OR SORORITY?

A fraternity or sorority is a group of men or women bound together by brotherhood or sisterhood, common goals, and aspirations. The members that form a fraternity or sorority share their efforts, friendship, and knowledge. Together these members learn, grow and make the fraternity or sorority stronger. Their common experience builds ties that last a lifetime. This forms a brotherhood or sisterhood amongst members, which helps to develop strong and creative leadership leading to success.

### HOW DOES A STUDENT BECOME A MEMBER OF GREEK LIFE?

The process to join a fraternity or sorority is called "Recruitment" or "In Take". Recruitment and In Take refer to the process of accepting an offer to join an organization after some initial exploring occurs and a new member process begins. This is the process in which the student applies to an organization and goes through a new member education process and then becomes a member of said organization.

Regardless of the organization there are three steps:  
Exploration, New Member Education, Initiation

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**IF A STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN RECRUITMENT, DO THEY HAVE TO JOIN?**

No. Recruitment/In Take is a time to see what fraternity or sorority life can offer your student. We invite your student to explore the various opportunities available to them as a fraternity man or sorority woman! Participating in the recruitment process and its functions does not commit a student to joining in any way.

**WHAT ARE THE TIME COMMITMENTS OF CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP?**

At a minimum, all members are required to attend their chapter's weekly meetings and are expected to participate in certain events throughout the year, such as philanthropy events, chapter retreats, etc. New members are also expected to complete their chapter's new member program. Most Greek students at CU are able to maintain a job, be a full-time student, earn good grades, and be involved in other student organizations in addition to Greek membership.

**WHAT NATIONAL GREEK ORGANIZATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT CU?**

Here at CU, we currently have 6 active fraternity and sorority chapters. The sorority chapters include Alpha Sigma Alpha, Delta Zeta, and Sigma Sigma Sigma. The fraternity chapters includes Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

**ARE FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES JUST LIKE THOSE ON TV AND IN THE MOVIES?**

Absolutely not! TV shows and movies do not give accurate depictions of fraternity and sorority life. Every fraternity and sorority is different and unique, each with its own characteristics and personalities.

**DO ALL FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES HAVE CHAPTER HOUSES?**

No. Currently, our Office of Housing and Residence Life is working with each on campus chapter to give them designated wings and lounges in the Towers residence halls.

*Greek  
and  
Proud!*

