

Greek Life at the University of Arkansas

Friendship ♦ Scholarship ♦ Service ♦ Leadership



A Family Guide

Fraternity and Sorority Life
University of Arkansas Greek Life
<http://uagreeks.uark.edu>
(479) 575-5001



Welcome to the University of Arkansas!

We are so excited to welcome you and your student to the Razorback family. College provides amazing opportunities for learning, personal growth, and relationship building. We hope that the next several years are full of enjoyable and memorable moments that you can share with your student.

At the University of Arkansas, there are countless ways for your student to get involved. While academic life is certainly the primary focus of your student's time at Arkansas, involvement in activities and organizations is an important part of the collegiate experience. The Greek Community at Arkansas has a long history of excellence and is a great way for your student to enhance his/her undergraduate experience.

The Greek Community at Arkansas provides an immediate connection to a close-knit group of men and women. Greek life also provides opportunities for leadership, scholastic support, community service, and philanthropy. Fraternity men and sorority women are the most active leaders on campus and can introduce your student to a multitude of other student organizations and leadership opportunities. Participation in fraternity and sorority life is a great way to ensure a well-rounded undergraduate experience.

Your student is about to embark on one of the greatest adventures of their lifetime. Please consider the Greek experience as a part of that journey. We invite you to spend some time looking through the rest of this publication to learn a little more about the Greek Community at the University of Arkansas.

Go Hogs! Go Greek!



What is my role as a parent?

Take the time to find out more about the Greek Community at Arkansas.

You can visit chapters' national websites or the University of Arkansas Greek Life website at <http://uagreeks.uark.edu>.

Ask questions about what the organizations will offer your student and allow your student to make the best decision for themselves. Chapters are different at every campus, so allow your student to choose the group with whom they feel most comfortable.

Keep an open mind. Even though you may or may not have been a member of a Greek organization does not mean that it is or is not the choice for your son/daughter.

Discuss the financial obligations with your student. Determine who will pay for what and the limits.

If your student chooses to join a chapter, there will be opportunities for Parent's Weekend activities, as well as visiting for an Arkansas athletic event, or joining the chapter's Parents Club.

Above all, be supportive!

Time Commitment

While each chapter differs in what it requires of its members, there are certainly time commitments for fraternity and sorority affairs. Chapters normally have a weekly membership meeting, meetings for new members, and meetings for the executive board. Additionally, special events such as philanthropies, socials, recruitment, and initiation occur during the year which members normally attend. Check with each chapter about its individual member requirements.

Financial Information

The Greek experience is an investment in your student's future. The leadership skills, academic assistance, and friendship will benefit your student beyond their college days. Greek organizations are quite affordable and all fees provide services that will positively impact your student. Dues directly support the betterment of the chapter and the national organization. Many students work to supplement funding for their dues. To assist members, chapters may offer various scholarships and grants. We encourage students to ask questions related to finances during the recruitment process. We also encourage you to be "hands on" in this decision if you have any questions about the obligations regarding finances. Each chapter is responsible for determining dues, as well as one-time new member and initiation fees. Costs will vary if the organization does or does not have a facility. The price of living in a fraternity or sorority house is comparable to, if not cheaper than, many other housing units on or off campus.



Benefits of Chapter Membership

Coming to college is one of the major life changes that your student will experience. Joining a fraternity chapter can help make the transition easier. The Greek experience is multifaceted and offers numerous opportunities to your student. They will develop life-long friendships with members in their chapters, as well as the rest of the Greek community. For many members, these organizations become a home away from home. In addition to brotherhood/sisterhood, every chapter is dedicated to enhancing leadership, scholarship, and philanthropy/service through various programs and opportunities. It will be up to your student to determine the level of involvement they want to have in the organization and what kind of experience it will be for them.

The friendships your student will make through their chapter can also last into post college years. Greeks have national networks for members to use for securing jobs and advancing their careers. Membership in a chapter is a life-long experience that the members and the sorority/fraternity enjoy together. Joining now is really an investment in your student's future as they will reap the benefits now and for a lifetime. Wherever a member decides to reside after college, changes are he/she will be able to find other members of their sorority/fraternity.





Panhellenic Council

The Panhellenic Council (PHC) is the governing body of 10 national sororities on the University of Arkansas campus. PHC strives to maintain the highest standards of excellence for the sorority community. The all-sorority grade point average consistently remains higher than the all-university women's grade point average. The council works to provide quality educational programming for member chapters, as well as opportunities to participate in philanthropic, service, and social activities.

Additionally, PHC organizes formal recruitment every fall. During formal recruitment, non-affiliated women are invited to visit and learn about each chapter. Formal recruitment is during the fall semester.



United Greeks Council

The United Greeks Council is the governing body for our two newest Latino chapters on campus: Phi Iota Alpha and Sigma Iota Alpha. The United Greek Council's purpose is: To unify and organize students that seek to promote diversity and cohesion on campus and in the community, encourage cooperation and harmony among member organizations, provide educational programs and service the needs and wants of member organizations, take an active role in community service activities, and serve as a liaison between university authorities and member organizations in matters of common interest.

Principles To Live By

Scholarship

Above all else, your student's reason for attending college is purely academic. Most chapters require at least a 2.5 grade point average in order to be initiated. Each individual chapter also sets its own academic standards and requirements for its members to remain in good standing.

Students often find time management difficult when moving from a highly structured high school environment to the freedom of college. Greek membership assists in that transition by offering scholarship programs that may include study partners, mandatory study hours, and time management workshops. Most chapters elect a scholarship chair who assists with these efforts and upholds chapter standards. Some chapters even offer scholarships for academic achievement. Your student can access the network of chapter members who already know how to use campus resources like the library, tutors, computer labs, and academic advisors.

Nothing, however, can take the place of a disciplined and academically focused student to ensure success in college. Thanks, in part, to the chapters' academic goals and these programs, many chapters' cumulative grade point average exceeds a 3.0.

Leadership

Greek life abounds with opportunities to get involved in leadership roles within each chapter, as well as on campus. Officer positions are available within each chapter, but chapters also encourage their members to get involved as leaders in other campus organizations such as service groups and student government. Involvement in these different areas will provide your student with a well-rounded college experience, a benefit that will last far beyond graduation.

Friendship

Being in a sorority/fraternity is about making friendships that will last far beyond your student's college years. Their sorority sisters or fraternity brothers are there to support and mentor, to help make the transition to college both easy and fun. Sisterhood and brotherhood mean more than wearing letters, attending meetings, or going to socials. It is a feeling and sense of belonging. It is being respected for individuality and knowing your sisters and brothers will be there to help out along the way.



National Pan-Hellenic Council

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is the governing body for the 7 historically African American Greek-letter organizations on the University of Arkansas campus. NPHC organizations embrace a lifetime commitment philosophy and aim to assure the continuance of academic achievement, political awareness, and community service. The organizations on campus will individually announce their membership selection/intake process during the fall and spring semesters. NPHC-affiliated organizations typically do not accept a student for membership until the student has completed at least 12-24 hours of college with a minimum grade point average as determined by their national organization.



Interfraternity Council

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) is the governing body of 14 national fraternities on campus. IFC seeks to provide active, educational programming, scholarship initiatives, philanthropic and service events, and social activities for member chapters. IFC is also responsible for organizing formal recruitment in the fall. Men participating in formal recruitment have the opportunity to visit all of the IFC chapters throughout the week to learn more about the individual organizations.

Service

Membership in a Greek organization provides an opportunity to give back to the community. Most sororities/fraternities sponsor philanthropic events to raise money for a number of charities including, Susan G. Komen Foundation, Children’s Miracle Network, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Ronald McDonald House. Additionally, many chapters participate in service projects in and around the Fayetteville area such as park cleanups, blood drives, and tutoring.

Alumni Involvement

The undergraduate executive board for each chapter is overseen by volunteer alumni advisors that assist with chapter operations and procedures. Additionally, each housed chapter has a House Corporation Board that is responsible for facility maintenance and upkeep of the structure. Chapters also have a live-in house director to assist the chapter members when needed.



Alcohol Policy

The University of Arkansas Alcohol and other Drug Policies are consistent with the educational and non-punitive philosophy that governs the *Code of Student Life*. The *Code* emphasizes personal responsibility and is intended to facilitate individual student growth and development. To help reduce the incidence and prevalence of alcohol use that may adversely affect the quality of an individual's experiences at the University of Arkansas, abstinence is expected. No alcohol may be brought to any event on campus or in organized student housing. All open containers must be emptied and/or disposed of prior to entering a public area on campus or in organized student housing. Kegs and other containers used for distributing alcoholic beverages are not permitted anywhere on campus or in organized student housing. Alcohol may not be distributed on campus or in organized student housing. Persons of legal age as prescribed by state law regarding alcoholic beverages may possess and consume the beverages in the privacy of their own rooms. Students of legal age who choose to drink, either on or off campus, are expected to handle alcohol in a low risk manner and behave responsibly.



Anti-Hazing Policy

At the University of Arkansas, hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing is defined as any intentional or unintentional action or situation – with or without consent – that endangers a student or creates risk of injury, mental or physical discomfort, harassment, embarrassment, and/or ridicule – whether on campus or off campus – for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in any student organization or team recognized by the University of Arkansas Student Government or by any other University of Arkansas sponsor.



Any requirement imposed upon prospective, new, or current members which is not related to the organization's purpose is discouraged and will become the subject of a University investigation once the practice is brought to the attention of the Office of Greek Life. This policy applies to all UA students, student organizations, and clubs. If you have any questions or concerns about hazing, or activities that could constitute hazing, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (479) 575-5001.

