

GREETINGS BEARKAT FAMILIES!

The tradition of Greek Life at Sam Houston State provides an instantaneous connection to a close-knit group of men and women, assisting to make Huntsville feel more like home. Fraternity men and sorority women are some of the most dynamic student leaders on campus and can present your student to a multitude of other student organizations and leadership opportunities. Involvement in Greek Life is a great way to ensure a well-rounded undergraduate experience, and we hope it will be a part of that journey. We invite you to spend some time looking through this pamphlet to learn more about the Greek community at Sam Houston State University.

Eat em' up Kats! Go Greek!

Sincerely,

The SHSU
Greek Life Community



REFLECT ON THIS

It is extremely important you realize that joining a fraternity or sorority involves making a carefully thought out choice about the organization you will be a life-long member of. It is highly recommended that you visit the organizations you have interest in chapter and national websites, as well as ask some of these questions and more if need be to organization's leaders and individual members:

- *How much will membership cost me?*
- *How will membership in this organization benefit me? Personally? Academically?*
- *What leadership opportunities are available for me in this organization?*
- *What are some of the community service activities that you participate in?*
- *Will I be required to live in the chapter house (if applicable) as a member?*
- *What were some of your organization's greatest accomplishments of the past year?*
- *What kind of organizations are your members involved in?*
- *What leadership positions do they hold in other organizations?*
- *What type of regular social activities does your chapter participate in?*
- *Does your chapter have a GPA requirement?*
- *What is the recruitment/intake process like?*
- *What is this organization looking for in an ideal member?*

SHSU GREEK LIFE'S MISSION, PURPOSE, AND GOAL

The mission of SHSU's Greek Life program is to build an extensive Greek community that will assist the university in heightening the collegiate experience through its fraternal commitments to academic achievement, community service, leadership, and the formation of fraternal alliance.

The purpose of SHSU's Greek Life program is to serve as the liaison and as a resource to the collegiate chapters, alumni, parents, international organizations, and Sam Houston State University through providing educational programs, workshops, materials, and direction to members of the Greek community to uphold their fraternal principles.

The goal of SHSU's Greek Life program is to continually produce a distinguished Greek community that exalts academic excellence, leadership, and service which embodies the core values of Sam Houston State University.



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SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

GREEK LIFE

PARENT'S GUIDE



"one community, a world of experiences"

SHSU GREEK LIFE

WWW.SHSU.EDU/GREEKLIFE

Parent's Guide Information

A Family's Guide to Greek Life

As a parent, it's a good idea for you to learn about Greek Life so you can help your son or daughter make the best decision about whether or not he or she should be part of a Greek organization. We would like to take this opportunity to share the following information with the goal of providing you with more insight as to what fraternities and sororities stand for at SHSU.

Academics Academics should be your child's number one focus while in college. That's why most Greek organizations require a minimum GPA in order to join and remain a member. Usually, each individual chapter has an elected official who is responsible for keeping track of members and their academic performance. Furthermore, many fraternities and sororities have educational programs, such as tutoring and study sessions, which can assist the entire chapter in excelling academically. Most chapters also offer their members scholarships. Since obtaining a degree is the main reason for attending college, we would appreciate you reinforcing to your student that he/she must keep his/her grades up if they want to continue to participate in a Greek organization.

Financial Responsibility Your child will have financial responsibilities when it comes to joining a fraternity or sorority. For most chapters, there is a one-time new member/initiation fee as well as semester membership dues. The amount of dues he/she will have to pay each semester will depend on which organization he/she wants to join. If your child is really interested in becoming a member of the Greek life, you need to sit down with him or her and work out a college budget to determine whether or not joining a fraternity or sorority is affordable.

COUNCIL	COSTS AFFILIATED
IFC	\$20 Registration Fee for Recruitment Week Semester Dues range from \$400 - \$600
MGC	New Member Dues range from \$300 - \$600 Semester Dues range from \$100 - \$400
NPHC	Initial costs range from \$700 - \$2000
PHA	\$80 Registration Fee for Recruitment Week New Member Dues range from \$600 - \$800 Semester Dues range from \$400 - \$600

Activities Fraternities and sororities participate in many different activities. The kind of activities your student may participate in will vary depending on which chapter he/she joins. Possible activities may include:

- Fundraising for charities
- Tutoring elementary school students
- Conducting environmental and neighborhood cleanups
- Organizing clothing and book collections
- Volunteering at shelters
- Attending social mixers

As a parent, you are no doubt interested in your son or daughter getting the best education they can. Surely the education they obtain in the classroom is the primary reason for coming to the Sam Houston State University, but what goes on in a class provides only half of their college education. All of their other time goes to life outside the classroom—which is spent interacting with students from diverse backgrounds, participating in clubs and sports, and making friendships. There is no better way to spend that other time of a college education than in a fraternity or sorority. SHSU's Greek community provides students with leadership opportunities, educational assistance, career networking, friends and fun. There is no faster way for your son or daughter to get connected to the campus than to go Greek.

What is Greek Life?

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.

My student is at SHSU to graduate, how can Greek life help them succeed academically?

Academic achievement is a priority for most organizations. Many organizations enforce grade point average requirements and offer study sessions, tutoring, and other programs to assist members achieve their potential. Many chapters also provide incentives to their members who excel in the classroom through recognition at meetings, reduced fees, national awards, and much more. Students who take advantage of the academic support available and properly balance their time between academic and extracurricular pursuits will find that Greek membership will enhance their academic performance.

What are the real benefits of membership?

Many immediate benefits are received through membership, including numerous leadership possibilities, academic encouragement, several philanthropic opportunities and lifelong friendships. Members are also introduced to alumni of their chapters all over the country. By joining a Greek letter organization, a person can create an entire network of people, from which could potentially become an employer, a spouse, or a lifelong friend.

Tell me about Hazing?

Obviously, you've heard about hazing in the media. Hazing is a violation of the University policy and state law. University judicial charges can be brought forth for individual students and/or organizations alleged of hazing. The Greek Life Office works closely with the governing councils to educate Greek Life members on these policies. All New Greek members/students are also required to sign an agreement against hazing activities.

For a full list of anti-hazing policies, please look in the SHSU Students Guidelines 2013-2016 Handbook. If you ever feel your student may have been hazed or harassed by a Greek fraternity or sorority at SHSU, contact the Dean of Students Office at 936-294-1785 immediately.

How much money will it cost?

Like any national organization, there are bills to pay and a cost to membership. When your student becomes a new member, there is usually a fee paid to national headquarters. There are also monthly or semester dues, depending on the chapter. When it is time to become a full member, there is usually a one time fee to be paid to the national headquarters that covers the cost of their badge, certificate and certain other items. These fees go to keep the local and national organization running. Without them, the chapters could not function.

What can I do as a parent?

As a parent, you can be supportive of your son or daughter's efforts to join a chapter. Learn as much as you can about the fraternities or sororities they are interested in. Many groups provide handouts concerning activities, finances and policies. Be sure that your student looks over this information when deciding to join an organization. Also, if your child decides to go Greek, you should stress how important it is to balance social activities and academics. If they're grades start to slip, they may want to cut back on the activities in which they are engaged in. Keep in mind that while Greek life is great for some students, it's not for everyone. You should discuss with your son or daughter what he/she would like to do and then support his/her decision. If your student decides that joining an organization is the right decision, make sure they do their research.

How much time does Greek membership require?

Like most other extra-curricular activities, how much you get out of your Greek membership is related to how much you put in. On average, expect to contribute four hours per week for meetings and mandatory activities. Optional activities such as holding an office, attending social events, playing on intramural sports team, or helping out with various projects will of course take additional time. With good time management, your Greek activities will easily fit into your weekly schedule and allow plenty of time for classes, studying, work, and participation in other campus activities.

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