

Greek Life @ Sacramento State | Frequently Asked Questions

You may have a lot of questions regarding Greek Life at Sacramento State. It's no secret that many stereotypes exist about fraternities and sororities, but the students involved in fraternities and sororities at Sacramento State have done a lot to break down the stereotypical behavior that is so often seen in the media.

What are the benefits of joining a Fraternity and/or sorority?

Coming to college is one of the major life changes that a student will go through. Joining a fraternity or sorority can help make the transition easier. Developing life-long friendships with the members in their organization helps make the campus smaller. For many members, these organizations become a home away from home. In addition to the friendship, every organization promotes the values of enhancing leadership, scholarship, philanthropy/service, and financial responsibility in their members. Additionally, national research has shown that involvement in fraternities and sororities increases students' chances of graduating from college. As a lifelong member of a fraternity or sorority, students are offered the opportunity to develop as leaders, serve the local community, and focus on academics, as well as their careers, by connecting with local alumni members of their organizations.

Are fraternities and sororities primarily social in nature?

There is a social aspect to the fraternity and sorority community and these "social" events include educational programming/workshops, community service events, intramural sports, scholarship dinners, and mixers. Today's fraternity and sorority communities across the nation have adopted a stringent approach to socializing thereby creating a safer, more beneficial learning environment for members. Each chapter is expected follow their own local and national risk management policies in addition to the University's policies and local, state, and federal laws.

Will membership in a fraternity or sorority affect my academics?

Academics are a priority in the Greek community. When students join, they become part of a larger group of students who value their academic goals. This group understands what the new member is facing and can provide support in many areas. Many organizations enforce minimum grade point average requirements and offer academic support, such as study sessions, tutoring, and other workshops to assist members. As long you dedicate time to study, attend class regularly, and utilizes university academic resources, your academics should not be compromised.

What is the time commitment for being involved with a fraternity or sorority?

Being a Greek member can be a substantial time commitment. The time commitment is what you make of it. Some students put all of their time into their fraternity/sorority, while others divide their time between their organization and experiencing other things on-campus. There are some required events, but you can always choose which events you want to be a part of. Greek students learn quickly how to manage their busy schedules, which will help them scholastically, as well as after graduation as they move into the workforce. The more time members spend with their fraternity brothers or sorority sisters at chapter activities, the more they will get out of their Greek experience.

What is XYZ fraternity / sorority like? What is the "best" chapter on campus?

All fraternities and sororities share the values of scholarship, leadership, service, and brotherhood/sisterhood. The Sacramento State Greek community is very strong, and all of the chapters fulfill their duties to achieve excellence in these areas. Each chapter has its own personality, and the student will gain a sense of what chapter he or she would feel the most comfortable during the recruitment/intake process.

How much does it costs to be a member of a fraternity or sorority?

Costs for joining a fraternity or sorority vary by chapter, but the range of cost can be between \$50-\$850 a semester. Some organizations include all of their activity costs in their membership dues, while other organizations charge a base fee and then additional activities cost extra. Costs are paid directly to the fraternity/sorority. Most chapters offer payment plans for students, and scholarships may be available within the individual chapters as well. The University does not have a role in this process; the student deals directly with the chapter. It is important that the student asks questions so that they are able to understand where the money is going.

What about hazing? Will it happen to me?

Hazing, or conspiracy to haze, as defined in Education Code Sections 32050 and 32051: "Hazing" includes any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization, or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm, to any student or other person attending any school, community college, college, university or other educational institution in this state; but the term "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions.

Sacramento State has a zero tolerance for hazing and rigorously enforces this policy, and any organization who violates this policy will be given due process and if found responsible may be subjected to organizational and/or individual sanctions and discipline. It is also important to note that most fraternal organizations have adopted ant-hazing policies and have strict rules in regards to their new member processes.

All allegations of hazing may be reported here: <https://www.csus.edu/soal/resources/reporting.html>

I am considering joining a fraternity or sorority that is not recognized by Sacramento State. What should I do?

University recognized organizations work closely with the Greek Life professional staff. They are held accountable to University policies, can reserve space on-campus, and are able to participate in SO&L sponsored programs and events. Unrecognized fraternities and sororities do not maintain the same privileges and are not monitored by the University.

Can I join more than one Greek organization?

No. Although you may become familiar with all organizations through the recruitment process, you may only accept one invitation to join a social-Greek organization. There are, however, other Greek-lettered organizations that center on certain professions, academic honors, or community service. Students are welcome to join both a social as well as non-social organization as well as any other student organizations.