

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ All but 3 U.S. Presidents since 1825 are members of fraternities
- ◆ 85% of all Supreme Court Justices since 1910 have been Greek
- ◆ 85% of Fortune 500 executives are Greek
- ◆ 63% of the U.S. President's cabinet members 1910 have been Greek

- ◆ *Students who join fraternities and sororities are more likely to return to college the following year... 28% more likely and 14% more likely to graduate in 4 years than students who choose not to join a fraternity or sorority.*

- ◆ *Following graduation, Greek-affiliated alumni have higher average incomes than non-Greek alumni.* Even when accounting for family member's educational levels, graduation year, and gender, students who were affiliated with fraternities and sororities have significantly higher average incomes following graduation.

- ◆ *Greek-affiliated alumni are involved in civic organizations and contribute more to charitable organizations at a higher rate than non-Greek alumni.* Fraternity and sorority involvement correlates positively with citizen involvement and charitable giving later in life.

- ⇒ Greeks at VSU perform over 43,000 hours of community service yearly
- ⇒ There are 22 Greek organizations and over 1,100 Greek students.
- ⇒ At VSU, the all Greek GPA, retentions and graduation rates are higher than their non-affiliated counterparts.
- ⇒ A large majority of Orientation Leaders, University Ambassadors, and other student leaders are Greek affiliated.

VSU Greek Organization

Sororities

Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Sigma Alpha
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Chi Omega
Delta Sigma Theta
Kappa Delta
Phi Mu
Sigma Gamma Rho
Zeta Phi Beta
Zeta Tau Alpha

Fraternities

Alpha Phi Alpha
Delta Chi
Kappa Alpha Order
Kappa Alpha Psi
Kappa Sigma
Phi Beta Sigma
Phi Sigma Kappa
Pi Kappa Phi
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Sigma Chi
Sigma Nu
Tau Kappa Epsilon

Office of Greek Life

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A FAMILY MEMBER'S

GUIDE

*To Fraternities
and Sororities*

at

Valdosta State

University

Welcome... to the Valdosta State University community. Entering college will be an exciting and challenging time in both you and your student's life. You will find VSU to be a diverse university with almost unlimited choices and opportunities. As professional staff members in VSU's Office of Student Life, we encourage students to become involved in activities outside the classroom in order to enhance their academic experiences. We hope your student will consider sorority or fraternity membership as a viable option.

Among the vast student population, sorority and fraternity members become a part of a select student group that works to achieve common goals. Sororities and fraternities promote individual growth and success by nurturing each student's talents and skills. In choosing Valdosta State University and its Greek community, your student is choosing an outstanding institution of higher education and a Greek community that is supportive, developmental, and fun.

You Probably Have Some Questions...

Perceptions of fraternities and sororities tend to differ widely from reality. Hopefully this brochure will begin to clarify some of those perceptions and, at the same time, provide you with the answers to some of the questions most commonly asked by parents and families.

Will a fraternity or sorority have an adverse effect on my student's grades? Actually, it's more likely that a fraternity or sorority will help your student's grades. When a student joins a fraternity or sorority, he or she becomes a part of a larger group of students who have already made it through their first year at VSU. Not only does the group understand what a first-year student is facing in their transition to college, but they can also provide assistance in most of the academic courses your student will be taking. There are few other places where a student can gain access to the variety of resources that the Greek community can provide; like leadership development, citizenship, and life-long friendship.

Are fraternities and sororities expensive? Joining a fraternity or sorority does carry a financial commitment. Each chapter is self-supporting through dues paid by their members. When students join a Greek letter organization, they also agree to pay dues while in school to maintain membership. Although chapters may make accommodations for special needs, students should discuss the financial obligations with their family members before deciding to join. For more information on the amount and structure of dues, contact the Greek Life Office.

Isn't hazing a traditional practice among fraternities and sororities? Valdosta State University has a strong **zero-tolerance policy** regarding hazing for all of its student organizations, including Greek Life. Fraternity and sorority members are educated on the dangers of such practices on an ongoing basis. Hazing, or any activity that subjects

members to harassment, ridicule, intimidation, physical exhaustion or mental distress, is entirely contrary to the purpose and values of the Greek community. If you ever feel your student may be participating in inappropriate activities, whether in a fraternity or sorority or any other student organization, you should contact the Office of Student Life immediately.

Aren't fraternities and sororities primarily social in nature? The various activities of today's fraternities and sororities include educational programs, community service events, intramural sports, alumni events, Family weekends, and Homecoming, formals, and date parties. While all of those events are "social" in some ways, there are additional benefits to participation in them.

Will working while in school conflict with participation in a fraternity or sorority? Actually, many students involved in the VSU Greek community are also employed outside of the classroom. Fraternities and sororities recognize that it is important for members to be able to meet their financial obligations and that many students will work to help finance their educations. Working students can still take advantage of the opportunities available through the Greek community.

What is my role as a family member? Be supportive and learn as much as you can by asking questions of your student as he/she meets people through the recruitment/intake process. Also play an active role during your child's years in a fraternity or sorority. Encourage and support your student in all of their goals, especially as they become Greek. Fraternity and sorority members will be more than happy to talk to you and your student about their group. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Greek Life Office.