TODAY'S SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES MAY SURPRISE YOU

National research projects conducted by the Center for Advanced Social Research at the University of Missouri provide data on why membership in a fraternity or sorority may be a beneficial choice for your student.

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

Students who join fraternities and sororities are more likely to return to college the following year. Students who return to college will be able to complete their degree programs and graduate. Students who join fraternities and sororities are 28% more likely to return to school the following year and 14% more likely to graduate than students who choose not to join a fraternity or sorority.

Following graduation, Greek-affiliated alumni are involved in more civic organizations and contribute more financially to charitable organizations than non-Greek alumni. Fraternity and sorority involvement correlates positively with citizen involvement and charitable giving later in life.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ 85% of all Supreme Court Justices since 1910 have been Greek
- ✓ 77% of Who's Who in America are Greek
- ✓ 85% of Fortune 500 executives are Greek
- ✓ 63% of the U.S. President's cabinet since 1910 has been Greek.

RIGHT NOW
Greeks at VSU give more than $200,000 to charity and perform over 23,000 hours of community service each year!

RIGHT NOW
There are 24 Greek organizations and over 1200 Greek students

RIGHT NOW
In the U.S. there are 750,000 undergraduate Greek students and 9,000,000 Greek alumni

RIGHT NOW
At VSU, the All Greek GPA, retentions and graduation rates are higher than the overall collegiate GPA

RIGHT NOW
Is a great time to **GO GREEK** as Valdosta State University

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
Iota Phi Theta
Kappa Alpha Order
Kappa Alpha Psi
Kappa Sigma
Omega Psi Phi
Phi Beta Sigma
Phi Sigma Kappa
Pi Kappa Phi
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Sigma Chi
Sigma Nu
Tau Kappa Epsilon

Office of Greek Life
University Union
Valdosta State University
1500 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698
(229) 333-5674

A PARENT'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. She or he will find VSU to be a diverse university with almost unlimited choices and opportunities. There are many activities and lifestyles available on campus in which your student may elect to participate. As a professional staff member 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 smaller group that works to achieve common goals. Sororities and fraternities strive to achieve the greatest potential from each individual member, utilizing each person's talents and addressing success. In choosing Valdosta State University and its Greek community, your student is choosing and outstanding institution of higher education and a Greek community that is recognized as one of the best.

As the advisor to VSU's Greek community, please feel free to contact me at (229) 333-5674 or jjstroble@valdosta.edu if I can be of assistance.

Jennifer Stroble, Assistant Director of Student Life

You Probably Have Some Questions…

Perceptions of fraternities and sororities tend to differ widely among both parents and students. 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.

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, but they can also provide assistance in most of the 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. Ultimately, the responsibility for succeeding in the classroom is the individual student's. With the broad range of resources available within the Greek community, however, students are more likely to achieve their academic potential.

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 and fees while in school to maintain membership. Although chapters may make accommodations for special needs, students should discuss the financial obligations with their parent(s) before deciding to join. Each chapter has different dues for membership that cover such things as chapter and national fees, dues to governing Councils, social activities, resources and other miscellaneous costs. The three different councils have different costs associated with the council. On average joining an organization within the CPC will cost around $425.00 a semester, IFC organization will cost around $600 per semester and a NPHC organization a onetime fee between $1,000-$2,000.

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 of the Greek community and the University and is not tolerated. If you ever feel your student may be participating in appropriate 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, like in the movie Animal House? That depends on our definition of "social." The various activities of today's fraternities and sororities include educational programs, community service events, intramural sports, alumni events, Parents' Days, Homecoming, formals, and date parties. While all of those events are "social" in some ways, there are additional benefits to participation in any of them. The "Animal House" image is extremely outdated, especially at VSU.

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. In today's world, the reality is that only the lucky few can afford to attend college without outside employment. 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 parent? Be supportive and learn as much as you can by asking questions of your son or daughter as he/she meet people through the recruitment/intake process. Also be an active parent during your child's years in a fraternity or sorority. Remember, being in a fraternity or sorority can only benefit your child. Encourage and support your child. Greek members will be more than happy to tell him or her (and you) about their group. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Greek Advisor.