The Guide to
FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE
at the University of Louisville
MOVE THE MOVEMENT

A charge to our students to live up to the ideals and values of their organizations and be the leaders that make fraternity and sorority membership an integral part of the college experience.
WELCOME

DEAR INCOMING FRESHMEN

Welcome to the Cardinal family! We are so excited to have you here and want to wish you the best of luck on your journey at the University of Louisville!

No matter where you end up, college can be an exciting but scary experience. Many students wonder where they’ll find their niche, especially at the University of Louisville with over 20,000 students! There are many ways to get involved on campus with about 400 Recognized Student Organizations and clubs. Student involvement goes beyond UofL’s 400 RSOs and clubs, including community service and events. If you can’t decide on one or two RSOs, Greek Life is the perfect way to combine your service and involvement, without overwhelming yourself!

Greek life is a family within our larger UofL family that we know we will be able to rely on long after we’ve left campus. Joining a Greek letter organization can lead to many connections, professional and personal. The nine historically Black fraternities and sororities that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council are organizations that carry lifelong membership, even past your college career. The fifteen fraternities and nine sororities that make up the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council also provide unique opportunities that have helped contribute to our overall college experience!

The three of us came to UofL with varying levels of campus connections, but we were all lucky enough to connect with the diverse Greek community on campus. We were welcomed with open arms, and we’ve felt right at home ever since. The responsibilities of Greek Life range from community service to council bonding and event planning. We work together to set our own personal, chapter and council goals. Everyone motivates each other to complete their goals and make an impact on our communities while doing so.

If you’re looking for more information about Greek life at UofL, the Fraternity and Sorority Life office is within the Office of Student Involvement, down the hall from the SGA suite.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to meet the 33 Greek organizations on our campus and get to know the organization you will soon call home!

We wish you the best of luck in your first year at UofL and we hope that you find campus to be welcoming and supportive as you find your fit and community!

Go Cards!

Seryn Bentley | President, National Pan-Hellenic Council

Taelor Duncan | President, Panhellenic Council

Brendan Kolbinsky | President, Interfraternity Council
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Welcome 3
- Experience More 5
- Community at a Glance 6
- Cardinal Credentials 7
- Community Programs 8
- Campus & Greek Involvement 9
- College Panhellenic Council 10
- Interfraternity Council 11
- National Pan-Hellenic Council 12
- Greek Life Q & A 13
- Greek Alphabet & Terminology 14
EXPERIENCE MORE
by joining a fraternity or sorority at the University of Louisville!

EXPERIENCE SERVICE
• Give back to the community through volunteering.
• Raise money for local and national charities.
• Organize and execute philanthropic events.

EXPERIENCE TRADITION
• Uphold the ideals of the organization.
• Develop meaningful relationships through brotherhood and sisterhood.
• Join over 750,000 undergraduate men and women that belong to fraternities and sororities.

EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP
• Serve on chapter committees or executive boards.
• Learn valuable communication and delegation skills.
• Participate in leadership development programs exclusive to fraternities and sororities.

EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY
• Create lifelong friendships.
• Establish a “home away from home.”
• Build networking relationships with alumni.
The University of Louisville, in conjunction with Phired Up Productions, conducted a year long study during the 2017-2018 academic year to determine the impact of the fraternity and sorority experience compared to non-members.

The findings of the research indicate fraternity/sorority students were more likely to experience belonging, receive academic help, volunteer, gain confidence, and develop as a leader compared to non-affiliated students. The benefits of fraternity and sorority membership can make a tremendous difference for students during their first year of college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community at a Glance</th>
<th>Fraternity and Sorority Members</th>
<th>Non-Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A feeling of belonging on campus</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic help</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer hours</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td>74.7%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership development</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.29  
All Fraternity/Sorority Community GPA

3.40  
All Sorority GPA

3.16  
All Fraternity GPA

46%  
Percentage of Students above 3.5 GPA

1,742

AVERAGE CHAPTER SIZE

90  
College Panhellenic Council

55  
Interfraternity Council

12  
National Pan-Hellenic Council

33  
Fraternities and Sororities

8  
College Panhellenic Council

15  
Interfraternity Council

9  
National Pan-Hellenic Council

+ 1 ASSOCIATE MEMBER
When you join a fraternity or sorority at the University of Louisville you benefit from the many educational programs our community has to offer!

As a fraternity/sorority member you will have the opportunity to develop skills related to: leading a team, networking, managing budgets, time management, and many more! A few programs that cultivate these skills are here!

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

- Focuses on building relationships and developing leadership skills.
- Foster networking and idea sharing.

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARDS**

- Provides overall direction and guidance to chapter leadership and fraternity/sorority community.
- Opportunity to network with fellow fraternity/sorority members and a place for dialogue within the community.
- Facilitate community wide education related to risk management, sexual assault prevention, inclusion, academic achievement, mental health, and more.

**FSL AWARDS**

- Recognizes and rewards chapters achieving a high standard.
- Incentivizes relationships with University staff and administration.
- Promotes academic achievement, community service participation, and campus involvement.
FRYBERGER

• Singing competition among UofL fraternities and sororities.
• Created in 1937 to honor Agnes Fryberger, a music professor who retired early due to illness.

GREEK WEEK

• Springtime tradition at UofL.
• Week organized to highlight the purposes of greek organizations and foster relationships with the UofL community.

raiseRED

• 18 hour dance marathon to support pediatric cancer blood disease research.
• Fraternities and sororities provide tremendous support by participating in event, raising funds, and serving on the raiseRED executive board.

NPHC HOMECOMING STEP SHOW

• Signature program for NPHC fraternities and sororities.
• Traditionally executed the Friday of Homecoming.
COLLEGE PANHELLENIC COUNCIL (CPH)

CPh ORGANIZATIONS:

- Alpha Omicron Pi (ΛΩΠ)
- Chi Omega (ΧΩ)
- Delta Zeta (ΔΖ)
- Kappa Alpha Theta (ΚΑΘ)
- Kappa Delta (ΚΔ)
- Pi Beta Phi (ΠΒΦ)
- Sigma Kappa (ΣΚ)
- Zeta Tau Alpha (ΖΤΑ)
- Phi Sigma Rho* (ΦΣΡ)

(*Associate member)

The College Panhellenic Council is made up of 8 National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) sororities and 1 affiliate sorority and serves as the governing body to these organizations. The College Panhellenic Council is considered a Recognized Student Organization, and provides a support system for all NPC chapters on campus. CPH promotes scholarship, leadership development, and community service. The College Panhellenic Council is also the coordinating body for NPC sorority recruitment.

HOW TO JOIN:

Panhellenic sororities participate in primary recruitment each fall. The recruitment dates for 2021 are August 26–29. Register online, louisville.edu/involvement/fsl. Registration ends August 24.

Twitter: @PanhellenicUofL
Instagram: @LouisvillePanhellenic
The Interfraternity Council is an inclusive body that governs and leads 15 inter/national fraternities that call our campus home. IFC is dedicated to providing an exceptional fraternal experience to all who choose to join the Greek Community. The IFC is dedicated to providing programming, services, and support to our member chapters that allow them to thrive and grow.

HOW TO JOIN:

IFC believes in continuous, year-round recruitment. To facilitate a positive experience for incoming students, a week of recruitment events is planned each fall. Recruitment events will be held August 30 to September 2. Register online, louisville.edu/involvement/fsi, to participate.
NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC)

The National Pan-Hellenic Council is composed of the nine historically Black fraternities and sororities, each with values centered on brother/sisterhood, scholarship, and community service. NPHC promotes interaction through forums, meetings, and other mediums for the exchange of information and engages in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities and functions.

HOW TO JOIN:

The process of joining an NPHC sorority or fraternity varies between organizations. The general requirements for each are very similar; 2.5 to 2.75 GPA, currently enrolled student at the University of Louisville, and campus or community involvement. Each organization will hold campus events and informational or interest meetings throughout the year. Interested women and men are encouraged to attend each organization’s events to learn more about becoming a member.

In addition to attending events, NPHC has the following opportunities to engage with them during each semester:

- NPHC 411
  - Welcome Week
  - September 24
  - November 30
- NPHC Week (fall)

NPHC ORGANIZATIONS:

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (ΑΦΑ)
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (ΑΚΑ)
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (ΚΑΨ)
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (ΩΨΦ)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (ΔΣΘ)
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (ΦΒΣ)
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (ΖΦΒ)
- Sigma Gamma Rho, Sorority, Inc. (ΣΓΡ)
- Iota Phi Theta, Fraternity, Inc. (ΙΘΘ)

Twitter: @UofLNPHC
Instagram: @UofLNPHC
WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF JOINING A FRATERNITY OR A SORORITY?

Students encounter many advantages when joining a fraternity or sorority at UofL. A few of those may include:

• Encouragement to stay involved and maximize time in college.
• Hands on experiences that develop leadership, communication, and professional skills.
• Support system during college and life after graduation.
• Academic and scholastic resources.
• Opportunities for networking/establishing relationships with UofL alumni, faculty, and staff.

HOW WILL JOINING AFFECT ACADEMICS?

Joining a fraternity or sorority is a time commitment. Most members typically spend 3 to 5 hours with their respective organization during the week. Members and new members must plan their schedules accordingly to ensure they are putting their academic needs first. Chapters will expect members and new members to take care of their academic responsibilities before engaging in other fraternity/sorority activities.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT HAZING?

Forty seven percent of students are hazed prior to attending college. Additionally, for every ten students that experience hazing, only one understands they have been hazed. Potential members of any student organization should educate themselves on hazing and UofL’s policy on hazing that can be found in the Student Code of Conduct. Fraternities and sororities were founded on principles that are in direct opposition of hazing behavior. Hazing has no place in our greek community at UofL.

IS THERE A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT?

Every chapter collects dues once a semester or once a year. Some chapters may even offer payment plans. Dues may be spent on membership recruitment, parlor fees, social events, scholarship programming, and parent/alumni programming. Most organizations have a onetime initiation fee that must be paid during the first semester of joining. The cost of dues varies from council to council and chapter to chapter. Students should ask about the financial obligations during the recruitment process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>A fully initiated member of a chapter who is in good standing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumna or Alumnus</td>
<td>Any initiated member of a sorority or fraternity who has graduated from college.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badge/Pin</td>
<td>Worn on the chest to designate an initiated or new member of a certain fraternity or sorority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid</td>
<td>A formal invitation to join a sorority or fraternity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Sister/Brother</td>
<td>An older member that serves as a role model and resource to a new member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>The local group of a national sorority or fraternity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternity</td>
<td>A men’s greek-letter organization. Often founded on high ideals of character, scholastic, and leadership achievement. “Fraternity” may also refer to some women’s sororities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiation</td>
<td>A ritual or ceremony during which a new member receives lifelong membership in the organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy</td>
<td>A man or woman whose father/mother or brother/sister is an initiated member of the organization. Legacy status varies from chapter to chapter and may also include grandfather/grandmother, and uncle/aunt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line Sister/Line Brother</td>
<td>Individuals who are members of the same intake class and organization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Greek Alphabet & Terminology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek Letter</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha (A)</td>
<td>(al-fah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta (B)</td>
<td>(bay-tah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamma (Γ)</td>
<td>(gam-ah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta (Δ)</td>
<td>(del-tah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epsilon (Ε)</td>
<td>(ep-si-lon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeta (Ζ)</td>
<td>(zay-tah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eta (Η)</td>
<td>(ay-tah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theta (Θ)</td>
<td>(thay-tah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iota (Ι)</td>
<td>(ey-o-tah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa (Κ)</td>
<td>(kap-ah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambda (Λ)</td>
<td>(lamb-dah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mu (Μ)</td>
<td>(mew)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nu (Ν)</td>
<td>(new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xi (Ξ)</td>
<td>(zie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omicron (Ο)</td>
<td>(om-e-cron)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pi (Π)</td>
<td>(pie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rho (Ρ)</td>
<td>(roe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigma (Σ)</td>
<td>(sig-mah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tau (Τ)</td>
<td>(taw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upsilon (Υ)</td>
<td>(up-si-lon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phi (Φ)</td>
<td>(fie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chi (Χ)</td>
<td>(kie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psi (Ψ)</td>
<td>(sigh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omega (Ω)</td>
<td>(oh-may-gah)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Membership Intake:** The process by which one becomes a new member of a fraternity or sorority. Typically used to reference NPHC organization practices of acquiring membership.

**Neophyte:** A term used to refer to new members of an NPHC organization.

**New Member/Aspirant:** A member of a greek letter organization who has not yet been initiated.

**New Member Class/Line:** A group of individuals who are selected to become inducted/initiated into a particular fraternity or sorority.

**New Member Educator:** The chapter officer who coordinates the education of the organization’s new members.

**Panhellenic Recruitment Ambassador (PRA):** Panhellenic sorority women who are selected and trained to guide potential new members through the formal recruitment process.

**Potential New Member (PNM):** A term used to describe an individual seeking membership and/or participating in the recruitment process.

**Primary Recruitment:** A designated membership period during which IFC fraternities and Panhellenic sororities hold a series of organized events.

**Probate/New Member Show:** A show often organized by NPHC organizations to introduce their new members to the campus community.

**Prophyte:** A member of a NPHC organization who has been in the organization long enough to initiate a new line of members.

**Sisters/Brothers:** Members of the same fraternity or sorority.

**Stepping:** A series of complex, and precise rhythmic movements performed to songs, stomps, or chants and created by organization members. Typically performed by NPHC organizations.

**Strolling:** Usually performed in unison to a song with precise, synchronized movements. Typically performed by NPHC organizations.