



What is Fraternity and Sorority Life All About?

Fraternities and sororities are an established tradition at East Tennessee State University, dating back more than 55 years to 1954. Today our campus fraternity/sorority community includes more than 550 students involved in 15 national Greek-letter men's and women's groups. Fraternities and sororities, both individually and collectively, contribute to the experience of students, the university, and the greater community by promoting leadership, fostering academic excellence, participating in community service and philanthropic activities, and facilitating the development of lifelong friendships.

Fraternity and sorority chapters are governed by councils who, with advisement and support from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, plan educational programs, organize community service/philanthropic events, oversee recruitment and intake processes, offer academic support, incentives and recognition, enforce policies and, moreover, provide a support network and voice to the University and local community. Greek organizations are groups of men and women who come together to form a personal network of individuals with similar ideas, interests, and a mutual pursuit of a well-rounded college education.

Fast Facts

- There are 15 fraternities and sororities at East Tennessee State University
- There are 5 IFC fraternities that own or rent houses close to campus
- Panhellenic sororities are housed in Lucille Clement Hall on campus
- All chapters are recognized as student organizations with the Student Organization Resource Center (SORC) at ETSU and are considered university-affiliated groups
- Nearly 6 percent of all students are involved in Greek Life at ETSU



East Tennessee State University

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The Greek community at ETSU is engaged in the life of our campus. Many Greek students hold important leadership positions in campus organizations. Collectively, chapters contribute thousands of dollars and volunteer thousands of hours to the local community. Participation in a fraternity or sorority can provide opportunities for leadership development, meaningful peer relationships, access to mentor networks, and a broad range of social, personal and community development activities.

The ETSU Greek community is actively seeking students who want to be engaged both in and out of the classroom. I encourage your student to consider becoming a part of one of our many Greek organizations. Gather information, talk to current members, and think about the benefits of "Going Greek!"

Joe Sherlin
Vice Provost and Dean of Students



What is my role as a parent/family?

- Students need support throughout the process of recruitment/intake and new member education. Be supportive and learn as much as you can about Greek life by asking questions of your student as he or she meets members in fraternities and sororities.
- Keep an open mind . . . Greek life is not for everyone. Just because you may have been a fraternity or sorority member doesn't mean that it is the right choice for your son or daughter.
- Fraternities and sororities are different on every campus. Groups that may have been strong on the campus where you attended school may not have the same reputation at ETSU. Let your son or daughter choose the group that he or she feels the most comfortable joining.
- Talk to your son or daughter beforehand about the financial obligation. Determine who will pay for what and where the limits are.
- Keep the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life contact information on hand if you have any questions or concerns about Greek Life on ETSU's campus.
- Take time to find out more about the fraternity and sorority community at ETSU by visiting www.etsu.edu/greeklife
- Above all, be supportive!

Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life | SORC

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The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life Parent & Family Guide



Mission of Fraternity and Sorority Life

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life provides oversight and guidance to the fifteen fraternities and sororities at East Tennessee State University. The Office of Greek Life provides active oversight of chapter events, and serves as a liaison between faculty, alumni advisors, national offices, and parents. The office also develops leadership programming, provides training, assists with membership recruitment, monitors the academic performance of fraternity and sorority members, and recognizes the positive achievements and contributions of community members. Greek members impact the East Tennessee State University campus by maintaining high ideals and continuing a long-standing tradition of excellence and honor.

Scholarship and Academic Expectations

Above all else, your student's reason for attending college is academics. Academics are emphasized by all fraternity and sorority chapters, from new member education through graduation. Membership in a fraternity or sorority assists in the transition to college life by providing a myriad of scholarship resources that may include file of class reviews, study partners, time management and study skills workshops. Fraternities and sororities also provide academic scholarships and other financial incentives to members and recruit faculty, staff and alumni/alumnae mentors for academic guidance. Fraternity and sorority chapters have grade point average minimums required for membership and to remain active and in good standing. Members strive to be above the all undergraduate grade point average each semester. National trends prove that Greek members stay in college and are more likely to obtain a degree than non-Greek students. By continually utilizing and expanding the academic resources available to fraternities and sororities, ETSU's Greek community continues to accomplish academic success.



Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Being in a fraternity or sorority is about making friendships that will last far beyond your student's college years. Their fraternity brothers or sorority sisters are there to support and mentor, helping to make the transition to college both easy and fun. Brotherhood and sisterhood means more than wearing letters, attending meetings, or going to socials. It is a feeling and a sense of belonging. It is being respected for individuality and knowing fraternity brothers or sorority sisters will be there to help out along the way.

Leadership

Fraternity and sorority life abounds with opportunities to get involved in leadership roles within each chapter as well as on campus. Officer positions are available within each chapter, but chapters also encourage their members to get involved in other student activities and organizations on campus. Many of these students hold high leadership positions and expand their opportunities to interact with other students, faculty and staff in their everyday lives. Chapter members have the opportunity to manage executive teams, serve on or chair committees, and manage annual budgets.



Service

Philanthropy and Service are fundamental tenants by which all fraternity and sorority students live. The ETSU Greek community prides itself on the charitable work it performs for Johnson City/Washington County, surrounding areas and the nation. Last year, Greeks participated in fund-raisers which provided more than \$50,000 and 15,000 direct service hours to organizations including the American Cancer Society, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Second Harvest Food Bank, The Ronald McDonald House, Coalition for Kids, Children's Advocacy Center, American Heart Association, Speedway Children's Charities, Fisher House, Habitat for Humanity, and Autism Speaks.

Financial Obligations

Joining a fraternity/sorority does carry a financial commitment. Each chapter is self-supporting through the dues paid by each member every semester. Dues directly support the betterment of the chapter and the national organization. The costs go toward the national/international fees, chapter operating expenses, education programs, and social functions. Financial obligations differ among individual chapters. New members can expect to pay higher dues their first semester than in subsequent semesters. Most chapters offer payment plans or other forms of financial assistance. We encourage your student to ask questions relating to finances during the recruitment process. We also encourage you to be "hands-on" in this decision if you have any questions about the obligations regarding finances. Cost will vary if the organization does or does not have a facility/living structure.

Safety

Hazing, Alcohol, & Risk Management: Because the Greek community at ETSU contributes to the social activity on campus, it has taken great strides toward creating a responsible and safe environment for its members. All fraternities and sororities have strict policies regulating the consumption of alcohol for underage members and guests. Organizations work closely with the Greek Life staff to conduct safe social activities. All Greek organizations are held accountable to the ETSU Alcohol Policy and Tennessee State Laws.

Risk Management: All Greek members are expected to uphold federal, state, and city laws. Members are also expected to follow all policies set forth by East Tennessee State University, Greek councils, and their respective inter-national organizations. Educational programs are provided throughout the year to new members, leaders, and the Greek community in areas of alcohol use, hazing prevention, and other risk topics.

Be You. Be Great. Be Greek.

Coming to college is one of the major life changers that your student will experience. Joining a fraternity or sorority chapter can help make the transition easier. Developing lifelong friendships with the members in their chapters will help make the campus seem smaller. For many members, these organizations become a home away from home. Fraternity and sorority members have national networks for members to use for securing jobs and advancing their careers. Each chapter provides numerous opportunities to benefit from our four pillars: scholarship, fellowship, leadership, and service.



What Parents/Family Can Expect

Fraternity and Sorority life adds a dimension to college that cannot be found in other organizations. Joining a Greek-letter organization offers each individual the opportunity to derive something unique from the fraternity and sorority community. For some, it serves as a support network and a place to develop friendships. For others, it is a chance to become involved in community service, philanthropy projects, leadership opportunities, and academic pursuits. For most, it is all of these things and the lifelong bond of brotherhood and sisterhood that makes the experience last a lifetime.

