

INTRODUCTION

Phi Sigma Kappa welcomes your son to Ferris State University! We are pleased to have the opportunity to play an important role in your child's collegiate experience and hope that he will soon realize the lifetime benefits of membership in Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity.

You may be interested to know that Greek life at FSU is the oldest student organization on campus and is based upon the promotion of sincere learning and credible scholarship, community service, career development, quality activities, high standards of personnel, and most importantly, friendship. These same ideals hold true today and are, in fact, the cornerstone of our membership education programs. The most important members in our chapters are the new members, for they are the future of our community. Our goal is to provide our new members with not only an education of what it is to be a fraternity man, but also with information to strengthen their self esteem, to enhance their character, and to develop their leadership potential.

FSU has 9 fraternities and 5 sororities. While your child is a collegian, he will participate in programs that will enhance his leadership skills and give him the tools and opportunities to develop to his full potential. Additionally, after college your child will have opportunities to continue friendships and to develop leadership skills, for all our organizations have alumni chapters.

Phi Sigma Kappa strongly believes that you as parents are a part of our extended family. We invite you to visit our Head Quarters, located at 118 Oak Street, Big Rapids, MI, and learn more about the opportunities that Phi Sigma Kappa offers. We are quite proud of our more than 1000 initiated members and we look forward to adding your son to our brotherhood.

While each organization maintains its own activities, Phi Sigma Kappa is founded on similar principles of brotherhood, scholarship and character. Taking part in a fraternity can make your student's college experience the best time of his or her life.

- Academic achievement is the foundation for success and one of the most important aspects of college life. To help students achieve academically, our organization offers study groups and workshops on effective study strategies and time management. In order to remain active in a chapter, the University requires all students to maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Many national organizations have higher academic standards and scholarships which reward leadership and scholastic achievement. With a broad range of resources available within the Greek community, students are more likely to achieve their academic potential.
- FSU has a zero-tolerance policy for hazing in all of its student organizations. Hazing is forbidden and will not be tolerated. Fraternity and sorority members are educated on the dangers of such practices on an ongoing basis.
- Each chapter is self-sufficient and has a slightly different cost, based on individual expenses and specific national and local dues. Dues for membership will range from \$600 to \$650 for the first year. Chapter dues go toward the operation of the chapter, programming, and insurance. Chapters are always willing to work out payment plans

with their members to accommodate all financial needs. In addition, several chapters offer scholarships for academic success.

FRIENDSHIP

Greek life is a jointure - a time when friendships are cemented and close ties are woven between members through living, studying, working, and competing together. These relationships go beyond ordinary friendship and become like those of family - often lasting a lifetime.

SCHOLARSHIP

College is a time for education and development. Many chapters, from pledging to graduation, stress academics. Greeks provide both the resources - study sessions, files of class materials, and tutoring assistance - and the incentives - scholarship awards and recognition - for academic achievement.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Greek-letter organizations have been self-sufficient since their inception. Fraternities and sororities pay their own way, through dues, membership fees, and, often, one-time pledge/associate and initiation fees. IFC and Panhellenic chapters with houses charge room and board depending on whether members live in the house or not. In general, the costs of living independently or in a fraternity or sorority house are comparable, and often can be less expensive. The cost of membership in a Greek organization varies from group to group. New members can expect to pay one-time fees during the first semester in the organization. These fees may include a new member fee, and an initiation fee. The average cost of these fees for a fraternity member is approximately \$350.00. Fees may vary from year to year, and the figures provided above are only rough estimates of what organizations may charge.

Many chapters have sinking funds of varying amounts that are used to pay for T-shirts, party favors, and party pictures. Although members are not required to purchase any of these, most members choose to do so.

Please note that when your son or daughter becomes a new member of a fraternity or sorority, he or she is affiliating with that organization, and should he or she decide to disaffiliate with that organization, he or she may be held responsible for some fees that can not be removed from his or her bills.

SOCIAL LIFE

For many students, the Greek social life helps to make college a more fulfilling experience. Fraternities and sororities offer more of a family atmosphere than residence halls or living off campus. Opportunities to meet new friends increase through social events offered by the chapters. Whether the events are informal get-togethers, football

games, swaps, or formal dances, the social environment provides another opportunity to develop and mature as a responsible adult.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

One strong tradition of Greeks is their support of national and local philanthropies. Each semester, chapters and individual members volunteer their time as well as raise money to benefit worthy causes. Tutoring, mentoring, providing supplies to needy families, and donating money are all an integral part of the fraternity experience.

LEADERSHIP

Greek organizations exemplify democracy in action. New members learn to live and work within these communities, practicing responsibility and leadership.

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

Membership in a fraternity or sorority is for a lifetime. Many alumni return to campus and the house for football games and other special events. Alumni organizations keep in touch through newsletters and special weekends. Lifetime friendships extend beyond the individual chapters to include all members of the national Greek community.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or need additional information, you can contact Brandon Couture, Rush Chairman for Phi Sigma Kappa by call (586)295-1644. In addition, you can contact the Greek Life Advisor at Ferris State University by calling (231) 591-5916 to have questions answered.