

A Parent's Guide to Greek Life

As a parent, you are no doubt interested in your son or daughter getting the best education they can. Certainly the education they receive in the classroom is the primary reason for coming to the University of Northern Colorado. But what goes on in a class provides only half of their college education. The other half is received outside the classroom--through interaction with students from diverse backgrounds, participation in clubs and sports, friendships and simple human interactions. There is no better place to get that "other half" of a college education than in a fraternity or sorority. UNC's Greek community has been providing students with leadership opportunities, educational assistance, job contacts, friends and fun for over 90 years. Far from the "Animal House" image often associated with Greeks, the University of Northern Colorado's Greek community is a place where your son or daughter can live, learn and enjoy college life to the fullest. There is no faster way for your son or daughter to get connected to the campus than to go Greek. This guide is designed to help answer questions a parent might have.

WHAT DOES GREEK LIFE HAVE TO OFFER MY STUDENT?

- **Scholarship opportunities-** Several of our Fraternities and Sororities offer organized scholarship programs to help their members achieve their academic goals. Academics are not only a top priority for Fraternity and Sorority members, but an expectation as well.
- **Community Service-** UNC Fraternity and Sorority members spend a great deal of time offering their services to the Greeley Community through several different types of events. All groups have made a concentrated effort to increase their volunteer and philanthropic work.
- **Create Relationships-** Greek Life is a great way to meet new people and develop lifelong friendships!
- **Get Involved-** Most members of Fraternities and Sororities are involved in other campus activities and organizations ranging from student leadership and academic honors groups to organizations promoting University spirit and community service!
- **Social Activities-** There are many types of social activities throughout the academic year in which Fraternity and Sorority members participate. These activities include Homecoming, Greek Week, Formals, Barbeques, Sisterhoods and Brotherhoods, and many others!

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- Like any national organization, there are bills to pay and cost to membership. When your student becomes a new member, there is usually a fee paid to national headquarters. There are also monthly or semester dues, depending on the chapter. When it is time to become a full member, there is usually a one time fee to be paid to the national headquarters that covers the cost of their badge, certificate and certain other items. These fees go to keep the house and national organization running. Without them, the chapters could not function.
- If your student lives in the house, there are room and board fees, which are comparable to resident hall fees. The costs per house vary. Please encourage your son or daughter to ask about live-in costs when they go through recruitment.
- It is important to note that UNC has a live-in requirement for First-Year students. First-Year students must live in a Residence Hall for their first year. Many Greek students choose to live in their fraternity sorority house beginning their second year.

WHAT ABOUT HAZING?

- Undoubtedly, you've heard about hazing in the media. Both UNC and individual Greek organization have strict anti-hazing policies. The Greek Life Office works closely with the governing councils to educate Greek Life members on these policies. All Greek students are also required to sign an agreement against hazing activities. For a full list of anti-hazing policies, please look in the Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.
- If you ever feel your student may have been hazed or harassed please call the anti-hazing hotline at 1-888-NOTE-HAZE (1-888-6674293) or the UNC Greek Life Office at (970) 351-1360.

WHAT ABOUT ALCOHOL?

- The days of open keg parties at Greek social functions are gone. Today's fraternities and sororities promote responsible use of alcohol. UNC's Greek community has been on the cutting-edge of the alcohol issue. Our Greek students voluntarily voted the chapter houses' common living areas alcohol free several years ago. Each chapter holds seminars on responsible alcohol use.

WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A PARENT?

- As a parent, you can be supportive of your son or daughter's efforts to join a chapter. Learn as much as you can about the fraternities and sororities at UNC. Many groups provide handouts concerning activities, finances and policies. Be sure that your student looks over this information when deciding to join an organization. Once your student joins a fraternity or sorority there are also many opportunities such as family events, Mom/Dad weekends, and more for parents to be a part of.

These are just a handful of questions parents ask in regards to their student's Greek Life experience. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us!

www.unco.edu/greek (970) 351-1360