

As your student approaches the college experience, s/he may have mixed feelings - excitement, curiosity, fear, doubt. They may wonder...

- What will this new experience bring to me?
- Will I be able to handle the challenges?
- Where will I find resources to deal with all that comes along - without my familiar network of parents, teachers and friends?
- Will people like me? Will I have friends?

You also wonder how you can be supportive as a parent. This brochure is designed to respond to some of your concerns and show you how fraternity/sorority life can be a great addition to your student's college experience...



Fraternalities and sororities volunteer at The Shack Neighborhood House in West Virginia each year during Spring Break.



Brothers of Alpha Chi Rho chat with the Plattsburgh Mayor and a City Councilor during their "Meet the Neighbors" Reception.

Interfraternity Council Fraternities

There are four national and three local fraternities represented by IFC.

Inter-Sorority Association Sororities

There are seven sororities (six national and one local) represented by ISA.

Joining a group that has lost recognized from Plattsburgh State is against the Student Code of Conduct and may result in judicial charges which could lead to suspension or dismissal from the College. Questions? Contact the Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life. (518) 564-4825.



Greek Week is an annual event to celebrate fraternal principles that culminates in the Fraternity/Sorority Awards Reception at Valcour.

A Family Perspective on Fraternities & Sororities



*State University of New York
College at Plattsburgh*

Core Principles: Friendship • Scholarship • Leadership • Service

My student is going to college to get an education. How can fraternity/sorority membership contribute to this goal?

Most groups have scholastic standards for their membership to encourage and support their peers in their academic endeavors. Each group also has a faculty advisor to promote academic excellence. In addition, rewards for exceptional achievement include scholarship opportunities, campus awards and national recognition.

Is there a practical benefit to membership in a fraternity or sorority?

Many benefits are received including leadership development, academic encouragement and service opportunities. The bonds of sister/brotherhood mean that your student will have intergenerational friendships, support when they move to a new community and career networking possibilities throughout life. Opportunities for leadership and the development of interpersonal skills abound in these groups. Young men and women have the chance to test themselves in a supportive atmosphere as they learn new skills and practice them before facing the challenges of the professional world. These skills will enrich their life experience, prepare them for fulfilling relationships as adults, as well as instill a sense of civic responsibility.



Fraternities & sororities completed more than 8,000 hours of service, such as the Alternative Breaks program, and raised more than \$35,000 for philanthropies in one year.

Will the cost of membership be an added burden?

Cost of membership varies among groups but does not add measurably to the cost of campus life. All chapters are supported by dues, which are used for recruitment/publicity expenses, formal banquets, service events, liability insurance and leadership conference participation, to name a few. After some one-time costs for initiation fees, these dues are usually the only expenses.

What about all the negative things I've heard, like substance abuse and hazing?

Hazing is counter to the ideals and principles of fraternities and sororities. Plattsburgh State has a long-standing zero-tolerance policy on hazing and is aggressive in educating our recognized organizations about how hazing breaks down brother/sisterhood. In addition, each group is required to adhere to risk management policies that address the areas of substance abuse, hazing, sexual abuse and fire safety to protect their members and guests. Plattsburgh fraternities and sororities themselves sponsor many programs to eradicate problems in these areas. Upon joining, all new members are required to attend a workshop where these issues are discussed. Simply stated, substance abuse and hazing are not tolerated in our Fraternity/Sorority Community.

What exactly do these groups do?

Fraternities and sororities are involved in service initiatives, contributing countless hours and dollars to their community. They are often leaders in bridging gaps in their communities by reaching out to various groups. Their tireless energy and fresh approaches help in solving many campus/community problems. High academic standards are encouraged by most fraternities/sororities through scholarship programming and incentives provided by many chapters and inter/national organizations. Most groups at Plattsburgh State have a cumulative grade point average higher than 2.5 and the Fraternity/Sorority Community has developed a policy to assist those chapters that have fallen below this mark. In fact, the All-Fraternity/Sorority GPA is typically higher than the All-Campus Average.

If my student is interested in joining, what is my role as a family member?

The most important thing you can do is to be involved in this experience with your student. Talk to your student about their thoughts and experiences frequently during the recruitment process, during the new member education program and as an initiated member. Encourage them to “comparison shop” before choosing an organization to join - statistics on each chapter’s academic, recruitment and service performance, campus involvement and financial information are available in the Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life. If you are confused or concerned at any time, contact Allison Swick-Duttine, Director, at (518) 564-4825.

Teambuilding and goal-setting retreats help fraternity/sorority officers develop skills to learn to work effectively in groups.



How can my student get involved in fraternity/sorority life?

The Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life has information on membership selection processes. While all students are eligible to participate in the recruitment process, only students who have obtained 12 credit hours at PSU and a 2.3 GPA can join. Therefore, first semester students aren’t eligible to join. Furthermore, your student should never accept membership in an organization calling itself a fraternity or sorority that is not recognized by Plattsburgh State. Encourage your student to reach out to the fraternities/sororities on Plattsburgh’s campus. They will make valuable contacts for their college years as well as for the rest of their lives.