

As you approach the college experience, you may have mixed feelings - excitement, curiosity, fear, doubt. You 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 support network of parents, teachers and friends?
- Will people like me? Will I have friends?

This brochure is designed to respond to some of your concerns and to show you how joining a fraternity or sorority can help make your college experience more well-rounded. If you still have questions, feel free to contact Allison Swick-Duttine, Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life, at allison.swick@plattsburgh.edu.



Fraternities and sororities coordinate Fall Fiesta each year for all students during National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. Events include Pumpkin Pie Eating, Scarecrow Dressing, Bobbing for Apples Relay and Jack o' Lantern Carving.



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

Fraternities and sororities have a 200+ year history of contribution to campus experiences with more than one million active members in the national member groups. This proven support network is available as you attempt to meet the challenges of higher education. Making the transition from high school to a four-year college can be a challenging experience; the network of membership in a fraternity or sorority can go far in working through the change. The Plattsburgh State fraternities and sororities include:

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 been suspended or is not recognized by 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. If you have questions, contact the Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life, (518) 564-4825.

A New Student's Perspective on Fraternities & Sororities



State University of New York
College at Plattsburgh

Core Principles: Friendship • Scholarship • Leadership • Service

What is a fraternity or sorority?

Fraternities (men's organizations) and sororities (women's) are organizations that offer students a community identity with peers who have common interests and goals, while allowing opportunities to develop individuality. It is a values-based support system, a living-learning environment founded upon the principles of friendship, scholarship, leadership and service.

What are the benefits of joining?

Many students seeking friendship and a home away from home join fraternities and sororities. Along with these benefits come the support of a peer group, opportunities for community and college service, high academic standards, educational programming on topics of wellness and personal development, experience working with a diverse membership and leadership opportunities.



Specialized Alternative Break trips are available for fraternity and sorority members exclusively, such as the Winter Break trip to volunteer in Nicaragua.

Will the cost of membership be a 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 fraternities and sororities 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. 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.

Will joining a fraternity hurt my grades?

High academic standards are encouraged by most fraternities/sororities and most have a cumulative GPA higher than 2.5. In fact, the All-Greek GPA is typically higher than the All-Campus Average. To assist your academic transition to college life, fraternities/sororities require that students have a minimum 2.3 GPA and 12 credit hours at PSU in order to join. New students may not join until they have completed these requirements.

Many fraternities and sororities have academic plans to assist members in setting high academic standards and achieving their scholastic goals. These programs include recognition and incentive programs, as well as specialized assistance for members who are having academic difficulty.

How do I join a fraternity or sorority?

Fraternities and sororities choose their members through a mutual selection process, called "membership recruitment". Should you choose to participate, you may attend events with each fraternity/sorority ranging from service projects to informal dinners at which you will meet the members and learn about each chapter and their activities. It is also an opportunity to ask questions about financial obligations, time commitments, membership requirements and their position on hazing. The Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life recommends that you visit several organizations before choosing one to join.



Fraternities and sororities completed more than 8,000 hours of service last year during programs such as the Senior Citizens Prom at a local nursing home. They also raised more than \$35,000 for charities, such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

While all students are eligible to participate in membership recruitment, only students who have obtained 12 credit hours at PSU and a 2.3 GPA can join. This means first semester students cannot join, pledge or accept any form of membership. Furthermore, you should never accept membership in an organization calling itself a fraternity or sorority that is not recognized by Plattsburgh State. If you are unsure which groups are recognized, contact Fraternity/Sorority Life at (518) 564-4825.

Reach out to the fraternities and sororities on Plattsburgh's campus. You will make valuable contacts for your college years and the rest of your life. For more information, stop by the Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life, Angell College Center 204.