

COMMON TERMINOLOGY

Chapter Accreditation Program - a student-developed program that evaluates the organizational performance of fraternities and sororities each year and gives each group a “star” ranking between one (lowest) and five (highest). Those who achieve a four or five-star ranking are deemed to be above average or outstanding organizations and are awarded with special incentives and privileges from the College.

Fraternity - a values-based organization for men based on the principles of friendship, scholarship, leadership and service. This term is often used as a generic term for both men’s *and* women’s fraternal organizations.

Interfraternity Council (IFC) or Inter-Sorority Association (ISA) - IFC is the student-run governance council for all Plattsburgh State fraternities. ISA is the equivalent for sororities.

Local - a fraternity or sorority that exists only at Plattsburgh State or at a few campuses in the Northeast region.

National - a fraternity or sorority that exist on campuses around the world. They often have a inter/national headquarters and staff and belong to an international umbrella organization.

New Member Education - an orientation period to a fraternity or sorority that usually lasts from two to eight weeks, depending on the organization. The intent is for new members to learn the purpose, history, goals and structure of the organization. Sometimes referred to as “pledging” or “intake”.

Philanthropy - a charitable organization to which a sorority or fraternity contributes time and money to on both the local and national level.

Sorority - a values-based organization for women based on the principles of friendship, scholarship, leadership and service.

For more information, contact Allison Swick-Duttine,
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The Student Guide



to Fraternities & Sororities

Joining a fraternity or sorority could be one of the best decisions you can make while at Plattsburgh State. Because joining a fraternal organization is a lifetime decision, the Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life encourages you to not make hasty decisions when determining which organization is right for you. Following are some tips to help you out...

IMPORTANT THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- **First semester students may not accept ANY form of membership in a fraternity/sorority.** *However, they are encouraged to participate in fraternity/sorority events and programs to get to know the organizations. You should make a point to visit all of the fraternities or sororities in order to make an educated decision when they become eligible to join. Just because the members of one organization are “nice” doesn’t mean they are the best fit for you or that they will offer the most benefits.*

- **Only students who have earned a 2.3 GPA and 12 credit hours at Plattsburgh State may join.** *If you do not meet these requirements and join anyway, you are subject to judicial action, including suspension from the College. (Appeals to this regulation may be made by transfer students).*

- **Students may NOT join organizations that have lost recognition from the College.** *These organizations have been closed by the College and international organizations because they were not upholding fraternal values and were engaging in risky behaviors that endangered themselves and other students. Students who join organizations that are not recognized by the College are subject to judicial action, including dismissal.*

- **For information on a specific organizations, contact the Center for Fraternity/Sorority Life.** *This office maintains comparative statistics on each organization (GPAs, service hours, etc.), as well as information about each organization’s Chapter Accreditation Performance. Furthermore, the Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life can give you contact information for members, advisors and national headquarters if you want a “second opinion”.*

- **Plattsburgh State’s fraternities/sororities have a zero tolerance policy on hazing.** *No student should be subjected to hazing, particularly fraternity/sorority new members because these organizations were founded on friendship and values such as respect, honor and trust. Fraternities/sororities that haze are simply not living up to their fraternal principles. For information on the crime of hazing and how to report it, visit www.plattsburgh.edu.*

QUESTIONS TO ASK MEMBERS WHEN CHOOSING WHICH FRATERNITY OR SORORITY TO JOIN

- *What is the purpose of the organization? Why should I join? What aspects of the chapter encouraged you to join?*
- *How will joining your organization benefit me?*
- *What are the financial obligations of membership? Are there any extra costs the semester you pledge?*
- *What is required during the new member education process? How much time does it take? Can I see a copy of the new member program? What percentage of new members are initiated?*
- *What is your organization’s position on hazing?*
- *What does this organization do to support it’s members academically? What is the chapter GPA?*
- *What does this organization do for the College and community?*
- *Are the members involved in activities outside of the fraternity?*
- *What is your organization’s relationship with other fraternities and sororities? What do you think your reputation is on campus?*
- *Does this group participate in the Chapter Accreditation Program? What is it’s “star” status?*
- *Is this a national or local organization? What do you see as the benefits of joining one over the other?*
- *Have you had any problems with the College, inter/national organization or the City in the past?*
- *Are there any housing obligations?*