

Greek Life Facts

- There is over 5 million Greek Alumni world wide.
- Forty-three of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate are members of a fraternity or sorority
- Twenty-nine percent of the House of Representatives are Greek affiliated
- Greeks not only participate in their own fraternity or sorority leadership, but are also involved in the same extracurricular activities as nonaffiliated students
- Greek alumni are more satisfied with the social and cultural aspects of the college experience than nonaffiliated students
- Greek affiliated alumni said their was a greater match between what they studied in college and their first job, when compared to nonaffiliated students

Greek Terminology

Active: A fully initiated member of a sorority or fraternity.

Bid: A formal invitation to join a Greek organization.

Brother: An active member of a fraternity.

Chapter: A local group of a national organization.

Initiation: Ceremony during which new members of Greek organizations become active, life-long members of their organization.

Legacy: A person whose parent, grandparent, or sibling was an active member of a sorority or fraternity.

Recruitment: Formal process where interested women can learn more about NPC organizations and be asked to join.

Ritual: Private ceremony of a Greek organization. The formal document that contains the secret principles and ideals upon which the organization was founded. Only initiated members are privy to the ritual; learning the ritual is usually a part of the initiation ceremony. Ritual is sacred and unique to each inter/national organization and is the common bond between all members of an sorority or fraternity, regardless of when or where they were initiated.

Α Alpha (al-fah)	Β Beta (bay-tah)	Γ Gamma (gam-ah)	Δ Delta (dei-ta)	Ε Epsilon (ep-si-son)	Ζ Zeta (zey-tah)
Η Eta (ay-tah)	Θ Theta (thay-tah)	Ι Iota (eye-o-tah)	Κ Kappa (cap-pah)	Λ Lambda (lam-to-dah)	Μ Mu (mew)
Ν Nu (new)	Ξ Xi (zie)	Ο Omicron (om-e-cron)	Π Pi (pie)	Ρ Rho (roe)	Σ Sigma (sig-mah)
Τ Tau (taw)	Υ Upsilon (up-si-lon)	Φ Phi (fie)	Χ Chi (kie)	Ψ Psi (sigh)	Ω Omega (oh-may-gah)

A Parents Guide to Greek Life



George
Washington
University

Office of
Greek Life

Is it all Greek to
you?

“Why should my student go Greek?”

Greek life is one of the best ways for your student to get involved with the university. Fraternities' and Sororities' commitment to academic excellence, philanthropy, and community service prepare their members for success in their personal and professional endeavors. The lifelong friendships made in the Greek system provide every member with a network of individuals around the world.

Academic Support

Our Fraternities and Sororities pride themselves in their academic success. Each chapter offers a wide range of support and assistance to their members including national and local scholarships, incentives and awards, time management and study skills workshops, established study hours, and grade point average requirements.

Older members share their collegiate experience with younger members, advising on which classes to take and what can be expected of certain majors.

The GW Greek community creates an environment where members are expected and supported to excel academically.

Service to the Community

One of the most visible aspects of the Greek community is the positive effect Greeks have on the Foggy Bottom community, through their community service and philanthropy.

Every chapter organizes fundraising events and service projects for their chosen charitable organization each year, which range from daylong service projects to weeklong fundraising events. Collaboration between the chapters not only benefits the worthy charities but also fosters unity among the groups and personal growth for the individual members.

Leadership and Personal Development

Joining a Greek organization is one of the best choices your student can make at GW. Our chapters are dependent on the leadership of its members. From new member positions to chapter president, there is an opportunity for every member to get involved and actively learn the important qualities of leadership.

Greeks are actively involved in GW's 300+ student organizations. Our members have served in the leadership of many of these organizations including College Democrats and Republicans, GW Hillel, GW Athletic Teams Program Board, STAR, Student Association, and many others.

Being involved in a fraternity or sorority does not limit you from becoming involved in the rest of campus. In fact, it opens many doors. If you want to become involved in campus activities, the Greek Community provides you the resources, encouragement, assistance, and insight to do so.

Networking and Alumni Involvement

Fraternities and Sororities maintain active alumni relations, which affords many career opportunities. Chapter alumni events put our members in contact with men and women in various career fields.

Nowhere else on campus can you find a professional network of alumni than through a fraternity or sorority's alumni group. You're not only connected with alumni from your campus, but from the entire organization.

FAQs

Q: Isn't Greek life like it is on TV or in the movies?

A: Unfortunately stereotypes do exist and often times Fraternity and Sorority members are portrayed as irresponsible, party crazed adolescents. This image couldn't be further from the truth. Our chapters are value-based organizations, committed to the development of character and lifelong friendship.

Q: What about the time commitment?

A: Anything worth being a part of is worth putting time into. While there are mandatory meetings, many activities are optional. Have your student ask about the time commitment during recruitment.

Q: Honestly what's the situation with alcohol?

A: Alcohol abuse is unhealthy and inconsistent with our chapters' ideals. All social events where alcohol is present are required to be registered with the university and no member under the legal drinking age is permitted to consume alcohol. Most importantly, Greek organizations preach moderation and teach control.

Q: What about hazing?

A: GW has a zero tolerance policy in regards to hazing. Any claim of such behavior is thoroughly investigated by the Office of Greek Life and Student Judicial Services. Hazing is against all our chapters' values and none of our chapters condone the practice of hazing.

GREEK LIFE

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