

Explore SDSU - Get Involved: Fraternity & Sorority Life

Frequently Asked Questions

How does an individual join a fraternity or sorority at San Diego State University?

We highly encourage anyone interested in joining a fraternity or sorority to do their research. Each organization has their own mission statement, purpose, and values. Beyond organizational facts, we encourage individuals to also interact with members of the chapter during their recruitment processes. We have four governing councils and each governing council determines the recruitment week(s) for their respective chapters. We advise paying close attention to social media pages of each governing council for updates.

To help provide interested students the opportunity to connect with as many chapters as possible before exploring the recruitment processes, the Fraternity & Sorority Life community hosts a Go Greek! Expo every Fall semester during Welcome Week. At this event, individuals are able to interact with every active and recognized social fraternity and sorority to learn more about what each chapter stands for and the chapter culture created by each chapter's membership.

Do all organizations participate in recruitment each semester?

No. While most organizations will participate in recruitment for each semester, some organizations, specifically some cultural-based organizations, will only take one new member class for the entire academic year. Additionally, for the College Panhellenic Association, after the formal recruitment process, eligible chapters can participate in Continuous Open Bidding (also known as C.O.B.). During the Spring C.O.B. recruitment process, typically 4 chapters are eligible to participate in this process, pending their overall chapter membership total.

Why does the College Panhellenic Association facilitate a formal recruitment process?

The College Panhellenic Association governing council follows guidelines provided by the National Panhellenic Conference to facilitate a formal recruitment process. In this process, Potential New Members (PNMs) are assigned a Rho Gamma (or Recruitment Guide) and have the opportunity to visit each active Panhellenic chapter. After the first day (Leadership Day), PNMs who remain in the formal recruitment process may have their own individual invitation schedules. Please note, this formal recruitment process is a mutual selection process between the chapter membership and the PNMs in the recruitment process. For more information, please review the [Parent & Family Meeting 2019: College Panhellenic Association Formal Recruitment presentation](#).

Do I have to identify as the culture that an organization was founded on?

No. While some of our social fraternities and sororities were founded on a cultural aspect or identity, it is not a requirement that a student interested in exploring membership in these organizations needs to identify in the same cultural identity,

What does the new member process look like? How long is it and how much of a time commitment is it?

The new member education process looks different for each social fraternity and sorority. In fact, some organizations don't have a "pledging process". That said, new member education processes can last anywhere from 48 hours to approximately 12 weeks. Typically, new members must allocate approximately 2-3 hours a week to their chapter's new member education program.

Do all chapters have a chapter facility?

No. Currently, all chapters within the College Panhellenic Association operate a university recognized chapter facility. Most of the Interfraternity Council chapters operate a university recognized chapter facility either in Fraternity Row or nearby campus. None of our National Pan-Hellenic Council chapters operate a university recognized chapter facility and only one of our United Sorority & Fraternity Council chapters operates a university recognized chapter facility.

Do you have to live in the chapter facility if your organization has one?

It depends. Each social fraternity and sorority that operates a chapter facility will have their own process of identifying who is selected to live in the chapter facility. For instance, some chapters require some chapter executive officers to live in the chapter facilities. Some chapters may also utilize a merit point system to identify who is picked to live in the chapter facility.

First time freshmen who have a 2-year contract with the Office of Housing Administration (OHA) can explore moving in their chapter facility for their 2nd year (sophomore) at SDSU via the Sophomore Success Program Exemption Process. However, there are eligibility parameters that must be met in order to participate in this exemption process. To learn more about the Sophomore Success Program Exemption Process, please visit GreekLife.SDSU.edu.

What is it like to live in a chapter facility?

Living in a chapter facility can be an enjoyable experience for members to build closer bonds with both the organization's members and the purpose of the organization itself. Chapter facilities range in size from 12 to 40 beds so the live-in experience will differ depending on the organization. Additionally, some organizations have a chef (meals provided in rent) and some may also have a live-in house director to provide additional support and guidance to the residents.

Does it cost a lot to be in a fraternity or sorority?

The cost of joining a social fraternity or sorority will vary pending on the semester and year. For chapters that operate a chapter facility, the membership dues may be higher for the members,

even those who live-out, than other organizations. Typically, the first semester of membership will cost the most due to initiation fees. To see a breakdown of social fraternity and sorority membership dues, please look at the Cost of Fraternity & Sorority spreadsheet.