It's all Greek!

Your guide to Fraternity and Sorority Life at Rockhurst University
Dear Student,

Welcome to Rockhurst University! Your experience here will be like no other. The strong academic foundation at Rockhurst complemented by the Jesuit tradition of service and leadership, and the friendships you’ll form will make your college years some of the richest of your life.

One of the many outstanding aspects of Rockhurst is its award-winning fraternity and sorority life community. Currently, we have eight strong organizations. More than 450 Rockhurst students claim membership in a fraternity or sorority, and they all look forward to welcoming you to campus and letting you know about their organization. You’ll find each of our sororities and fraternities is unique in its history, mission and its members, but they all share four main purposes – developing excellence in leadership, scholarship, service and brotherhood and sisterhood.

Students join fraternities and sororities through a process called recruitment. Rockhurst follows a deferred recruitment system, which does not allow first-semester freshmen to affiliate with a fraternity or sorority until at least 12 academic hours have been completed. Deferred recruitment provides incoming students a chance to get to know the University and make the necessary adjustments to life away from home during their first semester before joining a fraternity or sorority.

Joining a fraternity or sorority has many benefits and responsibilities. The average grade-point average (GPA) of fraternities and sororities is significantly higher than the average Rockhurst student GPA. By joining a fraternity or sorority, you will have strong academic support. Membership also provides opportunities to develop leadership and organizational skills, and to participate in a variety of community service activities. And most important, the friends you make through fraternity and sorority involvement will be friends for life. Rockhurst University fraternities and sororities are consistently recognized by their national organizations for their success in academics, philanthropy, and overall chapter excellence. This is a testament to the strength of our chapters at Rockhurst.

Hopefully this has given you a brief introduction to fraternity and sorority life at Rockhurst. We invite you to learn more about the largest student organization at Rockhurst by looking through this booklet, attending our fall information nights and visiting our website at www.rockhurst.edu/greeklife. Our website gives you detailed descriptions of all our organizations. We look forward to seeing you in August!

— Jordan Siebenmorgen, Panhellenic Council President and Sam Gehling, Interfraternity Council (IFC) President

Did You Know?

Many campus leaders including the S.A.B. President, Orientation Coordinators and Leaders, and Social Mentors are Rockhurst fraternity and sorority members.
Sororities
Alpha Sigma Alpha
Delta Xi Phi
Theta Phi Alpha
Zeta Tau Alpha

Fraternities
Alpha Delta Gamma
Pi Kappa Alpha
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Tau Kappa Epsilon

Please visit www.rockhurst.edu/greeklife for detailed descriptions of our fraternities and sororities, their websites and more important info about Greek life.

Did You Know? Students with membership in a fraternity or sorority are more likely to complete college.
Panhellenic Information

Panhellenic Information Nights provide you an opportunity to learn more about the benefits of being involved in a sorority. There is no obligation to join a sorority just by attending and you’ll have the opportunity to interact with new students as well as sorority women at Rockhurst. The information night dates are below. Look for flyers on campus to find out details and visit www.rockhurst.edu/greeklife.

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, 9 p.m., McGee Lobby
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, 9 p.m., Party Barn

Panhellenic Fall Party

Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, 9 p.m., Party Barn
Fall Party is a time to interact with sorority women and meet a lot of other students on campus who might be interested in joining a sorority. You’ll receive information at the information nights about Fall Party and you can RSVP for Fall Party via Facebook. It’s a great time to interact with many students and learn more about sorority life. Once Fall Party is complete you may register online for Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment and “friend” the Rockhurst Pi Chis on Facebook to stay up on all activities.

Did You Know?
Rockhurst Greeks completed more than 3,000 service hours last year.

Formal Recruitment

Saturday, Jan. 14 – Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012
You will be able to register online for Sorority Formal Recruitment after Fall Party. All formal recruitment registrations must be in by Jan. 1, 2012, to avoid a $10 late fee, and applications will not be accepted after Jan. 9, 2012.

Saturday, Jan. 14
Orientation
Science Center 115
Suggested attire: casual

Philanthropy Recruitment Round
Party Barn
Suggested attire: jeans/khakis and your recruitment t-shirt

Sunday, Jan. 15
Theme Day
Suggested attire: skirt or nice pants, no jeans/khakis

Monday, Jan. 16
Preference Round
Suggested attire: dress or skirt

Tuesday, Jan. 18
Bid Day!
Suggested attire: casual
Fraternity Recruitment Schedule

Fall Recruitment (open to current sophomores, juniors and seniors with a 2.5 GPA and at least 12 credit hours earned at Rockhurst and transfer students with a 2.5 and 12 credit hours from previous institution)

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011

Open House – 9 p.m., Science Center 115
Any current student interested in joining a fraternity during the fall 2011 semester must attend the Open House. There will be no exceptions!

Fraternity Information Nights provide you an opportunity to learn more about the benefits of being involved in a fraternity. There is no obligation to join if you attend and you’ll have the opportunity to interact with new students as well as current fraternity men at Rockhurst. Check our website and look for flyers on campus to find out dates and locations.

Fraternity Recruitment
Any current student interested in joining a fraternity during the spring 2012 semester must have attended one of the spring Open House sessions listed below. There will be no exceptions!

Open House 1 – Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012, 9 p.m.
Open House 2 – Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012, 9 p.m.

Individual fraternities will hold invitational recruitment events the two weeks following the open house. Be sure to attend one of the open house events for further details.

Additional Dates of Importance
March 1, 2012
Panhellenic Badge Day
April 15-20, 2012
Greek Week

Did You Know? All but two U.S. presidents since 1825 have been fraternity men, and 63 percent of the U.S. presidents’ cabinet members since 1900 have been Greek.
Foundational to life at Rockhurst University is our mission of “Learning, Leadership and Service in the Jesuit Tradition.” The mission is woven throughout Greek life at Rockhurst in a variety of ways.

Learning
We place a strong emphasis on academics, including time management workshops and mandatory study hours. The result is that the fraternity and sorority grade-point average (GPA) is higher than the University average. In fact, all individual chapters are above the University average.

Leadership
Fraternity and sorority members are actively involved in almost every other aspect of campus life and student organizations:
- Fraternity or sorority members consistently lead organizations such as Student Senate, Social Activities Board and Homecoming Committee and more.
- Rockhurst fraternity and sorority members are highly involved in Orientation, act as Social Mentors, work with Campus Ministry and participate on almost all Rockhurst athletic teams.
- Greeks are involved in the greater Kansas City community, participating in internships with local companies such as Cerner, Sprint, Hallmark, Stowers Institute for Medical Research, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the American Humanics National Office, as well as coaching local middle and high school athletic teams.

Service
Greeks are leaders in campus and community-wide service projects. Member participation in service projects not only benefits the community, but it facilitates personal growth and greater unity among members. Each Greek organization raises money for a national philanthropy through special events. Additionally, each organization participates in raising funds and awareness for local philanthropies by helping sponsor events such as blood drives, canned-food drives, an annual haunted house and National Youth Service Day.
What are the criteria to join a fraternity or sorority?

To go through recruitment, each new first-year student must register for recruitment and have completed a minimum 12 academic hours at Rockhurst (hours taken in high school may not count toward that 12). Transfer students may participate if they have completed a minimum of 12 academic hours at another institution (courses taken in high school do not count toward that 12) and meet the minimum grade-point average requirement. Students must be enrolled full time, have at least a 2.5 GPA, and may not be on disciplinary probation. Some fraternities and sororities may require higher academic eligibility requirements. Men must attend an IFC open house to participate in recruitment. Women are highly encouraged to attend the Panhellenic open houses and Fall Party.

Why do people join fraternities and sororities?

Philanthropic projects, community service, tradition, career networking, social opportunities and becoming part of an international organization are all reasons mentioned for becoming a member of a fraternity or sorority, but the one cited most often by members is the sense of brotherhood/sisterhood. The element of brotherhood/sisterhood is nonetheless a difficult attribute to convey to men and women interested in joining. It is a feeling of togetherness, support and teamwork. It is companionship, personal discovery, challenge, and awareness.

Aren’t fraternities and sororities just like the ones in the movies and on TV?

Fictional accounts from Animal House, Revenge of the Nerds, Road Trip, Old School, the television show Greek and the news media tend to focus on, and exaggerate, the social aspect of fraternity and sorority life, as opposed to all the impressive, multidimensional benefits of membership.

Rockhurst has a strong, vibrant fraternity and sorority community and social functions do occur but these events are tightly controlled for the safety of members and guests. Beyond that, the fraternities and sororities also host many service and philanthropic events and other activities entirely without alcohol, and all fraternities and sororities oppose hazing because it has no place in organizations based on mutual respect and shared values.

How much time does fraternity or sorority membership require?

Like most other worthwhile extracurricular activities, how much you get out of your fraternity/sorority membership is related to how much you put in. On average, expect to contribute three to six hours per week for meetings and mandatory activities. Optional activities, such as holding an office, attending social events, playing on an intramural sports team, or helping out with various projects will, of course, take additional time. Some organizations require more time than others. Be sure to ask questions regarding time commitments during recruitment.

Did You Know?

- College graduates who were members of a fraternity or sorority tend to be more financially successful than those graduates not in Greek organizations.
- College graduates who were members of a fraternity or sorority receive more donations - and in greater amounts - from sorority and fraternity alumni.
- The all fraternity and sorority GPA at Rockhurst is 3.333 and the all University GPA is 3.18.
**Active/Initiate:** a member who has completed his/her membership orientation process, has been through the initiation ceremony and is currently enrolled in college.

**Alumna/Alumnus:** an initiated member of a sorority or fraternity who is no longer in college.

**Associate/New Member:** a member of a fraternity/sorority who has not been initiated.

**Bid:** an invitation to join a specific fraternity or sorority chapter.

**Chapter:** the collegiate group of an national or international Greek organization.

**Continuous Open Bidding (COB):** the period other than Formal Recruitment in which eligible chapters acquire new members.

**Fraternity:** Greek organization for men or women.

**Initiation:** a ceremony that brings an affiliate member into membership of a fraternity or sorority.

**IFC (Interfraternity Council):** governing body for Rockhurst fraternities; coordinates recruitment activities and policies related to fraternities.

**Inter/National Organization:** a national or international Greek letter organization of which each chapter is affiliated.

**Legacy:** a potential member of a fraternity or sorority who is a child/sibling/grandchild of a member of a Greek organization.

**National Multicultural Greek Council:** umbrella council for Multicultural Greek Letter Organizations. NMGC is composed of 13 member organizations who meet annually to discuss the development and implementation of the council’s mission. Explore nationalmgc.org to learn more.

**National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (Nalfo):** umbrella council for Latino Greek Letter Organizations, promoting positive inter-fraternal relations, communication and development through mutual respect, leadership, honesty, professionalism and education.

**National Panhellenic Conference (NPC):** an umbrella organization for 26 inter/national women’s fraternities and sororities that promotes and represents its member organizations.

**National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC):** coordinating body for the nine historically African American fraternities and sororities.

**North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC):** an umbrella organization for member fraternities that promotes and represents its member organizations.

**Panhellenic:** governing body for Rockhurst sororities; coordinates all recruitment activities and policies related to sororities.

**Philanthropy:** a community service and/or fundraising project sponsored by a chapter.

**Potential Member:** man or woman going through the recruitment process for Greek membership.

**Quota:** number of women a sorority may extend bid to, as determined by Panhellenic at the conclusion of the third round of recruitment.

**Recruitment:** selection process in which fraternities and sororities gain new members.

**Recruitment Counselor/Pi Chi:** upper-class member of sorority who has disaffiliated from her chapter to assist and serve as an impartial counselor to potential new members during the formal recruitment process.

**Ritual:** traditional, secret ceremonies of a chapter.

**Sorority:** Greek organization for women.

Visit [www.rockhurst.edu/greeklife](http://www.rockhurst.edu/greeklife) for more information.