What are the financial obligations of joining a fraternity or sorority?
Each organization requires its members to pay dues, which vary from chapter to chapter. Dues are used to cover the chapter's operating expenses, events, philanthropies, and conferences.

What are the requirements for joining a fraternity or sorority?
Membership selection criteria vary, and are determined by each individual fraternity or sorority based on the policies and procedures of its inter/national headquarters. In general, all organizations have minimum GPA requirements, and some require volunteer service hours and/or letters of recommendation. Additionally, IFC and Panhellenic organizations are open to first semester freshmen and transfer students, however, NPHC organizations have minimum credit hour requirements. You must be a currently enrolled student at USC Upstate to be eligible to join any chapter.

How do I find the “right” organization for me?
Chapter selection is a feeling-out process. The trick is to narrow your options without limiting them. Keep an open mind, watch for cues, avoid preconceptions, and – just as you did in applying to college – consider several alternatives. Word-of-mouth can be informative, but gossip is not fact. Make your own judgment, and remember joining a fraternity or sorority is a lifetime commitment.

What are the time commitments associated with joining a fraternity or sorority?
Like most co-curricular activities, how much you get from the group depends on how much time you are willing to put into it. On average, expect to dedicate two to four hours a week for meetings and events. Other optional activities such as serving in a leadership role or attending social events will take additional time. With good time management, your chapter activities will easily fit into your schedule.

Is it true that all fraternities and sororities do is party and drink?
NO. While there are social aspects of fraternities and sororities, as with any other student organizations, it is not the primary focus of chapters. In addition to social programs, chapters also host a variety of educational programs, speakers, service projects, and philanthropic events.
ABOUT FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE
AT USC UPSTATE

USC Upstate is home to 12 active fraternities and sororities. All USC Upstate chapters are members of larger inter/national organizations, meaning they have established governance structures, policies, and procedures they must adhere to, in addition to the policies set forth by the University. Although the University establishes policies regarding the operation of all registered student organizations, the membership selection criteria are determined by each individual fraternity or sorority based on the policies and procedures of its inter/national headquarters. You must be a currently enrolled student at USC Upstate to be eligible to join one of our chapters. Any questions regarding selection criteria should be directed to the chapter. Please also note that there are fees associated with membership in these organizations. For additional information regarding dues, please contact the organization or Office of Student Life.

USC Upstate’s Greek Community is governed by three councils: the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC), National-Panhellenic Council (NPHC), and Panhellenic Council (PC). Each council sets forth policies and procedures for its affiliated chapters, and is advised by the Office of Student Life, which oversees Fraternity & Sorority Life at USC Upstate.

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC)
Pi Kappa Phi (ΠΚΦ)
Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ)

IFC Fraternities limit their membership to male students at USC Upstate. Students are eligible for membership beginning their first semester of enrollment. These organizations participate in IFC Recruitment.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)
Men’s Organizations
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (ΑΦΑ)
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (ΚΑΨ)
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (ΩΨΦ)
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (ΦΒΣ)

Women’s Organizations*
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (ΔΣΘ)
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. (ΣΓΡ)
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (ΖΦΒ)

NPHC is the governance council for historically African-American fraternities and sororities. These organizations host Information/Interest Meetings where they discuss membership requirements. Students who are accepted for membership would then participate in Membership Intake, the process of educating and initiating new members into an individual chapter. Most organizations require sophomore status for membership, but some are open to second semester freshmen.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has a chapter at USC Upstate but is currently suspended. This organization is not eligible to recruit or initiate new members. Any questions regarding this organization should be directed to the Office of Student Life.

Panhellenic Council (PC)
Delta Zeta Sorority (ΔΖ)
Phi Mu Fraternity (ΦΜ)
Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity (ΖΤΑ)

Panhellenic organizations limit their membership to female students at USC Upstate. Students are eligible for membership beginning their first semester of enrollment. These organizations participate in Panhellenic Recruitment.

USC UPSTATE HAZING POLICY

In addition to the legal and physical risks, hazing is harmful to the morale of members and creates additional problems within the organization. The very activities meant to “build pledge class/line unity” can be detrimental to the overall unity within the organization, creating issues with distrust and loyalty. It also hinders the ability of organizations to recruit and retain members, and can create a vicious cycle that will ultimately destroy the organization.

The University defines hazing as any act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, faculty member or other University official. This includes the removal of public or private property for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with or as a continued membership in a group or organization (Code of Student Behavior). It is important to note that a student’s “willingness” to participate in the hazing activities is not a defense. Essentially, if someone gives an organization “permission” to haze them, it is still hazing and is still a violation of the Code of Student Behavior, South Carolina Law, and organizational policies. Additionally, hazing is not an issue limited to fraternities and sororities, but can also occur in non-Greek organizations and athletic teams. If you feel that you have been hazed, please contact the Office of Student Life via email at stulife@uscupstate.edu or phone 864-503-5387, or contact the Dean of Students at 864-503-5107 to submit a report. Such reports can be submitted anonymously. Additionally, any member of the University or surrounding community who has witnessed hazing activities can also submit reports for us to investigate.