Greek Life

AT MERCER UNIVERSITY

YOUR GUIDE TO FRATERNITIES & SORORITIES
On behalf of Mercer’s fraternities and sororities, we are excited that you are considering joining our family of Greek brothers and sisters. When you join a fraternity or sorority at Mercer, you become part of one of the largest and most dynamic student groups on campus. Approximately 25 percent of all undergraduate students choose to join a Greek organization, and Mercer Greeks have a proven reputation for being able to successfully balance campus involvement, philanthropic and community service, and a commitment to academic achievement.

Membership in a Greek organization can open doors to great opportunities and experiences during your college years, and students involved in the Greek community excel in academics and serve in many leadership roles on campus. These Mercerians learn how to discover their individual strengths and develop their potential as leaders while understanding what it means to be effective team members and make important contributions to the legacy of the organization. These special bonds often extend well beyond a student’s four years of college and provide lifelong friendships and invaluable networking relationships with fellow Greek alumni all over the world.

Through the processes of Membership Recruitment and Intake, you have the opportunity to take a closer look at each organization, meet individual members, and learn what it is like to be part of Mercer’s Greek community. Just like when choosing a college, you should keep an open mind as you get to know each chapter and seek out the organization that feels most comfortable to you—many students consider their fraternity or sorority to be their “home away from home.”

If you have any questions or would like more information about fraternities and sororities at Mercer University, contact Mercer’s Office of Campus Life at 478.301.2868 or greeklife@mercer.edu.

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LEADERSHIP

Membership in a fraternity or sorority provides numerous opportunities for you to be involved in leadership roles. Each chapter has a committee structure that allows you to participate in various operational aspects of the organization. Additionally, chapters provide developmental programming in areas such as leadership and communication. Your chapter will encourage you to become involved in campus-wide activities. Greek Life is a great springboard to campus involvement such as the Student Government Association, special interest clubs and organizations, Orientation, Residence Life and Housing, intramural sports, and many others. Striking a balance between academics and social activities is an important part of college life. Involvement in both areas provides a well-rounded college experience, which is an appealing asset to potential employers.

ACADEMICS

The Greek community at Mercer realizes that excelling in academics is a top priority for students. Each Greek organization has its own unique way of encouraging and rewarding superior academic performance. Individual chapters, as well as the four Greek governing boards, sponsor various educational programs and awards. Programs may include time management and study skills seminars, scheduled study hours with free tutoring, organized study groups, or advice on courses and professors. The Greek honor society, Order of Omega, also inspires Greek students to reach their highest potential by rewarding academic excellence. Mercer’s Greek organizations take academics seriously, and it shows through their accomplishments as a community. On average, graduation rates are higher for Greeks than non-Greeks, and the Greek GPA is higher than the non-Greek GPA. Mercer’s Greek community believes that educational success in college prepares men and women both personally and professionally.
SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY

Greek member interests and concerns go beyond the confines of campus life. Greek chapters sponsor a multitude of activities each year to benefit the local community and raise money for their special philanthropies or identified causes. Each chapter also donates its time to a particular project either locally or nationally. Every year, chapters fulfill campus and community needs in their sponsorship and support of events, such as clothing drives, canned food drives, and more. In addition, chapters promote projects to aid such organizations. This past year, chapters volunteered 10,000 hours of community service locally in Macon and raised $50,000 to support various national charities including the Ronald McDonald House, The Ability Experience, American Red Cross, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and many others.

FRIENDSHIP

One of the most enjoyable aspects of joining a fraternity or sorority is making new friends and forming bonds that will last long after college. Through sharing the same experiences, environment, and interests, you will develop lasting friendships with your brothers or sisters and with members of other Greek organizations. Each chapter helps its members balance the academic rigors of Mercer by offering a full social calendar during the academic year. Social events may include formals, date nights, parents’ weekends, alumni gatherings, and step shows. Mixers often co-hosted by a fraternity and sorority usually feature fun themes and increase the sense of community within the Greek system. All Greek social events are carefully organized and planned with both enjoyment and safety in mind. Each organization must follow responsible social policies and procedures put in place by Mercer administration, Mercer student governing boards, and national risk management policies for fraternities and sororities.
It’s Greek to Me: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

As you begin to explore the culture of fraternities and sororities at Mercer, you may see terminology in this brochure or hear words and phrases that are unfamiliar to you. Below is a list of common terms related to Greek Life.

**Active:** an undergraduate fraternity or sorority member who has completed his or her new member period and has been initiated into their fraternity or sorority

**Alumnus/Alumna:** a fraternity or sorority member who is no longer a member of the collegiate chapter, often due to graduating, transferring, or leaving college (An alumnus is male; an alumna is female.)

**Bid/Membership Invitation:** an invitation to join a fraternity or sorority

**Chapter:** an individual membership unit of a national or international fraternity or sorority on a college or university campus (Some groups also refer to their regular meetings as “chapter.”)

**Continuous Open Bidding (COB):** the informal process through which membership invitations may be extended and accepted at any time during the academic year outside of Recruitment

**Delayed Recruitment:** the process of waiting a few weeks to recruit new members until after they have had time to acclimate to campus prior to affiliating with Greek letter organizations

**Fraternity:** a Greek-letter organization for male undergraduate students (Some all-female organizations classify themselves as women’s fraternities.)

**Greeks:** common term used to refer to members of fraternities or sororities

**Informational:** a structured, informal meeting hosted by each fraternity or sorority for non-Greeks. These meetings provide interested students the opportunity to meet present members of the hosting chapter in addition to learning the values, mission, and requirements to join.

**Initiation:** ceremony that marks formal admittance into a fraternity or sorority during which new members receive lifelong membership privileges

**Intentional Single Preference:** the decision by a potential member to list only one fraternity or sorority on a preference card when more options are available

**Interfraternity Council (IFC):** a cooperative campus organization at Mercer made up of collegiate members of North-American Interfraternity Conference chapters

**Legacy:** a man or woman whose immediate relative (father, mother, brother, sister, etc.) is an alumnus/a or active member of a fraternity or sorority

**Membership Intake:** the process through which National Pan-Hellenic Council chapters induct new members

**National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC):** an umbrella council for eleven multicultural fraternities and sororities in universities across the United States

**National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC):** a conference body composed of nine national or international Greek-letter fraternities and sororities, each of which is autonomous as a social, Greek-letter society of college men or women, including undergraduates and alumni

**National Panhellenic Conference (NPC):** the national umbrella organization that provides support and guidance for its 26-member national and international sororities and women’s fraternities

**Neo/Neophyte:** term used, frequently by NPHC organizations, to refer to a new member

**New Member:** a man or woman who has accepted a membership invitation (bid) but has not yet been initiated into full membership
It’s Greek to Me: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Panhellenic Council (Panhellenic, Pan): a cooperative campus organization at Mercer made up of collegiate members of National Panhellenic Conference sororities and women’s fraternities

Pi Chi: a Panhellenic Council representative who has no contact with her own chapter during Recruitment in order to guide and counsel potential members and answer questions during the Recruitment process

Potential Member: any undergraduate man or woman interested in becoming a member of a fraternity or sorority who is eligible to join according to Mercer University and Greek Life requirements

 Preferential Bidding: system used at the conclusion of Panhellenic Council Recruitment to match sorority and potential member preferences

Probate: new member presentation when the inductees (typically of NPHC or NMGC) present history, reveal who they are, and often step/chant/stroll

Quota: the number of women going through Panhellenic Recruitment divided by the number of Panhellenic Council sorority chapters participating in Recruitment (Quota is the total number of new members each chapter should potentially receive through Recruitment.)

Recommendation/Reference (Rec): a letter or form submitted by an alumna of a sorority recommending a potential member to her sorority

Recruitment or Intake: a structured, designated membership Recruitment period during which a series of events are hosted by each fraternity or sorority

Ritual: the traditions of fraternities and sororities usually known only to initiated members

Sorority: a Greek-letter organization for female undergraduate students

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Like with most clubs and organizations that offer a variety of benefits to members, there are costs associated with membership in a fraternity or sorority. Most fraternities and sororities require new members to pay one-time fees related to joining the organization. All members pay ongoing membership dues that cover annual chapter operations and benefits and privileges that come with membership—such as academic support, leadership development, community service and networking opportunities, and social activities.

Each chapter typically offers ways to help members cover the financial costs, such as payment plans, and the national governing boards for each organization also offer opportunities, such as grants and scholarships.

Be sure to ask each chapter about their fees and the financial commitment required of members, and check their websites for additional information.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Pan Organizations:
- New member fee: $40-$80
- Initiation fee: $130-$335
- Badge fee: $50-$130
- Fall semester dues: $200-$250
- Spring semester dues: $200-$320
- Additional/optional: $80-$200

NPHC Organizations:
- New member fee: $750-$1,600
- Fall semester dues: $50-$200
- Spring semester dues: $50-$200

IFC Organizations:
- New member fee: $90-$200
- Initiation fee: $150-$335
- Fall semester dues: $300-$400
- Spring semester dues: $300-$400
- Additional/optional: $100-$300

NMGC Organizations:
- Semester dues: $180-210
- Additional fees: $50-$75
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I participate in Recruitment or attend an Informational, am I obligated to join?
No. Recruitment and Informationals are designed to provide you an opportunity to see what membership in a Greek organization can offer you. Additionally, attending will help you determine whether or not you would like to join the Greek community. Neither participating in Recruitment nor attending an Informational will commit you to joining any organization.

What if I only want to be in a certain fraternity or sorority?
Begin with an open mind and make a decision that is right for you. Potential members may experience disappointment with Recruitment or Intake if they enter the process with a preconceived notion about an individual chapter they intend to join and refuse to consider all available options. In the end, membership in a fraternity or sorority is more than wearing certain Greek letters, so make sure you’re happy with your choice.

Do I have to attend all Recruitment events?
Yes! Potential members are asked to attend all events for which they receive an invitation. The goal of Recruitment is to give yourself the information you need about the chapters in order to make the best decision; therefore, you must accept the maximum number of invitations your schedule can accommodate.

How do the Pan/IFC organizations decide whom to invite back for each round?
As your Recruitment schedule is reduced from round to round, so is the number of men and women each chapter is allowed to invite back. Every potential member has something to offer a chapter, but chapters must release some potential members, just as you will have to make your own decisions about some fraternities or sororities. In deciding which potential members to invite back and which to release, every chapter has a democratic voting process.

When can I join?
First-year students may join a fraternity or sorority during their first semester at Mercer. Recruitment is scheduled in order to give first-year students time to acculturate to campus and become familiar with academic life before committing to joining a fraternity or sorority. However, there are strict policies related to interactions between Greek students and first-year students prior to Recruitment in September. Some of these policies include first-year students not being allowed in the chapter houses, first-year students not socializing with Greek students off campus, and Greek students not being in first-year students' residence hall rooms. These policies are designed to keep Recruitment fair and safe for all students.

What is Delayed Recruitment?
Mercer follows a Delayed Recruitment model which means that Greek organizations cannot actively recruit during the first few weeks of fall semester. Male and female first-year students must abide by the policies, and violations can result in the inability to join a chapter. For more information, visit Delayed Recruitment Guidelines located on our website: www.mercer.edu/greek

Will all potential members join a Greek chapter at the end of Recruitment or after attending an Informational?
Pan/IFC Recruitment is a process of mutual selection, both on the part of the potential member and the Greek organization. There are many different outcomes of this process. An organization may or may not select a potential member, and that potential member may or may not choose to join the organization. Participating in Recruitment does not guarantee that you will be invited to join a chapter nor does it obligate you to join one.

For NPHC and NMGC, an Informational is your opportunity to learn more about each organization. You may attend as many as you like then apply to the organization of your choice. Application deadlines will be posted around campus, but feel free to ask members of that organization for details. Present chapter members along with their graduate advisor will conduct interviews for candidates who will then complete the Intake process. Once the Intake process has concluded, you will be a full member of that organization.

Does membership in a fraternity or sorority take up a lot of time?
Membership requires anywhere from two to eight hours per week. Members have learned to manage their time wisely with other commitments. In fact, many members have a job either on campus or in the community. The more you put into your fraternity or sorority membership, the more you will get back!

What do Greek chapters look for in members?
Membership varies from chapter to chapter and is based on national policies and chapter bylaws. Each chapter looks for different qualities and has a minimum academic requirement. No matter how wonderful the potential member may be, if he or she cannot meet that grade requirement, the fraternity or sorority must release that potential member. Often, potential members have friends currently in a Greek organization, or they are legacies to certain chapters. Some feel that these potential members have an advantage; however, just as you are not obligated to join that chapter, they are not obligated to extend you an invitation for membership. Recruitment and Informationals are designed to give all potential members an equal chance to join.

What if I only want to be in a certain fraternity or sorority?
Begin with an open mind and make a decision that is right for you. Potential members may experience disappointment with Recruitment or Intake if they enter the process with a preconceived notion about an individual chapter they intend to join and refuse to consider all available options. In the end, membership in a fraternity or sorority is more than wearing certain Greek letters, so make sure you’re happy with your choice.
Panhellenic

ALPHA DELTA PI
Mercer Founding: Nov. 13, 1937
Chapter Designation: Beta Sigma
Philanthropy: Ronald McDonald House

ALPHA GAMMA DELTA
Mercer Founding: Feb. 27, 1960
Chapter Designation: Gamma Iota
Philanthropy: Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation
CHI OMEGA
Mercer Founding: Dec. 18, 1943
Chapter Designation: Psi Gamma
Philanthropy: Make-A-Wish Foundation

PHI MU
Mercer Founding: Dec. 2, 1938
Chapter Designation: Alpha Iota
Philanthropy: Children’s Miracle Network
National Pan-Hellenic Council

SORORITIES:

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
Mercer Charter: Jan. 11, 1975
Chapter Designation: Iota Eta
Philanthropy: Educational Advancement Foundation

DELTA SIGMA THETA
Mercer Charter: Jan. 6, 1973
Chapter Designation: Iota Sigma
Philanthropy: American Cancer Society, AIDS Awareness

ZETA PHI BETA
Mercer Charter: April 15, 2002
Chapter Designation: Omega Mu
Philanthropy: National Education Foundation
FRATERNITIES:

**KAPPA ALPHA PSI**
Mercer Charter: May 15, 1976
Chapter Designation: Theta Pi
Philanthropy: Guide Right

**OMEGA PSI PHI**
Mercer Charter: September 2, 1972
Chapter Designation: Gamma Zeta
Philanthropy: Ronald McDonald House

**PHI BETA SIGMA**
Mercer Charter: April 13, 2014
Chapter Designation: Gamma Iota Gamma
Philanthropy: March of Dimes
Interfraternity Council

**ALPHA TAU OMEGA**
Mercer Founding: **Nov. 23, 1880**
Chapter Designation: **Alpha Zeta**
Philanthropy: **Habitat for Humanity**

**KAPPA ALPHA**
Mercer Founding: **Nov. 12, 1873**
Chapter Designation: **Kappa**
Philanthropy: **Muscular Dystrophy Association**

**KAPPA SIGMA**
Mercer Founding: **March 8, 1874**
Chapter Designation: **Alpha Beta**
Philanthropy: **American Heroes Foundation**

**LAMBDA CHI ALPHA**
Mercer Founding: **Nov. 6, 1947**
Chapter Designation: **Zeta Omega**
Philanthropy: **North American Food Drive**
PI KAPPA PHI
Mercer Founding: Feb. 16, 1923
Chapter Designation: Alpha Alpha
Philanthropy: The Ability Experience

PHI DELTA THETA
Mercer Founding: Jan. 2, 1872
Chapter Designation: Georgia Gamma
Philanthropy: Lou Gehrig Foundation

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON
Mercer Founding: September 1870
Chapter Designation: Georgia Psi
Philanthropy: Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation

SIGMA NU
Mercer Founding: Jan. 2, 1884
Chapter Designation: Eta
Philanthropy: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
SIGMA SIGMA RHO
Mercer Founding: April 17, 2017
Chapter Designation: Mercer Colony
Philanthropy: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention

DELTA EPSILON PSI
Mercer Founding: April 9, 2017
Chapter Designation: Alpha Mu
Philanthropy: Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
STATEMENT ON HAZING

Fraternities and sororities at Mercer University expect their members to strive for academic achievement, demonstrate responsible citizenship, show concern for the rights and needs of others, and provide leadership by promoting self-respect for others. The University upholds the position on hazing adopted by the Association for Fraternity Advisors.

Mercer defines hazing as any activity or situation intentionally or unintentionally created, with or without consent, whether on or off campus,

- which endangers the mental or physical health of the participants;
- which produces physical discomfort;
- which subjects the individual to embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule;
- which creates excessive fatigue, physical, or psychological shocks to the individual;
- which involves quests, treasure/scavenger hunts, or morally degrading or humiliating games and activities;
- which involves late or early work sessions; or
- which is not consistent with the laws, rituals, and/or other policies of the organization or the regulation and policies of the University.

Any individual member or members of the organization participating in hazing activities will forfeit the organization’s campus privileges, including its rights to exist as an organization.

Hazing is prohibited by the State of Georgia, Mercer University, and Mercer’s Interfraternity Council, National Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Panhellenic Council, and individual chapters.

STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL

Mercer University shares the widespread national concern with the serious threat to health, safety, and welfare posed by the unlawful use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol, especially on college and university campuses. Use of alcohol and illegal drugs can cause serious health problems, and it can also negatively affect the success of students in the educational and social areas of University life.

Mercer University is a dry campus and requires that all Greek organizations, all individual members, and all guests abide by the state, local, and University laws and regulations. Guidelines for social events involving alcohol off campus are established by risk management policies for each chapter. All chapters work to educate and foster a better understanding of social responsibility and alcohol education for members.

For specific policies regarding hazing, alcohol, and drugs, please see the Student Code of Conduct found in the Student Handbook on pages 13-17.
**FALL 2017 Recruitment/Informational Schedule**

### Panhellenic Council

**Sunday, September 10**

**Welcome and Informational Night, 6:30 p.m.**
Connell Student Center, Conference Room 1
Information about Recruitment, meet with Pi Chi, and tour Greek Village.

**Monday, September 11**

**Open House Night 1, 6 p.m.**
Connell Student Center*
Potential new members will meet with all four sororities.

**Tuesday, September 12**

**Open House Night 2, 6 p.m.**
Connell Student Center*
Potential new members will meet with all four sororities.

**Wednesday, September 13**

**Philanthropy Night, 5 p.m.**
Connell Student Center*
Potential new members may meet with a maximum of three sororities.

**Thursday, September 14**

**Preference Night, 5 p.m.**
Connell Student Center*
Potential new members may meet with a maximum of two sororities.

**Friday, September 15**

**Bid Day, 5 p.m.**
New members receive bids in the Connell Student Center. Pi Chis will take new members to Bid Day celebration in Greek Village at the appointed time.

*Specific meeting information will be provided by your Pi Chi.

### National Pan-Hellenic Council

NPHC organizations don't participate in the same Recruitment process as Pan and IFC. Each chapter will hold Membership Intake at various times throughout the academic year.

**Sunday, September 24–Saturday, September 30**

**NPHC Week**

Highlights:
- "Why We Don't Rush" information meeting
- Yard Show

### National Multicultural Greek Council

NMGC chapters will also hold membership intake similar to NPHC at various times throughout the academic year.

**Monday, September 11–Friday, September 15**

**Delta Epsilon Psi Week**

**Monday, September 18–Friday, September 22**

**Sigma Sigma Rho Week**

**Interfraternity Council**

**Monday, August 21**

**Bear Fair, 4–6 p.m.**
University Center

**Thursday, August 31**

**Greek Grillers, 5–7 p.m.**
Cruz Plaza
An all-Greek event where potential new members can get a sense of the Greek community.

**Saturday, September 9**

**Service Saturday, 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**
Meet at Connell Student Center
Potential new members and current Greek members will be paired together for community service in the Macon area.

**Monday, September 11**

**Info Night, 5:30–8 p.m.**
Connell Student Center, Conference Room 3
All men interested in participating in Recruitment must attend at least one info session.

**Sunday, September 17**

**Info/Formal Night, 5:30–8 p.m.**
Connell Student Center, Conference Room 3
Have dinner provided by the Interfraternity Council and take a tour of Greek Village. All men interested in participating in Recruitment must attend at least one info session.

**Friday, September 22**

**Preference Card Signing Day, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**
Office of Campus Life
Potential new members come by the Office of Campus Life to sign preference cards.

**Preference Night, 5:30–8 p.m.**
Connell Student Center, Conference Room 3
Potential new members meet to walk over to Greek Village as a group and proceed to visit fraternity houses that they preferred.

**Saturday, September 23**

**Bid Day, 10 a.m.**
Greek Village
New members pick up bids from 10–11 a.m. in the Connell Student Center and then run the hill at 11 a.m.

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For more information contact the Office of Campus Life
1501 Mercer University Drive  |  Macon, Georgia 31207
478.301.2868  |  greeklife@mercer.edu  |  mercer.edu/greek

**Delayed recruitment policies for all Greek organizations apply beginning July 1, 2017.**