

Dear Parents of the Class of 2021,

Your student will have the first opportunity to join a Wittenberg fraternity or sorority in the spring of 2018, if they have achieved at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA and 16 credits or a 2.75 cumulative GPA with 12-15 completed credits. Fraternities and sororities are not just social or student organizations. They strive for excellence in scholarship, leadership, service to the community and loyalty to lifelong friends. They expect their members to make a commitment of time, resources and talent to the organization, campus and community. Over 50% of our student leaders are Greek and most of the Student Senate members and Orientation Assistants are too.

In an average year at Wittenberg, over 40% of our men and women choose to be part of a Greek-letter organization. The All-Greek GPA has topped the Non-Greek GPA for the past 16 years and a large number of members receive top academic honors at Wittenberg's annual Honors Convocation. In the past three academic years, our 12 chapters combined raised more than \$93,000 to benefit multiple non-profit agencies in the Springfield area along non-profits affiliated with their national fraternal organizations. Additionally during these years, fraternity and sorority members donated over 23,100 hours of their time through community service efforts. Greek students receive regular training on many different issues including safe social hosting, leadership development, hazing prevention, sexual assault prevention, healthy eating, and business etiquette just to name a few. And these are NOT unusual semesters!

Of course there are social events too...everything from hanging out at the house to watch Netflix to semi-formal dinners and family and alumni events. Members are building the interpersonal and social skills so desired by employers today to balance "social media" isolation. Fraternities and sororities have active networks of alumni to assist with career information and ways to become connected in new cities. This sense of belonging and support contributes to a higher graduation rate and continued involvement after graduation with Wittenberg and friends made here.

Many parents share common concerns about joining a fraternity or sorority: the financial cost of membership and hazing. Being a member of a sorority or fraternity requires paying dues to your chapter. However when considering what members receive for this money, we can attest the investment is fully worth every penny. Dues cover most activities the chapter does: brotherhood and sisterhood events, informational programs, movie nights, snacks, socials and other fun activities. Also most chapters have leadership retreats during both the school year and the summer. Membership in a Wittenberg Greek organization may also allow students to live in the chapter house and eat some or all of their meals there, which is generally a lower cost than other housing options including on-campus options. In regard to hazing, the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils along with the University and every national fraternity and sorority headquarters have a strict no-hazing policy. Hazing allegations are taken very seriously and if found responsible, chapters and members are held accountable to the highest possible extent. If something would occur or you suspect hazing is occurring, [click here for information](#) or to report hazing. For more resources, go to hazingprevention.org.

While membership may not be for everyone, we sincerely hope that your student will participate in recruitment and get a first-hand understanding of membership before making their own

decision. We ask that you lend your encouragement and support throughout this process. Please check out the [Fraternity and Sorority Life website](#), our [Facebook page](#) or contact one of us for further information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

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