

UNCW Fraternity and Sorority Life FAQ

What is fraternity and Sorority Life?

Joining a fraternity or sorority is a lifelong commitment and an excellent investment for your child's future. Our students are leaders on campus and are often heavily involved in community service and philanthropy projects. Fraternity and sorority members enjoy the friendship of their "brothers" and "sisters" for life. They are highly involved, academically committed, and well-rounded. The UNCW Fraternity and Sorority Community has identified these six core values they believe our organizations and members should aspire to maintain: Brother/Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service and Philanthropy, Campus Involvement and Engagement, Ethical Leadership, and Inclusive Community.

What are the benefits of joining a fraternity/sorority?

Coming to college is one of the major life changes that you will go through. Joining a fraternity or sorority chapter will help make the transition easier. Developing lifelong friendships with the members in the chapters helps make the campus seem smaller. For many members, these chapters become a home away from home. In addition to the brotherhood/sisterhood, every chapter is dedicated to enhancing leadership, scholarship, and philanthropy/community service.

Will I be hazed in a fraternity or sorority?

UNCW has a strict anti-hazing policy that goes in accordance with North Carolina State Law. If a member of one of UNCW's fraternities/sororities suspects hazing, they are required to report it to the coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life immediately. When new members join a fraternity/sorority at UNCW, they receive education of UNCW's anti-hazing policy. Hazing is opposed by all fraternities and sororities on the University campus and is not tolerated, plain and simple. No student should ever be asked to do anything they do not want to do.

When a student joins a chapter, they will participate in new member education meetings (a kind of orientation to the chapter) where they learn will about the history and values of the organization and the University, as well as attend weekly business meetings (also referred to as "chapter meetings").

What is pledging?

Pledging is an outdated term used for the new member education process. This period of time usually lasts 6-10 weeks and is designed to educate new members on chapter/organizational operations, fraternity and sorority culture on campus and the values of the organization.

How much does it cost to be a member in a fraternity or sorority?

The Fraternity/Sorority experience is an investment in your future. The leadership skills, the academic assistance, and the friendships will benefit you beyond your college days. Joining a fraternity or sorority does carry a financial commitment. Each chapter is self-supporting through the dues paid by their members. Most chapters offer members payment plans to assist in paying for dues. Membership dues go to services that directly support the betterment of the chapter and the national organization. To assist members, chapters may offer various scholarships and grants

How should I act and what should I know before I join? How can I increase my chances of joining a Fraternity or Sorority?

Be yourself! You want to know what the fraternity or sorority is like as much as they want to know the real you. Look at all the chapters with an open mind. The number one reason people choose not to join a fraternity or sorority is because they did not get invited back to their first or only choice. Remember, the group you decide to join is going to be the best on campus. Stay positive and don't criticize other potential new members.

How much of a time commitment is it to be a member?

The time commitment varies from chapter to chapter, but the first semester is most time intensive as the new member goes through the chapter's Education Program. The time spent in this program will give your student the opportunity to develop their leadership and time management skills, learn about the history and tradition of the organization, develop friendships with their new member class as well as the rest of the chapter, and allow them to become involved in other activities and organizations. After the initiation into the chapter, expectations will vary. Each chapter has weekly chapter meetings and other mandatory events (philanthropies, service, and initiation) throughout the year, but they are planned well in advance.

What NPC organizations are currently represented on UNCW's campus?

Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, Delta Zeta, Phi Mu, and Sigma Sigma Sigma.

What IFC organizations are currently represented on UNCW's campus?

Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Chi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Sigma Phi, Delta Tau Delta, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI), Pi Kappa Alpha, and Pi Kappa Phi.

What NPHC organizations are currently represented on UNCW's campus?

We currently are represented by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

Is there a Christian Sorority I can join?

Yes! We are Sigma Alpha Omega! We are a Christian social sorority. First of all we are founded in Christ and secondly in sisterhood. We encourage one another to grow in love through life in Christ. Some of the ways in which we fellowship include Bible studies, social activities, retreats, and service projects. Sigma Alpha Omega® is a great way to get involved and enjoy college life while remaining true to your identity as a child of God.

Are there multicultural organizations to join at UNCW?

UNCW constantly assesses our community/ student needs and will work accordingly to provide any organization students may be interested in joining.

What is the NPHC?

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC) is the umbrella organization for the nine (9) historically African-American fraternities and sororities. It was organized in May 1930 at Howard University, Washington D. C. The stated purpose of the organization as written in 1930 is, "Unanimity of thought and action, as far as possible, in the conduct of Greek letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations." Through NPHC, fraternities and sororities work together to promote unity, share ideas, and discuss common goals or problems; however, the ultimate mission of all NPHC organizations is PUBLIC SERVICE.

Membership in NPHC organizations extends beyond the college experience. Upon initiation, individuals accept a lifetime commitment to the goals and objectives of their respective organizations. Members develop many close bonds and friendships that are often unbreakable and maintained throughout their lives.

How do I become a member of an NPHC organization?

Recruitment and membership intake for the organizations of the National Pan-Hellenic Council may vary differently between each of the Divine Nine organizations. Most of the organizations require that you be invited to the organization by the current chapter meetings. Being that as the case, those who are interested in learning more about these Divine Nine Fraternities and Sororities are encouraged to research the history of each organization, visit their National website, learn of their respective membership requirements, and develop a relationship with the chapter members of your organizational interest. To any extent beyond that, membership recruitment and intake is under full coordination of the specific chapter and their national organization. However, all membership intake processes must be conducted by a chapter that is both active with its national organization and recognized by the UNCW campus.

Do I have to be African-American to join an NPHC organization?

No. The NPHC and each of its member organizations have non-discriminatory policies and practices. They are also actively involved in activities and programs designed to eradicate bias and discrimination in all phases of life. The formation of an NPHC council ensures that the philosophies of affiliate member

organizations are maintained. It is important and highly recommended that NPHC councils seek to influence other organizations through its programming and activities.

How do I express interest in joining an NPHC organization?

The best way to express interest in joining an NPHC organization is by attending chapter programs, events, and community service projects. Each organization/chapter hosts a variety of educational, social, and philanthropic events on and off campus throughout the year, and by showing up and participating; you are letting them know you are interested in their organization. In addition, some organizations (not all) have interest/informational meetings that allow you to gain more knowledge about their organization/chapter, and express interest in their fraternity or sorority. Advertisements about these events are posted on the student center bulletin boards, and various bulletin boards around campus in academic spaces.

Does NPHC step?

Some NPHC organizations do step, however stepping and strolling is a small portion of what we do, and should not be a major consideration when considering joining an organization.