I have gained a sense of self-respect and self-worth. I know what I can do and I know what I deserve. I have been lifted up and pushed by my brothers to be the best man that I can be.”

—SEAN MEYER, SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON PRESIDENT

Sorority and Fraternity Life at USD

Being a member of a Fraternity or Sorority is about being something bigger than you. Sororities and Fraternities are more than 200 years old. The first national Sorority/ Fraternity organization to be a part of South Dakota’s flagship liberal arts institution was founded in 1903, and currently is home to twelve Sorority/Fraternity chapters. Although each chapter is different, all chapters share and pursue similar goals and are part of a tight-knit community regarding academic excellence, leadership development, commitment to the campus, brotherhood and sisterhood and community involvement. Healthy competition based off friendship pushes each chapter to be their best.

Fraternity and Sorority Life at the University of South Dakota is unique because each chapter collaborates, communicates and supports one another’s emerging strong leaders who are friendly, genuine and passionate. Each semester, Sorority/Fraternity students are provided with over 250 leadership opportunities or positions through their respective chapters, as well as through other organizations and Sorority/ Fraternity councils. USD has four Sororities and eight Fraternities. A majority of the campus activities and events are driven by Fraternity and Sorority Life. Homecoming, student government, orientation leaders and student ambassadors to large philanthropic events life Dance Marathon, Strollers and Up ’til Dawn are led by Sorority/Fraternity leaders. Our hope is that the best memories of a student’s college career include a Sorority or a Fraternity here at USD!

OUR MISSION

Our mission of USD’s Sorority and Fraternity community is to develop and support our men and women by upholding the core values of the university, emphasizing integrity and excellence through scholarship, leadership, friendship and citizenship. And to encourage responsible community living and lifelong sisterhood and brotherhood and service to members, university and the community.

OUR VISION

The Vision of Sorority and Fraternity Life at USD will be a premier system recognized nationally, a model of ethical leadership and responsible self-governance, encouraged by parents, respected by the entire campus community, attractive to all students and welcomes diversity, distinguished by its academic achievement, a unified community, a model of superior residential facilities that promote community and lastly supported by an involved and trained team of alumi.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate, please contact Disability Services 48 hours prior to attendance of the event at 605-677-6389 or email disabilityservices@usd.edu. This document is available in alternative formats, upon request from Disability Services.

JOIN THE EXPERIENCE. GO GREEK!

Sorority and Fraternity Life
University of South Dakota
414 E. Clark Street
Muenster University Center 219
Vermillion, SD 57069

GREEK@USD.EDU
USD.EDU/GREEK
@USDSFL
JOINING A SORORITY OR FRATERNITY AT USD

Joining a Sorority or Fraternity at USD is an important decision for your student and is one that you should be comfortable with as well. If your student joins a fraternity or sorority he or she will have the opportunity to develop both personally and professionally in a variety of ways. All aspects of Sorority and Fraternity Life at USD have been designed to enrich and enlighten students, in order to build better men and women through the fraternal experience.

The Sorority/Fraternity experience bestows upon your student the ability to receive hands on training in the operation and management of an organization. Whether you manage chapter budgets, serve on the executive board, or serve at the community’s soup kitchen, the Sorority/Fraternity experience will develop life skills that allow your student the opportunity to reach personal goals.

RECRUITMENT & MEMBERSHIP

Recruitment is a time of mutual selection between sorority and fraternity chapters and potential new members. Not only do the organizations select new members, but the potential members select a chapter they want to be affiliated with. If a student chooses to participate in recruitment activities they are under no obligation to join a Sorority/Fraternity chapter. At the end of recruitment the chapters will extend a bid/formal invitation. If a student accepts the bid, then they will be affiliated with the organization.

Once a student accepts an invitation to join the chapter they will be oriented to the chapter through member education which includes: meetings, philanthropic/community service, study tables, educational programs, social events and brotherhood and sisterhood events. These programs are structured to not interfere with academic responsibilities and the new member education process is both informative and fun.

BENEFITS

Brotherhood/Sisterhood The least tangible of the benefits may in fact be the best part of being in a Sorority/Fraternity Life. Because of the recruitment process, you get to know the members on an individual basis and connect with them as friends while sharing similar values. The bonds that are created can be likened to being on a sports team, a club in which you were deeply involved with in high school, or your group of friends whom you felt a special connection. Often times the friends you make will be some of the best for the rest of your life.

Leadership Within each house there are multiple leadership positions, from essentially being the boss as President to event coordinating as philanthropy or social chair. Sorority/Fraternity Life gives a student a strong support system for leadership positions outside of the house. Because of the diversity that one finds in each house (religion, politics, etc.) the member will learn how to successfully deal with others with opposing viewpoints.

Scholarship Sorority/Fraternity members, on average, have a higher GPA than their independent counterparts. In addition, more than $100,000 is awarded in scholarships each year from a chapter’s local or national foundation.

Philanthropy Sorority/Fraternity life at USD is responsible for multiple philanthropy and community service events each year.

Networking A great deal of alumni go on to have successful careers after graduation in a variety of fields: doctors, lawyers, businessmen just to name a few. Often times they are able to give a student an edge for finding internships.

Housing Fraternities and Sororities each have their own house which serve as a hub for all activities. In many cases, the cost to live in the chapter house is less than University housing.

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CHARTERS

Sorority chapters include Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta and Pi Beta Phi.

Fraternity Beta Theta Pi, Delta Tau Delta, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Theta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

MEMBERSHIP

Potential employers and graduate schools want successful students who achieve academically, as well as being committed to leadership, involvement and service. Sorority/Fraternity life will enhance your opportunities as you look for internships, career opportunities and graduate schools, as they look at more than just grades.

Sororities and fraternities at USD challenge students to define their individual values. Each semester, Sorority/Fraternity students are provided with over 250 leadership opportunities or positions through their respective chapters, as well as through other organizations and Sorority/Fraternity councils. The following councils are the student governing bodies of the Greek community:

Panhellenic Council (PHC) is a nine person selected board designed to guide and develop the four USD sororities.

Interfraternity Council (IFC) is comprised of nine student leaders elected to ensure USD fraternities uphold the high standards that have been established at USD.

Order of Omega is a honor society for members of Sorority/Fraternity organizations. Members are selected from the top 3% of Sorority at USD. The organization recognizes juniors and seniors who have exemplified high standards in the areas of scholarship, leadership, involvement within their respective organization and within the Sorority/Fraternity campus and local community.