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## FACT SHEET: IWU Greek Life at a Glance

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Nov. 12, 1998 Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181  
**FACT SHEET: IWU Greek Life at a Glance**

## **Fraternities**

Six national social fraternities have residential chapters at Illinois Wesleyan University. These Greek social organizations--and the year their local chapters were founded--are:

- Acacia, Illinois Wesleyan Chapter, 1957
- Phi Gamma Delta, Alpha Deuteron Chapter, 1866
- Sigma Chi, Alpha Iota Chapter, 1883
- Sigma Pi, Epsilon Gamma Chapter, 1975
- Tau Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Chapter, 1899
- Theta Chi, Beta Rho Chapter, 1926

These half dozen social fraternities are associated in the Interfraternity Council, founded in 1934. The Interfraternity Council formulates rules and policies in relation to rush and organizes joint projects among the members and cooperative projects with the corresponding sorority organization, Panhellenic Council.

No student initiated into a fraternity shall move into the fraternity house without having completed one academic year and without having a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher.

## **Sororities**

Five national social sororities have houses on the Illinois Wesleyan University campus. These Greek social organizations--and the year their local chapters were founded--are:

- Alpha Gamma Delta, Xi Chapter, 1914
- Alpha Omicron Pi, Beta Lambda Chapter, 1956
- Kappa Delta, Omicron Chapter, 1908
- Kappa Kappa Gamma, Epsilon Chapter, 1873
- Sigma Kappa, Eta Chapter, 1906

These five social sororities are represented on the Panhellenic Council, founded in 1910, which cooperates with the Interfraternity Council in coordinating Greek activities and projects on campus.

The Panhellenic Council establishes guidelines for sorority rush.

No student initiated into a sorority can move into a sorority house without having completed one academic year and without having a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher.

## **General Information**

Greek social organizations have been part of campus life at Illinois Wesleyan University for 132 years, since Phi Gamma Delta, IWU's first fraternity was founded in 1866. The first IWU social sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, was founded in 1873.

The percentage of students affiliated with Greek organizations for the 1998-99 academic year are:

- Females, 28 percent live in Greek housing
- Males, 32 percent live in Greek housing

Interest among IWU freshman in joining a fraternity has decreased over five years. Interest in joining a sorority has remained fairly steady. These trends may be due to the increased association of dangerous behavior with Greek living as reported in national studies such as the Harvard report on alcohol consumption among college students (see attached Fact Sheet on Alcohol Facts), which reports that four out of five students living in Greek housing nationwide report they engage in binge drinking.

Currently, IWU fraternities do not have house mothers or house parents though historically they have done so as recently as 1993.

All fraternities and sororities participate in a formal recruitment process, rush, which takes place during the first months of the school year. Rush is a formal and mutual selection process between prospective new members and chapter members. As part of this process, chapters invite certain participants and participants select which chapters they want to return to. At the end of the process, chapters distribute bids, invitations to join chapters, to participants they have chosen. The number of bids each chapter can extend is determined by statistics based on housing capacities and national organization guidelines.

Organizational structures of fraternities and sororities at IWU are similar in these ways:

- Each chapter has a house.
- All chapters hold weekly chapter meetings.
- All chapters have grade-point average requirements.
- All chapters participate in a local and national philanthropy.

Greek community chapters differ in these ways:

- Scholarship requirements.
- Initiation requirements.
- National alumni advising support.
- Budgetary resources.
- Visitation policies.
- Food service capabilities.

The Greek community identifies its purposes in these ways:

- To provide a supportive environment enhanced by close friendships, camaraderie, sisterhood, and brotherhood, which enables one to feel a sense of family in a "home away from home" atmosphere.
- To enhance scholarship through the use of study tables, goal sheets, quiet hours during finals, mentoring of younger students by older students of the same major, scholarship recognition banquets, tutoring, chapter GPA requirements, designated study rooms, opportunities to receive scholarships and awards from the national organization, and bulletin boards listing members' majors.
- To provide leadership through opportunities to: become chapter officers, develop skills by living in a self-governing environment.
- To teach the importance of volunteerism through philanthropic events and community service, which offer networking opportunities and benefit the campus and local community.
- To provide a social outlet for students by hosting events such as: dances, exchanges or mixers, Homecoming events, formal dinners between sororities, and Greek Week.
- To provide educational programming to enhance development of responsible citizens of the community by: providing speakers to give presentations on educational topics, hosting All-Greek programs on critical issues, and providing programs for alumni such as: Founders' Days, Homecoming brunches, and mock rush parties.
- Most importantly, however, the purpose of Greek organizations is to provide an opportunity outside of the classroom for students to live, learn, and grow through the support of friends in a small group living environment.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

All fraternities and sororities are required to provide the Dean of Students' Office with a new member/pledge roster within 48 hours after bids are extended. Fraternity and sorority chapters must complete depledge/deactivation cards and return them to the Dean of Students' Office within 48 hours of the time a person depledges/deactivates.

Fraternity and sorority chapters must provide the Dean of Students' Office with a complete membership rosters by the day classes begin each semester.

It is the responsibility of Greek chapters to provide the Dean of Students' Office with an updated chapter officer list each semester.

All fraternities and sororities must provide the Dean of Students' Office with this information:

- Length of their new member education program,
- Summary of activities involved in their new member education program,
- And, a firm initiation date.

Chapters also must provide the Dean of Students' Office with the names of any pledges who are not initiated.

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