

SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LIFE



DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

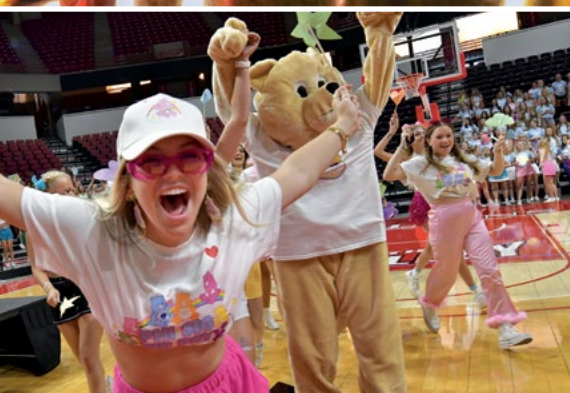


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WELCOME

DEAR REDBIRDS,

Illinois State University is proud to support and encourage membership in sororities and fraternities as these organizations enrich the campus and local community. Students involved in sorority and fraternity life often achieve a cumulative GPA higher than the University-wide average, are more likely to graduate, are more engaged in the University community, and are more likely to be successful after graduation.

Besides these significant benefits of membership, sorority and fraternity members at Illinois State find a welcoming home away from home, a support network built on values and care, a supportive administrative unit in the University that provides dynamic education and training, and an enriching experience for alums.

All students are invited to consider membership in a sorority or fraternity at Illinois State.

Sincerely,

Sorority and Fraternity Life

A unit of the Dean of Students Office, Illinois State University

Why we are Sorority and Fraternity Life

The sorority and fraternity community at Illinois State is rooted in equity and was born from adversity. Sororities and fraternities were not always part of Illinois State. Founded as a teacher's college, the University administration did not see value in having sororities and fraternities on campus. The campus operated under an unwritten rule that banned Greek letter organizations.

In 1942, a group of African American women sought to challenge the status quo by forming a local sorority named Sigma Beta Kappa. When the University administration learned of this initiative, the women were forced to disband and an official policy banning Greek letter organizations was instituted and stayed in place until 1969. One exception was made in 1964, when an individual student was allowed to join the alumnae chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

After the University's stance on sororities and fraternities was reversed in 1969, several organizations formed on campus including, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The initial community consisted of 12 fraternities and eight sororities and has grown to 41 chapters with approximately 1,900 members today. The administrative unit supporting these organizations is named



NPHC fraternity and sorority members throwing their hand signs.

Sorority and Fraternity Life in honor of the initial group of African American women who challenged the University to support student life from a new perspective.

How to join a sorority or fraternity

General considerations

- All chapters and some councils set specific academic expectations for students who seek to affiliate. The general minimum for membership is a 2.5 GPA. For some experiences, this is a high school GPA, for others, it is a cumulative college GPA.
- Students are eligible to join a sorority or fraternity starting their first semester at Illinois State, though specific organizations may have alternative requirements.
- All organizations can deny membership for questionable moral character. Conduct unbecoming of a member is defined by each organization. Your actions reflect on your ability to join or remain in the community.
- All organizations have financial obligations throughout the entirety of your undergraduate experience, and many last past your undergraduate experience. Some chapters have live-in housing requirements as well.
- Joining a sorority or fraternity is a lifelong commitment, and you should research choices and options before committing.
- It is never too late to join a sorority or fraternity.



Members of Tri-Sigma working a tabling event on the quad.

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

- Instagram: nphcisu
- Redbird Life: National Pan-Hellenic Council

Member chapters of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) are nationally known as the Divine Nine, the historically Black Greek letter sororities and fraternities. Our campus NPHC is an affiliated chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, founded in 1930 as the governing body of historically Black Greek letter organizations across the country. Member selection/intake is an individualized process that varies by organization. Typically, students can participate in member selection/intake after they have completed 12-24 hours of college credit and earned a 2.5-2.75 GPA.

The chapter determines the member selection/intake process and timeline. The process typically starts with an interest meeting followed by a period of membership education designed to teach the history, values, and commitment of the organization. The membership process culminates with initiation into the organization and a new member showcase where new members are revealed to the community. National Pan-Hellenic chapters and members embrace a lifetime commitment to academic and career achievement, political awareness, and community service.

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. should again be active sometime during the 2023-24 school year.

Requirements for joining an NPHC Organization

- Meet the minimum GPA required for membership in the NPHC chapter (2.5 for most chapters; 2.75 for others).
- Earn the required number of college credits to affiliate with the organization.
- Demonstrate continual acts of community service and campus involvement.
- Attend an interest meeting and meet all requirements of the application and membership intake process.

Helpful hints for joining an NPHC Organization

- Find a community service outlet you are passionate about to establish a consistent record of service. Community service is a staple of the NPHC experience.
- Research each organization to see who aligns with your personal values.
- Attend chapter events and get to know the members. It is important to have a personal connection.
- Attend an informational meeting. This will give you basic information about the chapter and allow you to learn how a particular chapter operates. During an informational meeting, you will also learn about the criteria for membership.
- Watch for advertising. Chapters advertise their informational events on social media and via flyers hung around the campus.
- Be prepared. Member selection and intake is not conducted every semester by every chapter. If you miss an intake period, do not have the required GPA, or are not financially able to join, you may have to wait up to a year or more before the next opportunity becomes available.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was founded at Howard University in 1908. The organization is committed to cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards, promoting unity and friendship among college women, studying and helping to alleviate problems concerning girls and women, maintaining a progressive interest in college life, and being of service to all.

- Instagram: etaalpaaka
- Redbird Life: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithica, New York. The mission of the fraternity is to build the intellectual and economic status of the African American community through community service, displaying an unparalleled level of brotherhood, and reassuring young men that they have something to contribute to society.

- Instagram: htalphas1971
- Redbird Life: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 13, 1913, at Howard University. The organization is a sisterhood of predominantly Black, college-educated women.

- Instagram: thedeltadst
- Redbird Life: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated



Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on January 5, 1911, at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. They believe in achievement in every field of human endeavor. It is the beautiful realization of a vision shared commonly by the late revered founders that enabled them to sow the seed of a fraternal tree whose fruit is available to, and now enjoyed by, college men everywhere, regardless of their color, religion, or national origin.

- Instagram: kanupes
- Redbird Life: Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the first African American national fraternal organization founded at a historically Black college. Omega Psi Phi was founded on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

- Instagram: pibetaques
- Redbird Life: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Pi Beta Chapter



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded on January 9, 1914, at Howard University. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. aims to advance the ideals of brotherhood and service, promote education and scholarship, develop an appreciation for culture, and foster the ideals of what it means to be great men in society.

- Instagram: illinoisstatesigmas
- Redbird Life: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated

CHAPTERS



Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was founded on November 12, 1922, at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is the mission of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. to enhance the quality of life for women and their families in the U.S. and globally through community service, civil, and social action.

- Instagram: sigma_gammarho
- Redbird Life: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 16, 1920, on the campus of Howard University. The sorority had five founders, referred to as the five pearls, and four principles, which are scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood. The Lambda Epsilon chapter was chartered at Illinois State University on June 3, 1973.

- Instagram: isu_zetas
- Redbird Life: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

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UNITED GREEK COUNCIL

- Instagram: [ilstu_ugc](#)
- Redbird Life: United Greek Council

Member chapters of the United Greek Council (UGC) represent different multiethnic communities. Chapters are affiliated with one of the following national organizations: National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), North American Interfraternity Council (NIC), or National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC). Member selection/intake process varies by organization based on the chapter's need for more members. The process typically starts with an interest meeting followed by a period of membership education designed to teach the history, values, and commitment of the organization. The membership process culminates with initiation into the organization. Most chapters require a 2.5 minimum GPA to participate in membership selection/intake.

Phi Rho Eta Fraternity Inc. should again be active sometime during the 2023-24 school year.

Requirements for joining a UGC Organization

- Meet the minimum GPA required for membership of the UGC chapter (2.5 for most chapters).
- Have earned the required number of college credits to affiliate with the organization (this differs from 0–12 or more).
- Demonstrate continual acts of community service and campus



involvement, following the example of students who are members of the organization you want to join.

- Attend an interest meeting and meet all requirements of the application and membership intake process.

Helpful hints for joining a UGC Organization

- Find a community service outlet you are passionate about to establish a consistent record of service.
- Research each organization to see who aligns with your personal values.
- Attend chapter events and get to know the members. It is important to have a personal connection.
- Attend an informational meeting. This will give you basic information about the chapter and will allow you to learn about how a particular chapter operates. During an informational meeting, you will also learn about the criteria for membership.
- Watch for advertising. Chapters advertise their informational events on social media and via flyers hung around the campus.
- Be prepared. Member selection and intake is not conducted every semester by every chapter. If you miss an intake period, do not have the required GPA, or are not financially able to join, you may have to wait up to a year or more before the next opportunity becomes available.



Alpha Psi Lambda National Fraternity, Inc. was established on February 11, 1985, at The Ohio State University. They work on carrying out the five pillars which include familia, culture, academics, service, and leadership.

- Instagram: isuapsi
- Redbird Life: Alpha Psi Lambda National, Inc.



Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc. is a multicultural Latina-oriented organization at Illinois State University, established on April 17, 1991. They strive to unite sisters in the principles of achieving academic excellence, serving the communities in which they live and learn, preserving the sacred bond of sisterhood among women, and uplifting and advancing cultural awareness among Latinos and those in their global communities.

- Instagram: isu_gphio
- Redbird Life: Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc. Sigma Chapter

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Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. was founded on December 1, 1975 at Kean College in Union, New Jersey, and is the first nationally recognized Latino fraternity. Their mission is to provide leadership in shaping the future of their fraternity and to raise the social and cultural conscience of the Latino college student and community. Membership is open to all males, regardless of race, culture, or creed.

- Instagram: illinoisstate_lambdas
- Redbird Life: Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.



Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1989 at the State University of New York at Albany. This organization values the development of all women through sisterhood, diversity, leadership, service, and academic excellence. Their philanthropy—raising awareness of violence against women—fuels them to make meaningful contributions in their everyday lives.

- Instagram: isu_opbps
- Redbird Life: Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

CHAPTERS



Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. believes that “Culture is Pride. Pride is Success.” Founded in 1990 at the University of Iowa with the principles of academics, community service, cultural awareness, morals, and ethics, Sigma Lambda Gamma strives to provide opportunities for lifelong empowerment to all members.

- Instagram: [gammass_ilstu](#)
- Redbird Life: [Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc.](#)



Members of the United Greek Council participated in the SFL Leadership Retreat.

CHAPTERS

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

- Instagram: [ilstu_ifc](#)
- Redbird Life: Interfraternity Council

Member chapters of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) are the oldest fraternal organizations founded on college campuses. While historically created for white men, today's fraternities accept members from diverse backgrounds. Many IFC chapters are affiliated with the North American Interfraternity Council (NIC). Some organizations rent or own a chapter house which may require members to live-in for a year. Member selection for IFC chapters typically takes place in both fall and spring semesters, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 from either high school or college is required. Students are invited to attend information sessions, participate in council events that highlight fraternity membership, and socialize with chapters and individual members. Once a student is invited to join a fraternity, they will participate in new member education designed to teach the history, values, and expectations of the organization. The membership process culminates with initiation into the organization.

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) hosts informal recruitment, which takes place throughout the fall and spring semesters. Chapters host most of the events individually for members and interested students to learn about the opportunities provided through membership. Students who are interested in joining an IFC fraternity must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Pi Kappa Alpha will join the IFC in the fall of 2023 and Alpha Gamma Rho will join the IFC in the spring of 2024.

Requirements for joining an IFC Organization

- Earn a minimum 2.5 cumulative high school or college GPA; some fraternity GPA requirements may be higher.
- Attend a Potential New Member Orientation (PNMO).
- Complete required paperwork and educational programming.
- Attend chapter events and get to know the members. It is important to have a personal connection.

Helpful hints for joining an IFC Organization

- Research each organization to see which ones align with your personal values.
- Keep an open mind and ask questions in order to learn about each chapter.
- Watch for advertising. Chapters advertise their events on social media and via flyers hung around campus.



Acacia is a social fraternity dedicated to bettering men around campus while offering the ideal fraternal experience. Acacia believes in creating leaders and preparing them for life after graduating from Illinois State.

- Instagram: acacialstu
- Redbird Life: Acacia Fraternity Illinois State Chapter



Alpha Epsilon Pi was founded on November 7, 1913. Their values are to foster and promote brotherly love and to inaugurate a spirit of cooperation and helpfulness.

- Instagram: aepi_illinoisstate
- Redbird Life: Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity

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Alpha Sigma Phi was nationally founded on December 6, 1845. At Illinois State University, the Alpha Sigma Phi-Delta Omicron chapter has over 100 active members.

- Instagram: [isualphasigs](#)
- Redbird Life: Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity



Beta Theta Pi was founded August 8, 1839, at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Beta Theta Pi is home to nearly 140,000 living alumni and more than 9,000 undergraduates on 141 campuses across the United States and Canada. Best known for its award-winning Men of Principle Initiative, Beta aims to foster an enjoyable fraternal experience centered on brotherhood, personal growth, and creating a sense of home among its members.

- Instagram: [beta_illinoisstate](#)
- Redbird Life: Beta Theta Pi Fraternity

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Delta Chi is built on four core values: promoting friendship, developing character, advancing justice, and assisting in the acquisition of a sound education. The Illinois State chapter was founded in the fall of 2022. The brothers of the chapter believe in the following values: striving for academic excellence, building and strengthening the bonds between brothers, having zero tolerance for hazing, upholding the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and being active members of our community.

- Instagram: [deltachi_illinoisst](#)
- Redbird Life: [Delta Chi Fraternity](#)



FarmHouse was nationally founded on April 15, 1905, and is a fraternity dedicated to their motto—builder of men. The fraternity is a college home where a man can be creative, share responsibilities, make lasting friendships, and express his inner self in an atmosphere of trust and understanding.

- Instagram: [farmhouseisu](#)
- Redbird Life: [FarmHouse](#)

CHAPTERS



Lambda Chi Alpha was founded on November 2, 1909. They are a social fraternity that aims to help better prepare young men for their lives after college. Their seven core values include loyalty, duty, respect, service and stewardship, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

- Instagram: isulambda
- Redbird Life: Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity



Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) was nationally founded on May 1, 1848. FIJI's mission is to unite men in enduring friendships, stimulate the pursuit of knowledge, and build courageous leaders who serve the world with the best that is in them.

- Instagram: ilstu_fiji
- Redbird Life: Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity

CHAPTERS



Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is a social fraternity dedicated to developing brotherhood through music and advancing music in America. They were nationally founded on October 6, 1898. The organization is open to all men with a passion for music. Students do not need to be music majors or be registered in a music course to be extended a bid.

- Instagram: pmailstu
- Redbird Life: Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Nu Omicron Chapter



Phi Kappa Psi was founded on February 19, 1852, at Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. They look for men of integrity and further develop their intellect while enhancing their community involvement. With a legacy built on acceptance and trust, each brother realizes his highest potential through a lifelong experience of service and excellence.

- Instagram: ilstatephikappapsi
- Redbird Life: Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity

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Sigma Alpha Mu was founded in 1909. Their mission is to foster the development of collegiate men and their alumni by instilling strong fraternal values, offering social and service opportunities, encouraging academic excellence, and teaching leadership skills.

- Instagram: sammy_isu
- Redbird Life: Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity



Sigma Chi was nationally founded on June 28, 1855. Their mission is to develop values-based leaders committed to the betterment of character, campus, and community. In the pursuit of these high ideals, the Sigma Chi fraternity is able to offer tremendous value in augmenting the collegiate experience and supporting the lifelong journey of each of its members.

- Instagram: isu_sigmachi
- Redbird Life: Sigma Chi Fraternity

CHAPTERS



Sigma Nu was nationally founded on January 1, 1869. The mission of their chapter is to foster a brotherhood united by the principles of love, honor, and truth; to promote the growth of each brother's intellect, character, and integrity; to encourage involvement in Illinois State University and the surrounding community; to instill in each member a lifelong sense of belonging and duty to Sigma Nu; and to recruit and train men who exemplify these ideals.

- Instagram: sigmanuisu
- Redbird Life: Sigma Nu Fraternity



Sigma Pi was nationally founded on February 26, 1897. Sigma Pi takes pride in scholarship, brotherhood, and chivalry. Sigma Pi gives back to the community by hosting community service events. They also raise money for The Amazing Day Foundation to promote mental health awareness.

- Instagram: sigmapi_isu
- Redbird Life: Sigma Pi Fraternity, Epsilon-Eta Chapter

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Tau Kappa Epsilon creates lifelong relationships that enhance educational, interpersonal, community and professional success. Their mission is to aid men in their mental, moral, and social development for life. TKE contributes to the advancement of society through the personal growth of their members, and service to others.

- Instagram: tke_isu
- Redbird Life: Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity



IFC chapter members meeting students who are interested in joining during an event on the Quad.

CHAPTERS

COLLEGE PANHELLENIC COUNCIL

- Instagram: isu_panhellenic
- Redbird Life: College Panhellenic Council

Most College Panhellenic Council (CPC) chapters are affiliated with the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). Most organizations either rent or own a house which may require members to live-in for a year. Most chapters select new members during the primary recruitment period, which takes place at the start of the academic year. Chapters establish their own GPA requirements, with a recommended minimum of a cumulative GPA of 2.5 from either high school or college. Students will register and pay a fee to participate in primary recruitment during the summer or upon arrival to campus in August. Primary recruitment allows participants to visit each chapter to meet current members and learn more about the organization. Once a student is invited to join a sorority, they will participate in new member education designed to teach the history, values, and expectations of the organization. The membership process culminates with initiation into the organization.

Some chapters will continue to accept new members throughout the fall and spring semesters based on their chapter size.

Outside of the process of primary recruitment, some sororities, based on their chapter size, will be able to participate in continuous open bidding (COB), often called informal recruitment, outside of the primary recruitment period. It is important to recognize that the only

way to have an opportunity to join all chapters at Illinois State is to engage in the primary recruitment process, as not all chapters will be able to utilize COB.

Requirements for joining a CPC Organization

- Earn a minimum of a 2.5 high school or college GPA to participate in primary recruitment (chapters may have a higher academic requirement to become a member).
- Complete required paperwork and educational programming.

Helpful hints for joining a CPC Organization

- Register for primary recruitment so you can interact with all sorority chapters.
- Research each organization to see which ones align with your personal values.
- Keep an open mind and ask questions in order to learn about each chapter.
- Meet with the Rho Gammas, current members of the Panhellenic community who have gone through an extensive training process to give unbiased support and advice to potential new members during the formal recruitment process.



Alpha Delta Pi was founded on May 15, 1851, at Wesleyan Female College in Macon, Georgia, and is rich with tradition and sisterhood. The Zeta Theta chapter at Illinois State University was established in 1973. Their philanthropy has brought the chapter into a partnership with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois in Springfield and, most recently, in Peoria.

- Instagram: adpi_isu
- Redbird Life: Alpha Delta Pi Sorority



Alpha Gamma Delta is an international women's fraternity founded on May 30, 1904. Alpha Gams strive to attain a higher standard, thereby improving their lives, the lives of those around them, and the communities in which they live. Together, they continually work to inspire the woman and impact the world.

- Instagram: alphagam_isu
- Redbird Life: Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority–Beta Omicron

CHAPTERS



Alpha Omicron Pi is a sorority focusing on improving members' lives at Illinois State University. They do this through fun sisterhood events, academic support, and giving back to the community. AOPI was founded on January 2, 1897.

- Instagram: isualphao
- Redbird Life: Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority



Chi Omega is an intergenerational women's organization founded on April 5, 1895. Their purposes include friendship, personal integrity, service to others, academic excellence and intellectual pursuits, community and campus involvement, and personal and career development. Chi O's philanthropy is the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

- Instagram: chiomega_isu
- Redbird Life: Chi Omega

CHAPTERS



Delta Delta Delta is an assembly of women with shared values where students can be themselves. They are brave, bold, and kind. They are passionate about serving others and committed to becoming the best versions of themselves. Tri Delta was founded on November 27, 1888.

- Instagram: isu_tridelta
- Redbird Life: Delta Delta Delta Sorority



The Lambda Rho chapter of **Delta Zeta** was founded on March 4, 1973, at Illinois State University. They are a proud sorority, welcoming those who carry the values of sisterhood, leadership, service, and scholarship. Their chapter was founded nationally on October 24, 1902.

- Instagram: isudeltazeta
- Redbird Life: Delta Zeta Sorority

CHAPTERS



Gamma Phi Beta helps their members realize their full potential by offering forward-thinking programs, tools, and opportunities to become constructive, engaged leaders and contributors to the greater community. They were founded on November 11, 1874, at Syracuse University in New York. Their values are love, leadership, and learning.

- Instagram: gammaphibeta_isu
- Redbird Life: Gamma Phi Beta



Kappa Kappa Gamma is an organization that seeks for every member lifelong bonds of friendship, mutual support, opportunities for self-growth, respect for intellectual development, and an understanding of and an allegiance to positive ethical principles. They were nationally founded on October 13, 1870.

- Instagram: isukappa
- Redbird Life: Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority

CHAPTERS



Phi Sigma Sigma was founded on November 26, 1913. Their mission is to inspire the personal development of each member and perpetuate the advancement of womanhood. They believe in creating an environment for members that fosters friendship and offers a variety of experiences.

- Instagram: phisigisu
- Redbird Life: Phi Sigma Sigma



Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority that promotes scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship among its members. The sorority was founded on January 26, 1978, at The Ohio State University by five women who wanted an alternative to the social Greek sorority system. They also recruit women outside of the primary recruitment process.

- Instagram: sigmaalpha_isu
- Redbird Life: Sigma Alpha Sorority

CHAPTERS



Sigma Sigma Sigma was founded on April 20, 1898, and exists to provide a lifelong sorority experience for women. Their sisterhood promotes a perpetual bond of friendship, develops strong womanly character, and inspires standards of ethical conduct.

- Instagram: trisigmaeo
- Redbird Life: Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority



Zeta Tau Alpha was founded on October 15, 1898, and was created to make a difference in the lives of its members by developing the potential of each individual. They foster strength of character by emphasizing leadership development, service to others, academic achievement, and continued personal growth, with a commitment to friendship and the future.

- Instagram: isuzeta
- Redbird Life: Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority

CHAPTERS



Zeta Theta Pi encourages fellowship between females based on the values of character, commitment, and compassion as well as encouraging leadership and involvement in the community to better the sister, the sorority, and society. Zeta Theta Pi is a local sorority founded in the spring of 2007 at Central Michigan University.

- Instagram: [zetathetapiilstu](#)
- Redbird Life: [Zeta Theta Pi Local Service Sorority](#)



Celebrating accomplishments of chapters and individual leaders is an important aspect of the Greek community.

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About underground organizations

Organizations that were once recognized fraternities or sororities at Illinois State University may attempt to continue operations despite losing recognition from the University or inter/national organization. Any operation of these groups is considered underground activity, is against university policy, and is not sanctioned by Sorority and Fraternity Life. Therefore, students should carefully consider the risks of associating with an unrecognized group.

These organizations have had their recognition revoked for various reasons, including hazing, alcohol and drug abuse, risk management violations, and failure to comply with policies and expectations. In almost all cases, these organizations also had their charter suspended or revoked by their inter/national organization because they were not upholding fraternal values and were engaging in risky behaviors that endangered the members and other students. The following groups have lost recognition in recent years for conduct violations:

- Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity (suspended through 2025; charter suspended by national headquarters; university suspended as well)
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity (current group of underground students posing as a chapter of this fraternity; not recognized by the national organization)
- Kappa Sigma Fraternity (suspended through 2025 by the University)

Membership in recognized organizations vs. unrecognized

A recognized fraternity or sorority meets the standards set forth by Illinois State and the affiliated inter/national organization to operate at the University. All recognized organizations are monitored for compliance with university policies and procedures, receive education and support, and can access university programs and services.

Benefits of joining a recognized organization:

1. Interaction with other members of the sorority and fraternity community.
2. Access to leadership education and training from the affiliated inter/national organization and Illinois State.
3. Involvement in the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), United Greek Council (UGC), or College Panhellenic Council (CPC).
4. Participation in Greek community-wide events and activities.
5. Access to leadership awards and scholarships.
6. Ability to apply for a housing exemption to live in a chapter-facility as a sophomore.

Commonly used terms

ACTIVE: A fully initiated, dues-paying, undergraduate member of a sorority or fraternity.

ADVISOR: An alumnus/alumna who serves as a resource for the active chapter and liaison between the alums, university, and collegians.

BADGE/PIN: An item of jewelry given to members upon initiation.

BID: An official invitation to join a Panhellenic or Interfraternity organization given to potential new members.

BID DAY: The last day of Interfraternity Council and College Panhellenic Council recruitment, where potential new members receive formal invitations to join a sorority or fraternity.

BIG: An initiated member of a sorority or fraternity who serves as a mentor to a new member, guiding them through the new member program, initiation, and beyond.

CALL: A yell used most commonly by National Pan-Hellenic Council and United Greek Council to identify and greet brothers and sisters. Non-members are not permitted to use the call.

CHAPTER: A branch of a national sorority or fraternity established at a campus. Each will have its own name, usually designated by Greek letters.

CHARTERING: When an establishing chapter receives official recognition from its international office to have a chapter on a campus.

COLLEGE PANHELLENIC COUNCIL (CPC): The College Panhellenic Council is the governing body for the 11 National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) sororities on campus, for Sigma Alpha, and for Zeta Theta Pi.

CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING (COB): A process in which an individual can be offered a bid after the formal recruitment process.

CROSSING: Ceremony during which new members of culturally based organizations become active, lifelong members of their organizations.

CULTURALLY BASED: Sororities and fraternities that include the celebration or appreciation of a particular culture.

DRY: A sorority or fraternity which does not permit alcohol on their house premises and, in some cases, does not allow the organization to host an event involving alcohol.

DUES: Monetary costs of membership in a sorority or fraternity used to fund operations, events, and national fees.

FOUNDERS DAY: An event celebrated by sororities and fraternities to highlight the founding of their organization and celebrate its history.

HAZING: Any act performed by a member of any organization that is likely to cause harm or danger, cause public embarrassment or shame, compromise a person's dignity, cause the person to be the object of ridicule, cause psychological harm, or is illegal. Hazing is against the law in all states and is against the principles of all sororities and fraternities.

INITIATE: A person who has recently learned the ritual of a sorority or fraternity and is a full member.

INITIATION: A ceremony where a new member becomes a full member of the organization. Initiation ceremonies are private and different for all organizations.

INTAKE: Term for the process by which culturally based organizations educate new members.

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL (IFC): The Interfraternity Council is the governing body for some of the men's fraternities.

LINE: New member class of a National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) chapter or United Greek Council organization.

LITTLE: Little brother/Little sister; used to refer to the mentee the Big brother/Big sister is matched with.

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC): Refers both to the local and national coordinating body for historically African American sororities and fraternities. Illinois State University will soon have all nine of these organizations.

NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE (NPC): The National Panhellenic Conference is the organization that governs 26 national women's organizations.

NEOPHYTE: New member of a culturally based organization. Also called a neo.

NEW MEMBER: Term for a person who recently accepted a bid or invitation to membership. Some organizations refer to new members as associate members or line members.

NEW MEMBER CLASS: A group of new members who join at the same time. Also referred to as a pledge class or line.

NEW MEMBER PERIOD: The time period from receiving a bid until initiation, where the new member learns about their new sorority or fraternity. Formerly called pledge period.

NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION: Presentation show for new members of culturally based organizations. Also called a probate.

NORTH AMERICAN INTERFRATERNITY CONFERENCE (NIC): The North American Interfraternity Conference is the national governing body of a majority of the men's fraternities.

ORDER OF OMEGA: An honor society for Greek members who demonstrate outstanding leadership and academic achievement.

PHILANTHROPY: A charity or fundraiser that the sorority or fraternity supports. Can be national, local, or both.

POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER (PNM): A potential new member is a student interested in joining an organization. Also called an aspirant by some groups.

PRIMARY RECRUITMENT: Primary recruitment is the main way of joining a National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) organization. It takes place during Welcome Week in the fall semester on Illinois State's campus.

RITUAL: A secret ceremony of a Greek organization. Also, the formal document that contains the secret principles and ideals upon which the organization was founded. Ritual elements are sacred to each sorority or fraternity and have been handed down through generations. Only initiated members may be privy to rituals.

SALUTING: Saluting is a tradition common to many Latino-Greek organizations. Salute/saluting is a unique art of reciting information in a line formation. Put quite simply, it's "poetry in motion." It involves a line of members performing intense, in-sync, and sharp hand and body movements with greetings attributing to others, honoring past and current accomplishments, or cherishing the cultural history, heritage, and traditions of the entire organization.

STEPPING: Stepping is a form of percussive dance in which the participant's entire body is used as an instrument to produce complex rhythms and sounds through a mixture of footsteps and handclaps.

STROLLING: Also known as "party walk(ing)." An energetic, synchronized dance. Typically, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organizational members move together in a line expressing pride for their organization. In this line, members may express their pride through use of their organization's call, sign or historical information, ritual/custom dances, etc. All of this is done through movements unique to a particular organization. Emulating or cutting in/through the line is considered a sign of disrespect.

UNITED GREEK COUNCIL (UGC): The United Greek Council is the organization that governs some of the culturally based sororities and fraternities on campus.

Frequently asked questions

When do students typically join a sorority or fraternity?

Member selection/intake varies by organization and council affiliation. NPHC and UGC organizations independently determine when they will consider new members. IFC chapters typically take new members throughout the fall and spring semesters. CPC organizations take in new members at the beginning of the academic year, and some CPC organizations may take additional new members later in the fall semester and in the spring semester.

How much does it cost to join a sorority or fraternity?

The financial commitment varies by organization. Fees cover inter/national dues, chapter operating expenses, and social functions. There may be additional costs throughout the semester for items such as photos, gifts, apparel, philanthropies, and special events. Students are encouraged to ask about payment plans and scholarships available through the chapter and the affiliated inter/national organization. Average expenses for chapters affiliated with the governing council include:

IFC: \$750 first semester, \$750/semester if living outside chapter facility, \$3,000/semester when living in the chapter facility

NPHC: \$1,250/academic year

CPC: First semester dues: \$1,200; Live-in costs/dues: \$5,350 (per semester; Live out dues: \$970 per semester)

UGC: \$350/semester

How much time is required to be a member of a sorority or fraternity?

As with other student involvement, the more time and effort contributed to the membership experience, the larger the benefits received. Basic membership will consist of one chapter meeting per week, but will not result in much personal growth or the ability to create strong bonds with other members. Participating in other opportunities, such as community service projects, philanthropy events, brotherhood/sisterhood activities, holding a leadership position, etc., will establish relationships and bonds that will last a lifetime. Your Greek involvement will fit into your weekly schedule and allow time for classes, coursework, family, employment, and involvement in other student organizations.

Do I need to identify as a student of color to join a NPHC or UGC sorority or fraternity?

No. Chapters within NPHC and UGC are open to students of all ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. The culturally based sororities and fraternities were founded to provide students of color the opportunity to build support systems and relationships that will allow them to succeed at institutions of higher education. Membership in these organizations is open to all students, with education, service, and philanthropic initiatives focused on underserved populations.

Will joining a sorority or fraternity have a negative impact on my grades?

Academic achievement is the foundational value of all sororities and fraternities. Academic standards include maintaining a minimum GPA and academic support initiatives such as tutoring, study sessions, and other programs to assist members. Students who utilize these resources and properly balance their time commitments will find that membership will enhance their academic performance. Studies have consistently found that sorority and fraternity members tend to be significantly more likely to graduate and report more satisfaction with their university experience than unaffiliated students.

Is hazing a traditional practice in sororities and fraternities at Illinois State?

Hazing is any action that produces bodily harm or danger, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, fright, or ridicule. All national fraternal organizations and institutions of higher education have banned hazing. Illinois State University and the Greek councils rigorously enforce hazing policies, and organizations that violate them are subject to immediate suspension of campus and Greek council recognition and privileges.

The rituals of Greek organizations have nothing to do with hazing; they are not scary, shameful, or degrading. Although rituals are the most important part of membership, it is not hazing.

Sorority and Fraternity Life

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