



# INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

at the UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

## Frequently Asked Questions - Fall 2020

### What is the IFC?

IFC stands for Interfraternity Council. It is a student-led peer governance body responsible for a portion of the Fraternity and Sorority community on the UT Martin campus. IFC policies organizational structure are largely dictated by the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). NIC is a trade organization comprised of 60 national and international men's fraternities.

### Who on the UT Martin staff supports the IFC?

The Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs (OSLMA - <http://www.utm.edu/departments/slma/>), a department of the Division of Student Affairs (SA - <http://www.utm.edu/studentaffairs/>) is responsible for supporting all student organizations on campus, including the social fraternities and sororities. Chris Gunlefinger ([cgunlefi@utm.edu](mailto:cgunlefi@utm.edu) / 731-881-7756), an Assistant Director of Student Life, serves as the staff advisor to the IFC.

### What fraternities are members of the IFC at UT Martin?

Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) - <https://www.alphagammarho.org/>

Kappa Alpha Order (KA) - <https://www.kappaalphaorder.org/>

Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) - <https://www.pikes.org/>

Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) - <https://www.sae.net/>

Sigma Chi (EX) - <https://sigmachi.org/>

Sigma Phi Epsilon (SigEp) - <https://sigep.org/>

### What are the requirements for joining and IFC Fraternity?

Membership eligibility is based upon the following criteria:

- Be in good disciplinary standing with the University
- Meet the following GPA requirements:
  - o 2.6 High School GPA for first semester freshmen
  - o 2.25 Collegiate GPA for transfer students, upperclassmen, and second semester freshmen seeking to join in their spring semester
- Complete the required hazing prevention education program module in Canvas

### **When can a man join an IFC Fraternity?**

The NIC and IFC believe philosophically that any man should be free to join a fraternity at any time that is right for both him and the organization. The University believes that student safety interests are best served by requiring students to complete a hazing education program before being initiated into a fraternity. To balance these interests, OSLMA policies are as follows:

- Incoming freshmen and transfer students may join an IFC Fraternity by participating in the IFC's structured recruitment week or any time after recruitment week has passed, but not before it.
- Returning students and upper classmen may join at any time following a grade and conduct record check by OSLMA staff and completion of the hazing prevention education module in Canvas.

### **How do I sign up for recruitment week?**

Go to: <https://utmifc.mycampusdirector2.com/>

OSLMA will review the academic records of everyone who registers. After this review, their information will be provided to the IFC fraternities.

### **When is recruitment week?**

IFC Recruitment is currently scheduled to take place during the first week of classes. The schedule and planned activities have changed from previous years due to COVID-19.

- Tuesday, August 18 – Formal Night.
- Wednesday, August 19 and Thursday, August 20 – Preference Nights
- Friday, August 21 – Bid Day

### **Why do freshmen and transfers have to wait until recruitment week to join?**

Recruitment week is an opportunity for new UT Martin students interested in joining a fraternity to get to know the chapters and their members and for the chapters to get to know them in turn. Men participating in recruitment activities are encouraged to meet as many fraternity brothers as possible, ask questions, and gather as much information as they can so that they can make an informed decision.

### **What does it cost?**

There is no cost to sign up for or participate in recruitment. A \$40 bid fee is due to the IFC upon acceptance of a bid.

Chapter dues vary from organization to organization, but on average, members of the UT Martin IFC pay about \$675 per semester.

Some chapters are adjusting their dues as a result of COVID-19. If you are interested in joining a fraternity, be sure to ask about the associated costs!

### **What do the dues pay for?**

Dues pay for all the costs associated with being in a fraternity, including social events, leadership development, general housekeeping events, and other programs. Living in the house is often a separate fee, but dues are inclusive in that they cover every other aspect of joining a fraternity. If you are interested in joining a fraternity, be sure to ask questions about dues and housing costs.

### **What is the time commitment like?**

The time commitment varies from chapter to chapter, but the first semester is the most time intensive as the new member goes through the chapter's education program. The time spent in this program will give new members the opportunity to develop leadership and time management skills, learn about the history of the organization, develop friendships, and allows them to become involved with other 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. If you are interested in joining a fraternity, be sure to ask questions about the time commitment that will be required.

### **Are there scholarships available?**

Yes, each affiliated IFC chapter has their own scholarship process, whether that is at the local level or from the national level. Researching the fraternity of your interest may be necessary to find an in-depth explanation on how scholarships work for certain organizations. There are plenty of fraternity scholarships available for outstanding fraternity men. If you are interested in joining, be sure to ask!

## Will joining a fraternity hinder my academics?

Our fraternity men typically earn higher GPAs than their unaffiliated counterparts. Every organization requires its new members to complete a set number of study hours per week and has programs to provide academic support for all members.

Semester	All-male average GPA	All-IFC average GPA
Fall 2016	2.63	2.80
Spring 2017	2.62	2.64
Fall 2017	2.66	2.70
Spring 2018	2.82	2.79
Fall 2018	2.71	2.71
Spring 2019	2.67	2.77
Fall 2019	2.71	2.67
Spring 2020	2.91	3.10

## What will I gain from the fraternity experience?

Coming to college is one of the major life changes that you will go through. Joining a fraternity can help make the transition easier. Developing life-long friendships with the members in the chapter helps make the campus smaller. For many members, these chapters become a home away from home. Time management is learned through having a full schedule. In addition to the brotherhood, every chapter promotes the values of enhancing leadership, scholarship, philanthropy/service, and financial responsibility in their members.

## Are fraternities like what I see in tv/movies or read on the Internet?

What you see on TV and in the movies, are often stereotypes of the Greek experience. While you may find films like Animal House or websites like Old Row entertaining, they do not accurately reflect the full fraternity and sorority life experience. Every fraternity and sorority is different and unique. The best way to find out what fraternities and/or sororities are like is to go to a fraternity or sorority event to see for yourself.