



**SIGMA ALPHA MU**

# Guide for Parents

**Fraternities exist as a proven support network for your son. Over 2,500 students across the continent are currently members of Sigma Alpha Mu. Since 1909 over 67,000 men have been initiated into Sigma Alpha Mu.**

Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity can help personalize your son's college experience by offering a scholastic support system hands on experience in leading communities, managing budgets, and interacting with the silty in administrator; exposure to potential careers through educational program; the chance to give back to the community service projects.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I'm concerned about my son's grades. What impact would fraternity membership have?**

Students often find managing their time difficult when moving from highly structured high school environment to freedoms of college. Sigma Alpha Mu can assist in the transition. Many chapters offer a scholarship programs which might include study partners, mandatory study hours, and time management workshop.

While Sigma Alpha mu is concerned about the academic achievement of its members your son is still ultimately responsible for utilizing the resources made available.

Each year the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation awards many scholarships to its currently enrolled members, based on criteria such as academic excellence, financial need or field of study. After your son's initiation, he is encouraged to apply when his chapter received notification.

### **Who is actually in charge of the fraternity?**

Chapter members elected to officer positions manage the day-to-day operations of the local chapter organization. These officers are assisted by members serving on committees and by alumni you act as advisers.

In addition, your son's chapter is part of an international fraternity organization that offers support, advice, and direction through a paid professional staff in regional alumni volunteers. As you can see, a variety of individuals oversee the operations of the fraternity.

### **What's it cost to be in a fraternity?**

Sigma Alpha Mu is supported through dues charge to all undergraduate members in through educational grants from the Sigma Alpha mu foundation. In the first year of membership, a one-time initiation expense is assessed as well as yearly dues and liability insurance charges. If housing is offered by the local chapter, lodging in meal costs are competitive with other housing options. Variety of payment plans is usually offered.

### **What about pledging and hazing?**

New fraternity candidates all experience a period of orientation and education. During this time your son and other new candidates will participate in weekly meetings to learn about the fraternity and the university, leadership retreats, community service projects and activities designed to build friendships among the new candidates and older fraternity members.

Sigma Alpha mu is opposed to hazing and is committed to an eight-week membership education. Which instills a sense of responsibility and commitment in the new members. This period will assist her son in overcoming some of his concerns about success in college.

### **What liability insurance program?**

Sigma Alpha Mu maintains group liability insurance coverage so that all chapters, colonies, Alton corporations, alumni club, and chapter advisors are covered for general liability and a reasonable premium. Currently the total liability limit is \$2 million general liability and \$5 million excess liability. The premium for this insurance is assessed to each initiated member and candidate. The policy does not provide coverage to members who violate the law, University regulations, or fraternity policy.

### **The basic expectations talk about alcohol. What is it really like in the fraternity?**

Alcohol abuse is unhealthy and inconsistent with fraternity ideals. All chapters are expected to uphold state, county, and city laws, and university policies regarding the consumption of alcohol. In addition, our chapters are not allowed to purchase alcohol for members or guests, nor have any kegs or common sources of alcohol on chapter premises.

At Chapter Houses, you will find fraternity members participating in alcohol – free social activities. Students who choose not to drink will know that it is okay and feel comfortable with their decision.

**Don't have the answer to your question?  
Email us at [samhq@sam.org](mailto:samhq@sam.org).**