



Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life

December 20, 2023

Dear Parents and Families,

We hope this message finds you doing well and that you are looking forward to spending time with your loved ones and friends over the holidays. We are excited that your student is interested in participating in the [Interfraternity Council's](#) (IFC) recruitment process at SMU and look forward to seeing them in a few weeks. This letter outlines important information about the formal process in which your student is registered to participate next month.

IFC is the governing council of ten fraternity chapters at SMU, many of which are affiliated with the [North-American Interfraternity Conference](#) (NIC). IFC as a collective body stands to promote the fraternal experience through inter-fraternal collaboration, personal and professional development, and the betterment of the community. Residential Commons will open on January 5, 2024, but students will not need to return to campus for IFC recruitment until **Friday, January 12th, 2024**. Students participating in IFC recruitment should communicate their return date with their residential commons.

For men registered to participate in **IFC's** recruitment, these dates are important:

- Saturday, January 13, 2024: Orientation & First Round
- Sunday, January 14-Friday, January 19th, 2024: Invitational Events
- Saturday, January 20, 2024: Bid Day

Eligibility Requirements

Students interested in joining one of our fraternities or sororities must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- First-year students must have completed and passed at least 12 college credit hours in the previous semester to join (defined as fall or spring term); may have completed at a previous institution. Upper-class students must have a demonstrated ability to meet this requirement.
- Achieved a 2.5 GPA, cumulatively and in the previous semester.
- Not be placed on conduct probation or higher with the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards at any point in the current or previous semester to joining or initiation.
- Must be enrolled at SMU before starting the recruitment process.

SMU will check GPAs as grades are submitted prior to, and shortly after winter break. Typically, 89% of registered individuals will meet these eligibility requirements. If your student is found to be ineligible, they will receive an email notification from SMU's Fraternity and Sorority Life staff. Every attempt is

made to contact students prior to winter break, but pending grade submissions, this may take place in early January.

Managing Expectations

The recruitment process can be an exciting time. It can also be disappointing for some. Approximately 500 students participate in the IFC recruitment process at SMU, and about 80% will receive a formal bid to join a chapter at the conclusion of the week. We encourage students to keep an open mind throughout the process. Not every person will be invited back to their first preference, but we hope they choose to continue the process. Keeping an open mind and being willing to explore the brotherhood experience in any of our nine chapters can lead to a successful recruitment. Approximately 8% of the starting pool – or about 40 students – will continue to receive invitations throughout the week, but for their own reasons choose to withdraw themselves from the process.

Our staff will be available to meet one-on-one with these students to help create an involvement plan for the spring semester, discuss future Greek life engagement and help connect them to additional resources on campus.

You can play an important role in offering emotional support and encouragement to your student during this process. Our professional staff in the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office and student advisors will also be available to support and help answer any questions or concerns that students may have. All membership decisions are decided by individual organizations alone. We cannot influence or change membership decisions and will not have information regarding the processes behind these decisions.

While we cannot guarantee that your student will receive a bid or a bid from their preferred organization, there are many other substantive ways they can engage and participate in campus life. SMU has more than 200 [student organizations](#), and we hope that all students participate in as many organizations as possible. Additionally, all 10 IFC organizations will participate in a formal recruitment process during the fall 2024 semester.

Recommendation Letters

IFC does not require or manage letters of recommendation. Any recommendations must be submitted directly to the chapters through the national organization's website. SMU has no authority or say in how an organization chooses to offer membership. Legacies (those with relatives who are members) are not guaranteed to receive a bid from that particular fraternity. Your student should also know that any conversation with members of an organization in the fall should not be interpreted as a guarantee for a bid to join the organization.

Student Safety

The safety of our students is our top priority. Hazing is not tolerated and is a violation of Texas law, the [SMU Student Code of Conduct](#), and the inter/national policies for each of our fraternities and sororities. Hazing violations can be reported online through SMU's dedicated [website](#). You can also review the conduct status of student organizations at SMU that has been found responsible for violating the SMU Student Code of Conduct within the last three years on the following [website](#).

Resources and More Information

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the resources available on SMU's Fraternity and Sorority Life [website, including the information on the parent and families page](#).

Should your student join a fraternity, we will follow up with both of you later in January regarding the new member education process and related information. Our professional staff is here to help answer

any questions about the recruitment process, so please do not hesitate to contact us. Adam Joiner, Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, is the IFC advisor. His office phone number is 214-768-5281 and his email address is ajoiner@smu.edu.

We look forward to welcoming all our students back next month and hope your student has a fun and engaging experience during recruitment week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Fitzpatrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ashley" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Fitzpatrick".

Ashley Fitzpatrick

Director, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
(214) 768-3633 or alfitzpatrick@smu.edu