



INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL RECRUITMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WWW.TEXASIFC.ORG

What is the Interfraternity Council (IFC)?

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) is the self-governing organization that provides guidelines and support to its 30 member organizations and 2,600+ members. Each IFC member organization focuses on different aspects of Sorority and Fraternity life, including academics, athletics, campus involvement, community services, leadership and brotherhood.

What is the IFC Code of Conduct?

- We will know and understand the ideals expressed in our fraternity Rituals and will strive to incorporate them in our daily lives.
- We will strive for academic achievement and practice academic integrity.
- We will respect the dignity of all persons; therefore, we will not physically, mentally, psychologically or sexually abuse or harm any human being.
- We will exhibit cultural sensitivity and will respect all cultures, races, ethnicities, and religions.
- We will protect the health and safety of all human beings.
- We will respect our property and the property of others; therefore, we will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.
- We will meet our financial obligations in a timely manner.
- We will neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs; we will neither misuse nor support the misuse of alcohol.
- We will challenge all fraternity members to abide by these fraternal expectations and will confront those who violate them.

When is IFC Recruitment?

IFC Recruitment at UT Austin is “open and informal.” This means that there are no official start/stop dates for fraternities to conduct recruitment activities. However, many fraternities engage interested members during intersessions and at the beginning of each semester. Contact each chapter of interest for their timeline. Contact information is listed on texasifc.org.

How can I learn more about joining an IFC chapter?

- Register for recruitment information on texasifc.org.
- Meet IFC and chapter members at Summer Orientation organization tabling and late night programming. See your Summer Orientation schedule for the days and times of these planned activities.
- Attend IFC and Chapter Events
The IFC hosts events throughout the year, which are open to all, including Fall Welcome and Movember. These events are great ways to learn more about the IFC community and meet council and chapter members. Visit the IFC website or social media for more details.
- Follow IFC and chapters on social media
- Review chapter information on the IFC and the Sorority and Fraternity Life (SFL) websites. Grade and chapter size stats, good standing, contact information, the hazing memo, and other chapter profile information is provided to assist you.

Do I have to join an IFC fraternity in the fall semester?

Virtually every IFC fraternity takes a fall new member class, so many join our community in the fall. Some, but not all, chapters invite new members to their organizations in the spring semester.

What is a bid?

A bid is a formal invitation to join a fraternity. Bids may be given at any time both verbally and/or in writing. IFC does not consider any bids officially accepted until after the first Friday of the fall semester, in case there are any disputes about a potential member amongst two or more fraternities. This means that no new member activities should occur until after the first week of school. Potential members may receive multiple bids from different fraternities, but may only accept one.



How can I increase my chances of getting a bid?

1. Register with the IFC as soon as possible to let IFC fraternities know you are interested.
2. Learn about as many chapters as you can, and then select the ones on which you would like to concentrate. Attend their events and get to know their members.
3. Be positive. Do not criticize other chapters or potential new members.
4. Get to know other students. Although many students feel more comfortable if they recruit with friends, don't count on joining the same fraternity as your friends.
5. Be yourself. Joining an organization is a lifetime commitment, so you want it to be a good fit.

What are the financial obligations for IFC fraternity membership?

It is important for students and parents to be as informed as possible regarding the costs associated with obtaining a college education. Understanding the financial obligations associated with fraternity membership is just as important. During recruitment activities, a potential member should ask fraternity members about the financial obligations and payment options as each fraternity sets its own fees and housing costs, as well as, the payment schedules and plans.

Chapter fees fund various activities of the organization such as academic and leadership programs, service activities, alumni and parent events, national dues, and lifetime membership. Additional costs throughout the semester to consider may include parking, optional meal plans, pictures, gifts, social events, T-shirts, etc. It's important to ask what the fees and dues cover, what is additional, and what items are optional or required.

Several chapters at UT Austin offer payment plans and scholarships for members who need financial assistance. Please note that when you become a new member of a fraternity, you are affiliating with that organization. If at any time you decide to disaffiliate, you may still be held responsible for fees or payments required to fulfill your contract with the organization.

Is alcohol allowed at recruitment functions?

Recruitment is intended to provide opportunities to spend time getting to know each other. According to the IFC Constitution, alcohol is not to be served to minors under any circumstances (IFC Risk Management Policy, Section 1K). No alcohol should be served to minors during any recruitment function, whether it is one-on-one or in a large group. Additionally, almost every IFC organization has a national policy that prohibits the use of alcohol at any and all recruitment and/or new member activities.

How do I decide what chapter to join?

Each person looks for different attributes in a fraternity. Each of the chapters focuses on one or more of the following: academics, athletics, campus involvement, community service, leadership, and/or brotherhood. The choice is yours, so look carefully at all of the chapters and evaluate which one best meets your needs and interests. Review stats and information on the IFC and SFL websites and ask chapters about their new member program, their service and leadership opportunities, their expectations of members and required events.

How much time does a fraternity take?

Time dedicated to a fraternity will vary from chapter to chapter. Most organizations will have at least one required meeting a week where you will exchange information on chapter events and fraternity education. Chapter study sessions, brotherhood activities, community service projects, and social events are also activities, which may be part of your agenda. Some activities may be required, while others are optional. Prioritizing events is a good way to practice your time management skills. While it is often said, the more you put into the fraternity experience, the more you will get out of it, it is also important to remember balance. It may be a red flag if an organization is *requiring* you to spend an exorbitant amount of time with the fraternity, which impedes on your academics, family/friend time, or other campus involvement.

How long will it take to be initiated?

Most chapters have moved to a new-member period that ranges from six to ten weeks long. The new-member period affords opportunities to meet other members, learn fraternity history and chapter processes, and feel at home in the chapter. Each chapter establishes its own new-member program and initiation dates. Learning more about the new member process and expectations is a great question to ask the active members as you meet them during recruitment activities.

