



## Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life

June 2, 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

We are excited that your student is interested in participating in the [Panhellenic Council's](#) recruitment process at SMU and look forward to seeing them this fall. This letter outlines important information about the formal process in which your student might register to participate in over Labor Day weekend.

Panhellenic is the governing council for [National Panhellenic Conference](#) (NPC) sororities at SMU. There are 26 organizations nationally and SMU hosts seven chapters. Panhellenic strives to lead with courage and integrity to positively impact and unite its chapters, campus, and local communities.

The [following dates](#) are important for the Panhellenic's recruitment process. Students will have individualized schedules and will be engaging in events during portions of each time frame. Those with class or SMU conflicts should contact [panhellenic@smu.edu](mailto:panhellenic@smu.edu) as soon as possible if they have not already. The council can make schedule accommodations in most cases. Students may not miss class due to recruitment. Additionally, students should expect to be added to an online course, through Canvas, that will prep them for the process and Greek life at SMU.

- Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7PM: Mandatory Info Session & Open House Round
- Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 3:45-10:40PM: Philanthropy Day 1
- Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM-1:00PM: Philanthropy Day 2
- Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 10AM-7:35PM: Sisterhood Day
- Monday, September 1, 2025, 11:30AM-7:00PM: Preference Day
- Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 6PM: Bid Day

### Eligibility Requirements

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

1. Students must be enrolled in at least 12 hours during the semester in which they plan to join, and have completed new student orientation requirements, if applicable.
2. Achieve a 2.0 cumulative GPA, calculated on a 4.0 GPA scale. This can be demonstrated through high school transcripts for incoming first-year students, or through my.SMU or transfer records for upper-class students.
3. Not be placed on conduct probation or higher with the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards during the semester in which a student plans to join and prior to initiation.
4. Please note that most individual organizations have policies requiring a higher GPA or hour completion for membership. We highly recommend that students review these requirements as they explore the opportunities to join.

\*\*\*Students must attend all SMU orientation & Stampede events to be eligible to participate in

recruitment.

*\*Average GPA of students participating in primary Panhellenic recruitment is a 3.4.*

Typically, 94% 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. Upper class students may check their own grades in their [my.SMU](#) portal at any time. Please note that chapters will make decisions based on their own organizational GPA requirements. All Panhellenic chapters currently require at least a 3.0 GPA. While some may accept grade risks each year, students that fall below these requirements, that process is rare and independent to each organization.

### **What to Wear Each Day**

The SMU Panhellenic website has helpful information regarding the schedule and [recruitment attire](#). *Please review this information with your student as it explains the activities during the week and attire.* Also, keep in mind that temperatures are hot in August. Students should prioritize hydration during the day and should plan to eat a meal before activities begin.

### **Managing Expectations**

The recruitment process can be an exciting time. It can also be disappointing for some. Approximately 640 students participate in the Panhellenic recruitment process at SMU, and about 78% will accept a formal bid to join a sorority 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 sisterhood experience in any of our seven participating chapters, is the key to a successful recruitment. Based on past recruitment figures, we predict that on average less than 10% (50-60 students) will not receive an invitation from a sorority during the week. An additional five students will not receive a formal bid at the end of the week from their preferred sorority or sororities. These students will be notified in advance by staff.

Approximately 20% of the starting pool – or about 125 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 fall 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 (referred to as “Rho Gammas”) will also be available to support and help answer any questions or concerns that students may have. Please note that SMU utilizes a national recruitment structure outlined by the National Panhellenic Conference. All membership decisions are decided by individual organizations alone. We cannot influence or edit membership decisions and will often not have information regarding the decision processes behind these decisions.

While the recruitment process may be challenging for some, the numbers indicate that overall, if your student keeps an open mind and wants to join an organization, one will be available. However, there will be many who for several reasons choose to withdraw from the process out of disappointment. We respect those personal decisions and hope that your student will maximize these opportunities and approach the process with impartiality. While we cannot guarantee that your student will receive a bid or a bid from their preferred organization, we have found that those who participate fully in the process, including

attending all the recruitment events to which they are invited and ranked, are matched successfully, and will receive a bid.

### **Student Involvement & Spring Recruitment**

Should your student choose to withdraw, we encourage them to explore A Night at the Club, SMU's involvement fair on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8PM on Dallas Hall Lawn. Students can review the more than 200 [student organizations](#) on SMU 360 and we hope that all students participate in as many organizations as possible. Should a student wish to explore recruitment again, we typically have 1-3 Panhellenic organizations continue to take new members during the fall semester. We also usually see 1-3 organizations take additional members during the spring semester as well. Students interested in these informal options can email [panhellenic@smu.edu](mailto:panhellenic@smu.edu) for more information.

### **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](#). Please note that students should not engage with organizations that are not officially recognized by SMU. Derecognized student groups pose inherent risks and are not regulated at a local or national level. Students who join derecognized student groups are in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and as such, it may impact a student's standing at SMU. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life has received several reports of organized activities and recruitment by a group self-identifying as the "Theta Society," and/or "The Society" despite the SMU chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta's suspension from campus. To be clear, the local Beta Sigma chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta is suspended through at least January 15, 2026, and is not recognized or sanctioned as an active organization at SMU by the Panhellenic Council, Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, Inc., or SMU.

### **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](#). Your student also has access to Panhellenic's [Recruitment Guidebook](#) and dedicated [Panhellenic website](#), which both contain a lot of helpful background information and resources. Should your student join a sorority, we will follow up with both of you later in September 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. We look forward to meeting your students over the next several days and hope your student has a fun and engaging experience during recruitment week.

Sincerely,



Ashley Fitzpatrick  
Director, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life  
(214)768-6424 or [smufsl@smu.edu](mailto:smufsl@smu.edu)