What is a fraternity/sorority?
Fraternities are Greek-letter organizations for men; sororities are Greek-letter organizations for women. Both place emphasis on scholarship, leadership, community service, and social activities. Men and women are eligible for membership any time after their first semester is completed (minimum requirements – must have completed 12 credits and have a minimum overall Grade Point Average of 2.50). It is important to note that some organizations have higher minimum requirements.

How does my student go about joining a fraternity/sorority?
Fraternities/Sororities organize a process called recruitment. Recruitment offers the chance to meet other people and learn about what each organization has to offer.

Each organization has its own unique programs and strengths, yet all are primarily concerned with friendship, scholarship, leadership, and service to others. Just like researching, visiting, and choosing a college, during recruitment students should seek out the fraternity/sorority that best suits their personality, needs, and goals. They will find there is a fraternity/sorority for everyone.

Does it cost a lot to be in a fraternity/sorority?
Membership fees vary from organization to organization. There are national fees; some are onetime fees, others are annual or semiannual fees. Each chapter is self-supported by local dues paid by members.

Financial Information
Financial obligations are a major consideration when joining a sorority or fraternity. It is essential that each member take responsibility in regards to his/her commitment to a particular organization.

The first year of membership in a Greek organization is the most expensive due to the one-time fees every new initiate must pay.

Expected Fees:
- **New Member Fee** – Pays for manuals, notebooks, materials, and new member pins.
- **Initiation Fee** – Covers costs for national dues, subscription to the national magazine, lifetime membership dues, and the initiation ceremony.
- **Social Dues** – Fees each member pays which is budgeted into use for events such as recruitment, officer budgets, social service projects, social functions, and special events.
What happens during the first months in a fraternity/sorority?

Students make a lot of new friends; friends they will soon call brothers/sisters. It’s an exciting time… electing officers… planning socials… going places… learning fraternity/sorority history… and getting to know more about themselves and their new brothers/sisters.

I want my student to succeed academically. Will fraternity/sorority membership help or hinder his/her efforts?

Getting good grades in college can be tough. It takes hard work, commitment, and knowing the right resources. In the fraternity/sorority, there is a network of members who already take advantage of campus resources such as the library, math lab, and Career Services.

While your student is ultimately responsible for his/her success, many opportunities are opened up as a result of membership. Most Greek organizations offer study halls, study hours and study buddies, as well as award and incentive programs to help students achieve.

My student was a leader in high school. Will he/she have opportunities to lead in the fraternity/sorority?

In Greek organizations, the members are in charge! Everyone in the organization is a leader, whether an officer, a committee chair, or a committee member. Whether it is winning in intramurals, planning a dance, or organizing a holiday party for community children, everyone works together with lots of team spirit.

Members will learn by doing. Students learn how to manage a budget, run effective meetings, speak in public, and motivate others… skills that will help in college and throughout life. Remember, it takes more than just a degree to get a good job!

Where can I get more information?

Visit the Greek Life Web pages at http://www.calu.edu/current-students/get-involved/greek-life/index.htm, or contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life by e-mailing Greeks@Calu.edu.