



## Fraternity & Sorority Life Parent & Family FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Office of Student Programs & Engagement

### **What is a “chapter”?**

A chapter is an organization – a group of men or women on campus who are members of the same fraternity or sorority.

### **What are Bentley’s fraternity and sorority chapters?**

Fraternity & Sorority Life (“FSL” or Greek Life) at Bentley is comprised of 17% of undergraduate students who are members of 12 recognized on-campus chapters. There are currently 8 fraternities and 4 sororities recognized by Bentley University.

Chapters	
Fraternities	Sororities
Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi)	Alpha Phi (APhi)
Alpha Gamma Pi (AGP)	Gamma Phi Beta (Gamma Phi)
Alpha Sigma Phi (Alpha Sig)	Kappa Delta (KD)
Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE)	Phi Sigma Sigma (Phi Sig)
Kappa Sigma (Kappa Sig)	
Sigma Chi	
Sigma Gamma Delta (SGD)	
Sigma Pi	

### **What is the difference between a recognized chapter and an unrecognized chapter?**

Recognized chapters have gone through a University approval process and are expected to uphold requirements of University recognition. They are held accountable to Bentley policies, receive oversight and support from the Office of Student Programs & Engagement (SP&E), and are responsible for complying with the Fraternity & Sorority Life Community Standards Program. Specifically, recognized chapters receive support from SP&E during recruitment and new member education and participate in required risk management trainings. These chapters host on-campus events and chapter leaders meet regularly with professional staff in the SP&E office to promote chapter success.

Unrecognized chapters are loosely organized social clubs that may use Greek letters in their name but are not recognized, approved, or supported by the University. Unrecognized chapters are not subject to the recruitment, new member education, risk management, academic, and other standards and policies that are implemented and enforced for recognized chapters. Unrecognized chapters are not monitored by the University, do not share membership rosters with SP&E, and operate outside of University expectations. Groups that do not appear on the above list of recognized chapters do not meet the University’s standards for recognition and/or have lost recognition for failure to adhere to Bentley’s policies.

Kappa Pi Alpha (KPA) “Fraternity” is an unrecognized group that is not recognized, approved, or supported by the University.

### **What is a “non-social” fraternity? Are they recognized?**

Bentley University recognizes a variety of types of fraternities. Greek Life generally refers to *social* Greek letter organizations (those listed above); however, there are a number of recognized *non-social* fraternities on campus. These include two recognized professional business fraternities, one service fraternity, and one theater fraternity – all of which have co-ed memberships. In general, this FAQ document and Fraternity & Sorority Life policies apply to social fraternities and sororities rather than non-social fraternities, although there is some overlap in the structures of these organizations and the University’s expectations for them. Recognized non-social fraternities are listed among Bentley’s other student organizations on the Student Organizations page of the Bentley website: <https://www.bentley.edu/campus-life/student-life/campus-involvement-and-leadership/student-organizations>

### **What is “recruitment”?**

Recruitment is the process by which interested Bentley students attend events to learn more about Bentley’s chapters and chapters have the opportunity to meet potential new members. The process ends with chapters extending invitations to join,

or “bids,” to potential new members to whom chapters would like to offer membership. The recruitment process is supported and overseen by the student-led Panhellenic Council (sororities) and InterFraternity Council or IFC (fraternities) as well as professional staff in the Office of Student Programs & Engagement. Sorority Formal Recruitment is comprised of successive rounds of events where potential new members visit all the chapters over the course of a weekend in January. Through a process of mutual selection, students and chapters participating in Formal Recruitment narrow their choices after each round. Mutual selections are unfortunately not guaranteed for every student or chapter participating in the process. Aside from this process, the InterFraternity Council's Fraternity Recruitment each semester, and Sorority Recruitment each Fall semester, are Informal Recruitment processes that are more de-centralized take place over a number of weeks.

### ***What is “deferred recruitment”?***

Bentley University utilizes a deferred recruitment process, whereby first-year students at Bentley are not permitted to join a chapter until their second semester at the University. Colleges and universities that have Greek Life on their campus generally either allow first-year students to join a chapter during their first semester or require students to wait until they have completed a full semester of coursework before going through the process. Bentley, like many other campuses, feels it is important for new students to have some time on campus before taking on a Greek Life commitment. This model for recruitment allows new students to fully acclimate the campus, adjust to the academic rigor of the institution, and learn more about Bentley’s Greek Life community prior to going through the recruitment process in the spring.

### ***What are the requirements to join?***

In general, any student interested in going through the recruitment processes for either IFC (for fraternities) or Panhellenic (for sororities) chapters must meet the following requirements.

1. Enrolled full-time with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.7 and designated as at least Class Code 2 (have earned 15 credits at Bentley or be a transfer student)
2. Completion of the Anti-Hazing Agreement & Grade Release
3. Completion of the online *Hazing Prevention 101: It’s Everyone’s Responsibility* training
4. Attendance at a Recruitment Information Session

### ***What is “new member education”?***

New member education is a process that takes place immediately following recruitment. Students who are invited to join a chapter receive bids from that chapter. If a student accepts a bid, they are considered a new member. The new member education program varies from chapter to chapter, but in general new members learn the mission, history, and values of the organization while building relationships with current members of the chapter over the course of multiple weeks. The Office of Student Programs & Engagement has policies in place regarding what chapters may and may not do during new member education, and the office keeps new member education schedules on file for all chapters. In general, these processes last no more than six weeks. At the end of new member education, students who complete the requirements of the process are initiated into the organization through a formal ritual event.

### ***When do recruitment and new member education take place?***

Each semester, fraternity recruitment will begin on or after the Monday following the first day of class and will conclude on or before the third Sunday following the first day of class. In the fall semester, sorority recruitment will begin on the same date and will continue through the end of the semester through the C.O.B (Continuous Open Bidding) process. In the Spring semester, Sorority Formal Recruitment is held over the course of a weekend in January.

New member education begins immediately following recruitment and generally lasts no more than six weeks. The duration of the process may vary slightly depending on the specific chapter.

### ***How will I know if my student is going through the recruitment or new member education processes?***

We recommend asking your student if Greek Life is even something they may be considering. Our office’s approach is to encourage students and parents to have proactive and honest conversations about this decision, as it is a significant one for many students. At the same time, the vast majority of Bentley students are not members of Greek Life, and some students participate in recruitment but ultimately decide not to join an organization. It all comes down to what is best for your individual student and what they want to get out of a Greek Life experience. Our hope is that these FAQs provide some additional context about our Greek community so that you feel more informed when discussing this opportunity with your student.

### ***What advice should I give my student about the recruitment and new member education processes?***

As a parent, guardian or family member, you likely have the opportunity to offer your student advice about the recruitment and new member education processes. Even if you do not have prior experience with these processes yourself, you can still positively impact your student's experience by encouraging them to keep an open mind and to look for organizations that align with their values. Student should make an effort to get to know members from multiple chapters, rather than settling on one chapter preference early on. You can also remind your student to be aware of their resources – the Office of Student Programs & Engagement being an important one – as they navigate the process.

Sometimes students do not receive a bid from the chapter they were interested in joining, and other times students do not receive a bid at all. This can be understandably disappointing. Before ruling out a chapter they previously did not prefer, students should weigh the option of giving that organization a chance and looking beyond their initial impressions. And for students who unfortunately do not receive a bid, this is often disheartening news. Bentley staff are always available to talk students through these situations and help them make a decision that is right for them. Students should know that if they do not receive a bid, there is always the opportunity to go through the process again next semester. Oftentimes waiting one semester longer, while in the moment may feel far away, actually results in a more positive long-term experience. There are also countless other opportunities to get socially connected on campus if a student ultimately decides Greek Life is not for them.

### ***What are the benefits of joining a fraternity or sorority?***

Joining a fraternity or sorority chapter offers students the opportunity to build community within a group of people who share similar values, engage in service to the larger community, gain leadership skills, and enhance their academic experience. This infographic outlines these benefits more fully:

[https://www.bentley.edu/files/2017/08/26/Greek%20Life%20at%20Bentley%20Infographic\\_0.pdf](https://www.bentley.edu/files/2017/08/26/Greek%20Life%20at%20Bentley%20Infographic_0.pdf)

### ***What is the financial commitment that comes with joining a fraternity or sorority?***

Each chapter charges membership dues to all active members each semester. Funds generated from dues support the chapter's operating budget as well as the resources chapters receive from their national headquarters. Dues per semester generally range from about \$100-300, although some chapter dues may be more or less. Chapters offer payment plan options to make payment of dues more manageable. It is expected that chapters share dues information with students who are interested in joining the organization, and it is important that students going through the recruitment process ask about dues to ensure they have the information they need to make a decision that is best for them.

### ***Does joining a fraternity or sorority take away from the academic experience at Bentley?***

While our office works closely with the chapters on academic success and support, we recognize that joining a chapter and taking on a Greek Life commitment is inherently time-consuming. As such, we keep copies of all chapter recruitment and new member education schedules on file and work with chapters to ensure events and meetings conclude at a reasonable hour. Many chapters offer study hours throughout the week during new member education to ensure there is dedicated time to complete coursework during the process. New members often find that more senior members of the chapter serve as informal tutors and provide helpful peer support for their academic experience. These resources are available to new members in addition to the support services offered to all students by Academic Services and other departments.

Many Bentley students who are members of the fraternity and sorority community on campus cite their membership in their chapter as a major contributor to their academic success at Bentley. Our deferred recruitment model and minimum GPA for membership (elevated to 2.7 starting in Spring 2019) helps ensure students joining our Greek community have a baseline academic foundation before doing so. Once members have joined the community, the average GPA for students within Greek Life at Bentley is 3.3.

Each chapter is required to have a Scholarship Chair who is responsible for academic success within the chapter. This officer helps identify any members who may be struggling academically, implements recognition programs to celebrate academic achievement within the chapter, and shares resources for academic support with members.

### ***Who is in charge of fraternities and sororities?***

Individual chapters elect officers from among their membership to manage the day-to-day operations of the chapter. These officers are often assisted by alumni who act as advisors. Each chapter is also responsible to report to their inter/national organization (if applicable), which offers support, advice and direction through paid professional staff and regional volunteers. Additionally, staff in Student Programs & Engagement meet regularly with chapter officers, monitor chapter compliance with Bentley policies and measure chapter achievements through our FSL Community Standards Program, and

serve as resources to all members of Greek Life on Bentley's campus. Chapters are rewarded when they achieve high levels within the Standards program, and conversely, chapters receive sanctions when determined to be not in compliance with the program.

### ***What are Bentley's expectations of fraternities and sororities on campus?***

Bentley's Fraternity & Sorority Life Community Standards Program is designed to set consistent expectations for all chapters at Bentley and promote chapter success. The Standards program measures each chapter's (and individual member) completion of a variety of risk management and other requirements. These requirements include online and in-person risk management trainings among other expectations tracked each academic year. Standards is designed to provide incentives for positive indicators of student and chapter success, such as high GPAs, community service, and campus involvement. The Standards Program was first introduced in Fall 2017, and we have experienced great results in the initial rollout of these expectations. To view the full Standards Program, please visit this link:

<https://www.bentley.edu/files/2017/08/26/FSL%20Community%20Standards.pdf>

### ***What is Bentley's approach to hazing prevention and education?***

Given the recent national news about Greek Life and tragic hazing incidents on other campuses over the past year, we understand you may have questions about Bentley's culture when it comes to these issues. While our Greek Life community on campus has much to be proud of and students often report their membership in their chapter to be the best part of their Bentley experience, we also know how important it is (now more than ever) to continue to provide our students with the knowledge and skills to make smart and safe decisions.

A key cornerstone of our new Community Standards Program— which tracks chapter and member compliance with a variety of requirements – is hazing prevention. Per the Standards Program, all members of Greek Life on campus are required to complete a one-hour online hazing prevention course prior to joining a chapter. In their second semester of membership, students are required to complete an online follow-up module that builds on the content from the hazing prevention course they completed when they joined. Outside of these individual trainings, chapter members are required on an annual basis to complete an in-person risk management training. The topics covered each year vary based on identified needs within the community, but hazing prevention has been a focus previously and will be offered in the future as well. Other previously covered and potential topics include Title IX, mental health, and alcohol and other drug education. These trainings are facilitated by the leaders within the chapter and supervised by Bentley professional staff.

Additionally, each semester SP&E hosts a required new member educator workshop to do an in-depth training with the chapter officers responsible for the new member education process. A component of this workshop is training on hazing prevention and related policies. The University invests significant financial and staff resources into these risk management programs.

The Office of Student Programs & Engagement tracks chapter and member compliance with these training requirements. If at least 90% of a chapter's members do not complete a training requirement, that chapter risks being temporarily suspended until it reaches the required 90%. During a suspension, a chapter is not permitted to hold any events or organize as a membership. If a chapter has at least 90% of members in compliance, the chapter's status will not be immediately impacted; however, any students who have not completed the requirement may incur a suspension of their individual membership until they complete the requirement. During a suspension, an individual may not attend chapter events. At the same time, chapters who achieve over 95% or over 98% of member compliance with these training requirements are rewarded with additional Standards points which ultimately lead to financial incentives for the chapter.

This positive and educational approach has helped Bentley staff develop more trusting relationships with our chapters, improved chapter transparency and willingness to have honest conversations about risk management issues, and has led to a more collaborative approach to prevention. Assessment data from our hazing prevention trainings has shown that as a result of participating in these sessions participants have a stronger awareness of how Bentley defines hazing, what activities may be considered hazing, and how students can report their concerns to Bentley staff.

In addition to these training requirements, all members of Greek Life are required to review and agree to comply with Bentley's Hazing Policy when they join a chapter. The core components of the policy are incorporated into the hazing prevention trainings. The policy can be found on pages 37-39 of the Student Handbook: <https://www.bentley.edu/campus-life/student-life/division-student-affairs/the-student-handbook>

***Do fraternities and sororities have houses?***

Bentley does not offer any on-campus or off-campus housing options for chapters. Individual members of chapters may elect to live together, either through the on-campus housing selection process or by renting privately owned apartments off-campus. However, there is no official chapter or Greek Life housing.

***What is "philanthropy"?***

Each fraternity and sorority chapter at Bentley serves different philanthropic/charitable causes throughout the year, generally through service hours and fundraisers. Each chapter's philanthropy events vary slightly, depending on the chapter's mission and history. Organizations served by our chapters include Boston Children's Hospital, Girls on the Run, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer/American Cancer Society, Home For Our Troops, Humane Society, and other groups. Philanthropy is a major value of the Greek community at Bentley; last year the entire fraternity and sorority life community raised over \$81,000 for these causes.

***Who should I contact if I have any questions or concerns or if I would like more information?***

Please feel free to contact Matt Galewski, Associate Director of Student Programs & Engagement, via email at [mgalewski@bentley.edu](mailto:mgalewski@bentley.edu) or by phone at 781-891-2556, if you have any questions or concerns.