**Help! My Student Wants To Go Greek!**

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The decision to join a fraternity or sorority can be one of the best choices a student makes at UMBC. Greek affiliated students have significant opportunity for leadership development, are heavily involved in their campus community, and have exclusive access to ever-expanding professional networks. But for parents, especially those who have no firsthand experience with sororities and fraternities, this decision can be cause for concern. Below, I’ve listed the top five reasons I think joining a fraternity or sorority has the potential to tremendously enhance your student’s college experience.

**A Home Away From Home**: By joining a sorority or fraternity your daughter or son will be welcomed into a tightly-knit community of students who are thriving at UMBC, a community willing to help get them comfortable and connected as they transition to a collegiate lifestyle. In a 2012 survey, 94% of Greeks agreed that their chapters have provided them with a strong support network at UMBC.

**Academic Excellence**: Promoting and expecting [high academic performance](http://my.umbc.edu/system/shared/attachments/4b203fb6e22fb694ae402525fda50662/50ff0b4d/group-documents/000/002/336/dffa23e3f38973de8a5a2bce627e261b/Spring%202012%20Grade%20Report-Final.pdf?1345812325) is a central tenet of every Greek organization at UMBC. Almost all groups incorporate minimum academic standards and programs on improving study habits as a condition of membership. It is common to have your brothers or sisters in the same class. They become instant study buddies and can take notes in case of an absence. Often older members have already taken a specific class or had a certain professor - They can help younger members with study tips or tutoring.

**Commitment to Service:** Sorority and fraternity members proactively engage in numerous service projects and charitable fundraising events through UMBC and the local community each semester. In a survey from 2012, 80% of Greek students at UMBC agreed that since joining our community they have become more service-minded.

**Leadership Opportunities**: Greek chapter Presidents at UMBC have overall responsibility for between (10) and (55) members. Among other things, she or he runs and sets the agenda for meetings, supervises the enforcement of all policies, develops and operates within an overall chapter budget, coordinates with advisors and volunteer organizations, and provides motivation and mentorship for the rest of the membership - every chapter has several positions with similar responsibilities.

**Career Development:** Joining a fraternity or sorority connects students to an active, global alumni network interested in helping members develop and meet professional goals. Students will graduate with a well-developed network of professional contacts and mentors. Moreover, Greek students have access to exclusive professional development programs through UMBC and their National Organizations.

Students and parents can stay up to date on our UMBC Greek community online: <http://www.umbc.edu/greek>. For more information on the Office of Student Life and the programs and services we offer throughout the year, please visit our website at [http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.umbc.edu%2Fstudentlife%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNG0ynxDAHgLVSl5RsexvN3zT0qKaQ).