

# **PHI KAPPA CHI PARENT'S GUIDE**

## **ACADEMICS**

Academics should be your student's primary focus while at Baylor. Phi Kappa Chi, like many fraternal organizations, requires a minimum GPA in order to maintain active member status. Phi Kappa Chi has a number of officers elected to ensure that members of our undergraduate chapter are reaching the highest academic standards possible. Phi Kappa Chi is recognized annually by Baylor's Student Activities for its outstanding academic achievement and currently has the second-highest GPA among fraternities with a 3.42. Additionally, beginning in 2011, undergraduate members will be able to apply for academic scholarships through the Phi Kappa Chi Foundation in order to alleviate a portion of the costs of books and student fees. Since obtaining a degree is the main reason for attending college, please help us to ensure that your student realizes that he must maintain his grades if he wants to participate in Phi Kappa Chi.

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Your student will have financial responsibilities associated with joining Phi Kappa Chi. Members of Phi Chi pay a one-time pledging fee as well as membership dues every semester. Your student's year in school will determine the amount of dues he will have to pay each semester. If your student is interested in becoming a member of Phi Kappa Chi, we advise you work with him to determine a budget that will enable him to fulfill his financial commitments.

## **PLEDGE EDUCATION**

### ***Phi Kappa Chi Statement on Pledge Education***

"We believe that pledging should be a totally positive experience and a time for individual growth, not a time for members to vent their frustrations. It is a time for members and pledges to grow both spiritually and physically, serve, and learn together. The brothers of Phi Kappa Chi believe that the happy person is the one who is complete in all areas of life. We will concentrate on improving the academic, spiritual, physical, and social aspects of our lives in an attempt to better ourselves and those around us."

*(Phi Kappa Chi Founding Statement of Purpose)*

## **HAZING**

Hazing is perhaps the most common concern for parents when their son decides to pledge a fraternity. This is a serious issue, and we want you to know that Phi Kappa Chi takes it very seriously. The following information is provided to you to help you understand our approach to handling issues of hazing. We maintain a strict no-tolerance policy on hazing. Members found in violation of this in any way are referred to the Phi Kappa Chi Standards Board for sanctioning. You should also know that alumni members of Phi Kappa Chi are not permitted to participate in pledge education activities in any way. Moreover, any instances of hazing that do take place are immediately reported to Baylor's Department of Student Activities and the Office of the Dean for Student Development.

### ***Phi Kappa Chi Statement on Hazing***

Phi Kappa Chi acknowledges that Acts of hazing are incongruent with our commitment as Christian men to encourage one another. We agree to uphold and abide by Baylor policy and Texas State Law on hazing. Further, we will hold ourselves to an even higher standard: that of the 'atmosphere of encouragement and comfort' described in our founding Purpose Statement.

The following information has been provided by Baylor University and can also be found on Baylor's hazing resources website: [http://www.baylor.edu/student\\_activities/hazing/](http://www.baylor.edu/student_activities/hazing/).

### **What you need to know**

- 1) Hazing is a violation of Baylor University policy and of Texas state law.
- 2) At Baylor, hazing is defined as "any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization."
- 3) Hazing most commonly involves physical risks (such as excessive exercise) and/or mental or emotional distress (such as humiliation, intimidation, or demeaning treatment).
- 4) Hazing does *not* only occur within Greek organizations! Hazing can occur in any student organization.
- 5) Most often, groups that haze, do so with the best of intentions: they are working to build unity and team spirit among pledges or new members. Even the best intentions, however, cannot diminish the negative impact of hazing.

## **MEMBERSHIP TIME COMMITMENT**

On average, your student should expect to contribute two to eight hours per week for mandatory meetings and activities. If your student has the time, he can also choose to participate in optional activities, such as holding an office, attending social events, helping out with various service projects, playing intramurals, etc. Some organizations require more time than others. We encourage prospective members to ask questions regarding time commitments during recruitment.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Phi Chi participates in many different activities on Baylor's campus and in the surrounding community. The kind of activities your student may participate in will vary. Possible activities include:

- Service activities in Waco community (visits to the nursing home, bible studies in low-income apartments)
- Intramural sports
- Attending social events, such as parties, mixers, and formals
- Performing in All-University Sing and Pigskin
- Mission trips, both stateside and international
- Homecoming Float construction
- Regularly scheduled chapter meetings and recruitment events
- Leadership development workshops
- Bible studies and worship events
- Pledge education

If your student decides to pledge Phi Chi, it will be important that he understands the necessity of balancing social activities and academics. Phi Chi is committed to ensuring that academics come first. Also, please keep in mind that while fraternal life is great for many students, it is not for everyone. We encourage prospective members to consider the time and financial commitments of joining a fraternity and to first discuss it with you.