guide to
fraternity &
sorority life

18-19

BSC
Birmingham-Southern College
Greetings, new students and families!

Welcome to the Birmingham-Southern College community! Students, as you think about your entire educational experience at BSC, I hope you take advantage of the wide range of opportunities available to you, in and beyond the classroom. The multitude of student activities and organizations here will substantially enrich your academic pursuits and enhance your campus life experience.

One avenue available to you is Fraternity and Sorority Life. Many stories in the media have highlighted negative experiences involving Greek Life at some campuses, which may raise your concerns about this aspect of campus life. I understand why you may feel that way. At BSC, we strive to be a community of respect and concern for each other, representing the best ideals of brotherhood and sisterhood with other members. For our Greek students, significant engagement and service to the campus and broader community is the norm, not exclusivity and separation. Leadership and personal development, academic support, and numerous social activities are among the many benefits you will enjoy as a member of Greek organizations, in addition to finding them across our campus community.

As you soon settle into academic and student life at BSC, I encourage you to consider Fraternity and Sorority Life as you explore your options for engagement. Our many student leaders and the staff in Student Development will be available to you to answer questions and help you find what seems to best fit your interests. We look forward to getting to know you, and to helping you make the most of your years on the Hilltop!

Forward Ever!

**David Eberhardt, Ed.D.**
Vice President for Student Development
deberhar@bsc.edu | (205) 226-4722
GREEK LIFE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Greek community at Birmingham-Southern College is to promote academic excellence, demonstrate civic engagement and philanthropic outreach, and create an inter-fraternal family among all members. We are committed to helping people reach their full potential and become successful after college life.

TOP 5 reasons to go greek at bsc

1. Academics are the Top Priority
2. Leadership on Campus
3. Community Service
4. Alumni Connection
5. Lifelong Memories
Academics are the top priority for BSC’s Greek organizations. Sororities and fraternities proudly reflect a high level of scholastic achievement through their chapter-wide grade point averages. Each fraternity and sorority maintains academic standards that members are expected to meet. Fraternity and sorority members also have the opportunity to apply for scholarships provided through their organization’s educational foundation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Greek GPA</th>
<th>Campus GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>3.16</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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“I did not have Greek Life at the college I attended and the stories that I heard from other moms as their daughters were pledging did not impress me. I thought that Greek Life was made of random rules, high fees, and an emphasis on social cliques. Then my daughter was given a chance to become a sorority member at BSC and I learned all the wonderful things that Greek Life could bring to a student’s life. My daughter has gained a family of supportive friends who are always there for her, and she has gained immeasurable leadership skills and confidence. What my daughter gained from this experience far outweighs the cost. Greek Life is no longer Greek to me and I am so glad because it has been a wonderful addition in helping my daughter blossom into a well-rounded individual.”

LISA FLAGG, BSC Parent

At Birmingham-Southern College, being a part of a chapter doesn’t compare to any other experience. Brotherhood and sisterhood is not about conformity—no organization is made up of members who are exactly alike. Rather, they promote individualism paired with mutual respect, trust, and cooperation.
community service and philanthropy

One of the most rewarding aspects of being involved in fraternity and sorority life at BSC is participating in service and philanthropic events organized by individual chapters and the Greek community as a whole. Working together on such projects not only benefits worthy causes, but also fosters personal growth and greater unity among members. The BSC fraternity and sorority community donates thousands of dollars to philanthropic organizations and countless hours of service in chapter-sponsored events.

leadership

Whether it is leading a committee, developing a new program, or actively contributing to their chapter’s success, Greek Life offers students many ways to strengthen and build leadership skills. Greek members are involved in numerous clubs, organizations, and athletic teams on campus to create a well-rounded college experience. Each chapter is self-governing and relies on the talents of its members for successful management. Being a part of BSC’s Greek community can help you find your niche and provide you with opportunities to strengthen your leadership skills.

networking

Fraternity and sorority involvement is not limited to the college years; it continues throughout life. Organizations maintain alumni associations or graduate chapters around the country to keep the lifetime commitment strong. The relationships you make with alumni provide opportunities for networking and mentoring throughout your career.
interfraternity council

WHAT IS THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL?
The Interfraternity Council [IFC] is the governing body of the fraternities at BSC. The IFC is responsible for communication among fraternities, programming for the fraternities, and especially fraternity recruitment. To learn more and register for recruitment, visit: [www.bsc.edu](http://www.bsc.edu) and search [Greek Life](http://www.bsc.edu).

Alpha Phi Alpha

Name: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.
Chapter: Tau Iota
National Founding Date: December 4, 1906
Location: Cornell University
BSC Founding Date: 2000
Colors: Black & Old Gold
Flower: Yellow Rose
Motto: First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All
Philanthropy: March of Dimes
Contact Us: Chapter President
Jaylin Kemp
jmkemp@bsc.edu

Evan Hall
IFC President
Class of 2019

“Since 1878, fraternities have enriched the lives of BSC’s brightest young men. The Interfraternity Council at Birmingham-Southern exemplifies what Greek organizations should be. We seek students who have a commitment to our college and its rigorous academic tradition. Joining a fraternity is a lifelong commitment to brotherhood, service, leadership, and scholarship.”
Alpha Tau Omega

Name: Alpha Tau Omega
Chapter: Beta Beta
National Founding Date: September 11, 1865
Location: Virginia Military Institute
BSC Founding Date: 1885
Colors: Azure & Gold
Flower: White Tea Rose
Motto: The Positive Experience
Philanthropy: Red Cross

Contact Us:
Recruitment Chair
Luke Otwell
jlotwell@bsc.edu

Kappa Alpha Order

Name: Kappa Alpha Order
Chapter: Phi Chapter (seventh oldest in nation)
National Founding Date: December 21, 1865
Location: Washington & Lee University
BSC Founding Date: 1882
Colors: Crimson & Old Gold
Flower: Red Rose and Magnolia
Motto: Excellence Is Our Aim
Philanthropy: Muscular Dystrophy Association

Contact Us:
Recruitment Chair
Tripp Hagen
mdhagen@bsc.edu
Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Name: Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Chapter: Alabama Iota
National Founding Date: March 9, 1856
Location: University of Alabama
BSC Founding Date: 1878
Colors: Purple & Gold
Flower: Violet
Motto: True Gentlemen
Philanthropy: Children’s Miracle Network

Contact Us: Recruitment Chair
Rob Puliam
rppullia@bsc.edu

Sigma Chi

Name: Sigma Chi
Chapter: Chi Chi
National Founding Date: June 28, 1855
Location: Miami University
BSC Founding Date: 1993
Colors: Blue & Old Gold
Flower: White Rose
Motto: In Hoc Signo Vinces
Philanthropy: Children’s Miracle Network
Huntsman Cancer Institute

Contact Us: Recruitment Chair
Peter Toland
pttoland@bsc.edu
Sigma Nu

Name: Sigma Nu
Chapter: Lambda Theta
National Founding Date: January 1, 1869
Location: Virginia Military Institute
BSC Founding Date: 1987
Colors: Black, White & Gold
Flower: White Rose
Motto: Love, Truth, Honor
Philanthropies: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Wounded Warrior Project

Contact Us: Recruitment Chair
Graham Hughley
gthughle@bsc.edu

Theta Chi

Name: Theta Chi
Chapter: Beta Xi
National Founding Date: April 10, 1856
Location: Norwich University
BSC Founding Date: 1942
Colors: Military Red & White
Flower: Red Carnation
Motto: Extend The Helping Hand
Philanthropies: Northstar Youth Ministries, Cornerstone School of Alabama

Contact Us: Recruitment Chair
William Seward
wcseward@bsc.edu
The Panhellenic Council is the governing body of the sororities at BSC. The Panhellenic Council strives to develop women through academic success and service. We promote women’s leadership, diversity, and strong relationships between each chapter. To learn more and register for recruitment, visit: www.bsc.edu and search Greek Life.

“*I enjoy being a part of the BSC Greek community because we are a truly unique system that gives everyone a chance to reach their full potential. We build strong relationships between our brothers, sisters, and alumni. My experience at BSC would not have been the same if I had not been a part of Greek life.*”

KENNEDY MARTIN
Panhellenic President
Class of 2020
Alpha Chi Omega

Name: Alpha Chi Omega
Chapter: Alpha Omega
National Founding Date: Oct 15, 1885
Location: DePauw University
BSC Founding Date: April 9, 1926
Mascot: Lyre
Colors: Scarlet Red & Olive Green
Flower: Carnation
Philanthropy: Domestic Violence Awareness

Mail Recommendations To: BSC Box 549107
Birmingham, AL 35254

Alpha Omicron Pi

Name: Alpha Omicron Pi
Chapter: Tau Delta
National Founding Date: January 2, 1897
Location: Barnard College
BSC Founding Date: 1925
Mascot: Panda
Colors: Cardinal
Flower: Jacque-Minot Rose
Philanthropy: Juvenile Arthritis

Mail Recommendations To: BSC Box 549108
Birmingham, AL 35254
Chi Omega

Name: Chi Omega
Chapter: Omicron Lambda
National Founding Date: April 5, 1895
Location: University of Arkansas
BSC Founding Date: 1989
Mascot: Owl
Colors: Cardinal & Straw
Flower: White Carnation
Philanthropy: Make-A-Wish Foundation

Mail Recommendations To: BSC Box 549099
Birmingham, AL 35254

Kappa Delta

Name: Kappa Delta
Chapter: Alpha Upsilon
National Founding Date: Oct 23, 1897
Location: State Female Normal School
BSC Founding Date: April 8, 1930
Mascot: Teddy Bear
Colors: Pearl White & Olive Green
Flower: White Rose
Philanthropy: Prevent Child Abuse America, Girl Scouts of USA, Children’s Hospital, Richmond, VA, Orthopedic Research Awards

Mail Recommendations To: BSC Box 549109
Birmingham, AL 35254
Pi Beta Phi

Name: Pi Beta Phi
Chapter: Alabama Alpha
National Founding Date: April 28, 1867
Location: Monmouth College
BSC Founding Date: 1928
Mascot: Arrow & Angel
Colors: Wine & Silver Blue
Flower: Wine Carnation
Philanthropy: Read Lead Achieve

Mail Recommendations To: BSC Box 549110
Birmingham, AL 35254

Zeta Tau Alpha

Name: Zeta Tau Alpha
Chapter: Alpha Nu
National Founding Date: Oct 15, 1898
Location: Longwood College
BSC Founding Date: October 7, 1922
Mascot: Five Pointed Crown
Colors: Turquoise Blue & Steel Gray
Flower: White Violet
Philanthropy: Breast Cancer Education and Awareness

Mail Recommendations To: BSC Box 549111
Birmingham, AL 35254
**Greek terms and definitions**

**Active**: Fraternity or sorority member, currently in school, who has completed his/her new member program and has been formally initiated by his/her chapter

**Bid**: A formal invitation to a potential new member on behalf of that sorority or fraternity to join that specific group

**Bid Day**: The day that potential new members receive their bids

**Chapter**: The local group of a national fraternity or sorority designated by a special Greek letter name

**Formal Recruitment**: The major recruitment period of the year during one weekend early in the fall semester. Formal recruitment consists of different events sponsored by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils separately. Potential new members have the opportunity to visit each chapter house and meet its members.

**Fraternity**: A Greek letter organization characterized by a ritual, a pin, and a strong tie of friendship

**Greek**: A member of a sorority or fraternity so called because the organization bears a Greek letter name

**Initiation**: The formal, ritualistic ceremony during which a new member takes final vows and becomes a full member of his/her fraternity or sorority

**Interfraternity Council (IFC)**: The representative governing body of the fraternity system

**Legacy**: A potential new member whose parent or sibling is an alumnus/ae or active member of a specific fraternity or sorority

**Nationals**: The governing body of each fraternity and sorority on a national level; the central headquarters of a Greek organization

**Panhellenic**: National and local council of sororities, the purpose of which is to govern, to unify, and to aid sororities in their relationships with one another and the college community

**Philanthropy**: A service project undertaken by Greek members on the campus, community or national level

**Quota**: The number of women that each sorority may add during Recruitment

**Recommendation**: A written letter or statement recommending a potential new member for membership in a fraternity or sorority. It can be sent from alumni of any chapter and is sent to the chapter of his/her fraternity/sorority on this campus.

**Rho Gamma**: Sorority members who do not affiliate with their own sororities during Recruitment, but serve as unbiased advisors to potential new members during Recruitment

**Recruitment**: A process whereby students interested in fraternities and sororities can meet the members of each chapter and learn more about the organizations

**Potential New Member (PNM)**: Any student who is regularly enrolled and is eligible according to scholastic requirements, who is interested in becoming a member of a fraternity or sorority, and who has registered for Recruitment

**Sorority**: A Greek letter sisterhood, also called a women’s fraternity

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**How do I send a sorority recommendation to BSC?**

Although recommendations are not required by every chapter, Alums from chapters that exist at BSC are welcome to send a recommendation on behalf of students registered for Formal Recruitment. There is not a standard form. However, each sorority has their own recommendation form which can be located on their respective national website. To submit that form to a BSC chapter, mail it directly to the address for the respective sorority which can be found in this booklet.

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Thank you for your interest in BSC Greek Life and welcome to the Hilltop! For additional questions, contact Stephanie Schroeder, Assistant Director of Student Life at snschroe@bsc.edu.