

UWA

The UNIVERSITY of
WEST ALABAMA

It's all Greek [life] to me.

If you're like most people, the phrase "Greek life" generates thoughts of another generation: gorgeous sorority girls, wild fraternity parties, etc. And while Greek life has changed over the decades – just as college students have – it still serves the same purpose: it's an opportunity to meet people.

Greek life at the University of West Alabama provides a sense of community, a bit of structure to your social calendar, some friendly academic competition, and even a chance to build your leadership skills. Believe it or not, it can look good on your resume, too.

Social Structure – Going away to college, especially alone and away from home, can be a pretty lonely time. Making the effort to go through recruitment, attend the events, and meet new people can be a great start at a new school. Plus, if you decide to join one of the organizations, you'll have mandatory social breaks in your school calendar for things like new member meetings, mixers, and formals.

Academic Support – Sororities and fraternities aren't just about parties and matching jerseys. Nearly all Greek organizations require their members to uphold grade point average standards... and even provide the tools to help you maintain them. Routine study sessions, access to upperclassmen as tutors, insight into professors' expectations—all part of the package.

Community – While there's certainly no expectation for Greeks to socialize exclusively within their organizations, it is nice to know you have a core group of friends you can count on. That small group of folks can offer a small sense of community on a big campus. Plus, a working a carwash or 5K run on a Saturday morning to raise money for charity isn't a bad way to spend the day.

Leadership – This is one aspect of Greek life some non-Greeks may not realize. Sororities and fraternities are large organizations with lots of activities, and there are roles and responsibilities for anyone willing to step up. Planning philanthropic activities, executing social mixers, participating in Panhellenic campus events and national organization activities all require organizational skills, leadership, and commitment. That's why former chapter presidents, vice presidents, social chairmen, new member trainers, and other officers of every type all list these accomplishments on their resumes.

Of course, it's entirely possible to enjoy campus life at UWA without joining a sorority or fraternity. You'll have many opportunities to meet people and make friends, plenty of sources

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for academic support and community involvement, and many other clubs and organizations willing to help you develop your leadership skills.

The key is to open yourself up to all these opportunities – including Greek life – to find the ones that will help you create the college experience you want for yourself. You'll certainly have fun as part of the Greek system and likely make life-long friends, too.