

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Culturally Based Fraternal Organizations

Membership Intake Process

1. Each organization does have a GPA, completed hours, and enrollment status requirements for membership. Some chapters accept first-term freshmen while others do not.
2. Some organizations host a “Rush Week,” where prospective members can learn more about the organizations to determine if they would like to pursue membership at the end of Rush Week.
3. If you are a first-term freshman interested in joining a Sorority or Fraternity but the organization(s) of interest do not accept first-term freshmen, and does not hosts a “Rush Week,” there are still important steps to take.
 - a. **Earn the grades!** It is important that you have a great academic start at ISU. Focus on exceeding the minimum GPA requirement. [Check out the Academic Success Center for more resources!](#)
 - b. **Get to know the members and the organizations!** Whether you are extremely familiar with sororities and fraternities, or know nothing at all, it is important that you get to know the members and the organizations AND for the members to get to know you. Use the semester to attend each chapters’ events and interest meetings to determine what the best fit is for you. You can learn of events and meetings from the various campus event calendars, sign-up on the chapters email list, follow the chapter on social media, and look for flyers around campus. Just remember to be yourself.
 - c. **Learn more!** Take the opportunity during three-day weekends and breaks to learn more about the organizations by reading some suggested books:
 - i. **Ross, L.** (2000). *The divine nine: The history of African-American fraternities and sororities*. New York: Kensington Books.
 - ii. **Kimbrough, W. M.** (2003). *Black Greek 101: The culture, customs, and challenges of Black fraternities and sororities*. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickson University Press.
 - iii. **Torbenson, C.L., & Parks, G.** (2009). *Brothers and sisters: Diversity in college fraternities and sororities*. Associated University Press.

*All three of these books are available for check out from The Office of Sorority and Fraternity Engagement.
 - d. **Service hours!** Giving back to the community is an important facet to culturally based fraternal organizations. Chapters volunteer weekly, monthly, and annually in areas of need in the community. Volunteer with the [Student Activities Leadership and Service Center](#) or on your own to earn service hours.
 - e. **Recommendations!** Many of the chapters require letters of recommendation as a requirement for membership. The recommendation letters can come from mentors, employers, professors, as well as members from the organization. Be sure to remain in contact with people you know and develop key relationships with faculty and staff on campus.
 - f. **Involvement & Leadership!** Another requirement, by some of the chapters, is your current involvement on campus and or in the community. Find an organization to join and be an active participant by serving on a committee or in a leadership role.
 - g. **Save up!** All organization require a new member fee. Depending on the organization, the fee can range from \$250-\$2,500. Begin saving money now so you are ready when the time comes. If you don’t join, at least you saved some money!

These organizations will notify interested students of their membership intake timelines when that information is available for distribution. Be patient. Take your time. Enjoy the journey!