



**The Pennsylvania State University
AFA / EBI Fraternity / Sorority Assessment
Spring 2007**

This assessment of the overall effectiveness of fraternity and sorority life at Penn State utilizes a national student survey conducted by the Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) and Educational Benchmarking, Inc. (EBI). It was administered two years ago (in the spring of 2005) to provide baseline data prior to the implementation of the Minimum Standards and the Standards of Excellence, products of the Return to Glory Greek Pride initiative. In spring of 2007, the survey was re-administered to track changes in the experiences provided within Penn State's fraternity and sorority life. Survey topics include the overall fraternity and sorority experience, academics, leadership and personal development, community service and philanthropic involvement, alcohol and other drug usage, diversity, membership education, satisfaction with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and anticipated alumni activity. It was administered by Web to students who were members of social fraternities and sororities at University Park during spring 2007; 63 other institutions also participated. Student Affairs Research and Assessment coordinated the study at University Park.

In total, 1,115 Penn State students responded to the survey for a 31.3% response rate¹ and a $\pm 2.43\%$ confidence interval. Of the Penn State respondents, 53.0% were female, 49.6% lived in chapter housing (on and off campus), 73.8% were affiliated with their fraternity/sorority for more than two semesters, and 87.3% were White.

In this executive summary, the survey findings are organized into three areas based on how Penn State compared to peer institutions, to all institutions, and to itself two years ago (2005). The three areas are: areas of strength, areas to maintain, and areas for improvement. In addition, the summary describes significant differences between the responses of Penn State fraternity and sorority members. For a full version of the report, please visit <http://www.sa.psu.edu/sara/fsa.shtml>.

Areas of Strength

- Compared to students at peer institutions and all other institutions, Penn State students rated FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP SKILLS significantly higher. Moreover, in 2007, Penn State fraternity and sorority members reported significantly higher FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP SKILLS compared to the 2005 assessment.
- In 2007, Penn State fraternity and sorority members reported significantly higher FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED SELF AWARENESS than they did in 2005. When compared to students at peer institutions, Penn State students responded significantly higher with regard to FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED SELF AWARENESS and ranked in the top 50% of all participating institutions.
- When compared to students at peer institutions, students at Penn State reported significantly higher scores in FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS and ranked in the top 50% of all participating institutions.
- In 2007, Penn State students were significantly more likely to report FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED LEADERSHIP SKILLS than were members in 2005. Moreover, when compared to

¹ Note: this response rate is an increase from the 22% (n=696) in the 2005 administration of the survey.

students at peer institutions and all institutions, Penn State students reported significantly higher scores regarding FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

- Penn State students rated FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED CAREER DEVELOPMENT significantly higher than did students at peer institutions. Additionally, Penn State ranked in the top 50% of all participating institutions. Additionally, fraternity and sorority members rated FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED CAREER DEVELOPMENT significantly higher in 2007 than they did in 2005.

Areas to Maintain

Areas to maintain examined Penn State's comparisons to its peer institutions, all participating institutions, and itself in the 2005 administration of the assessment. Overall rank among the 63 participating institutions was considered in cases where Penn State did not clearly rank statistically significantly higher or lower than all three comparison groups. Areas to maintain were designated as such when, given other comparable data, Penn State ranked in the lower two-thirds of all institutions.

- Penn State students in 2007 reported significantly higher FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED ACADEMIC ABILITIES than did members in 2005. Additionally, Penn State students (in 2007) responded significantly higher when compared to students at peer institutions and responded similarly to students at all participating institutions. When looking at overall rank across all 63 participating institutions, Penn State ranked 43rd, making this an area to maintain.
- In 2007, Penn State fraternity and sorority members reported significantly greater OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE than they did in 2005. Penn State students responded similarly with regard to OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE when compared to students at other institutions. Penn State students responded higher than students at peer institutions. When considering overall rank across all participating institutions, Penn State ranked 39th.
- Students responded similarly in 2005 and 2007 with regard to their ANTICIPATED ALUMNI ACTIVITY at Penn State. While Penn State students responded significantly higher than students at peer institutions, compared to students at other institutions Penn State students responded similarly.
- In addition, Penn State fraternity and sorority members reported that the EXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTED TO PERSONAL GROWTH at a significantly higher rate in 2007 than in 2005. When compared to students at other institutions, Penn State students responded similarly regarding EXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTED TO PERSONAL GROWTH. Penn State students responded significantly higher than students at peer institutions. When looking at Penn State's overall rank across all participating institutions, it ranked 43rd.

Areas for Improvement

For all three areas for improvement, Penn State students responded significantly higher in 2007 than they did in 2005. There were no significant comparisons between Penn State in 2007 and its peer institutions. Areas for improvement were identified by significantly lower scores when compared to all participating institutions.

- Compared to how Penn State students responded in 2005, fraternity and sorority members reported significantly higher levels of SATISFACTION WITH FRATERNITY/SORORITY PROGRAMMING in 2007. When compared to students at other institutions, however, Penn State students rated SATISFACTION WITH FRATERNITY/SORORITY PROGRAMMING significantly lower.
- In 2007, Penn State fraternity and sorority members reported significantly higher levels of SATISFACTION WITH FRATERNITY/SORORITY OFFICE than in 2005. Penn State students reported significantly lower levels regarding their SATISFACTION WITH FRATERNITY/SORORITY OFFICE compared to students at other institutions, however.

- In 2007, Penn State fraternity and sorority members reported they had significantly higher gains in their ATTITUDE CHANGES REGARDING DIVERSITY compared to respondents in 2005, yet when compared to students at other institutions, Penn State students reported significantly lower gains in their ATTITUDE CHANGES REGARDING DIVERSITY, making this an area for improvement.

Fraternity/Sorority Significant Differences²

When compared to fraternity members, Penn State sorority members reported significantly higher:

- FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED INTERPERSONAL SKILLS;
- SATISFACTION WITH FRATERNITY/SORORITY OFFICE;
- SATISFACTION WITH FRATERNITY/SORORITY PROGRAMMING; and
- OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE.

When compared to sorority members, Penn State fraternity members reported significantly higher:

- FRATERNITY/SORORITY ENHANCED CAREER DEVELOPMENT and
- ANTICIPATED ALUMNI ACTIVITY with their chapters.

² The significant differences between the responses of fraternity and sorority members were also true for peer institutions and all institutions in the national sample.