

SIGMA PHI EPSILON



TENNESSEE ALPHA CHAPTER
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

WELCOME TO TENNESSEE

Choosing the University of Tennessee as the place to further your education was an important decision. Another equally important decision is how you will spend your time while in college.

The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon would like to introduce you to the Greek System at Tennessee. Today's college fraternities offer leadership opportunities, educational support, scholarships, social activities, and lifelong friendships. Joining a fraternity will give you a sense of belonging on campus that will make your collegiate experience more personal and rewarding.

SigEp prides itself on its individuals and diversity of membership. Although we are men of different talents and interests, we all share the common bond of brotherhood. Our fraternal bond is very difficult to express in words, but is something that can easily be seen among SigEps anytime, anywhere.

You will learn more about our chapter in the following pages. As you go through formal recruitment, please take time to ask questions about what SigEp and Greek life has to offer. We hope recruitment goes well for you and that you get the opportunity to share a fraternal experience that lasts a lifetime.



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: What is a fraternity?

A fraternity is a group of men who adhere to the same ideals and principles, work together toward common goals, and are bound together by rituals and the highest possible level of friendship.

Q: What do fraternity dues pay for?

Fraternity dues pay for dues to the National Organization and the UT Interfraternity Council, insurance, house upkeep, leadership conferences, intramurals, and social activities. After mandatory expenses are covered, the members of the fraternity decide how the dues are spent.

Q: If I go through formal recruitment, do I have to join a fraternity?

Most men who participate in formal recruitment accept a bid from a fraternity, however, participating in formal recruitment does not obligate you in anyway. Many men participate in formal recruitment because it is an excellent chance to get acquainted with UT's most outstanding students.

Q: Will membership in a fraternity hurt my grades?

Contrary to popular belief, fraternities assist members in achieving high academic marks. Through study hours, networking, incentives, and scholarships, fraternities have been able to substantially enhance the learning environment of their members. The overall GPA of SigEp is consistently higher than the all men's average.

Q: Are fraternities expensive?

Fraternities are a small portion of total college expenses. Fraternities are actually inexpensive when you consider potential savings on housing, food, parking, and scholarship opportunities. Social, athletic, and academic benefits enable a member to get more than his money's worth through participation and involvement.

Q: Are all fraternities alike?

All fraternities are not alike. The 24 national fraternities at Tennessee consists of 1,700 men as diverse in opinions and interests as the campus itself. There is a fraternity for everyone.

SIGMA PHI EPSILON

With 15,000 undergraduates on 230 college campuses throughout the United States, SigEp is the largest national fraternity. Over 300,000 men have chosen SigEp as their fraternity for some very good reasons. SigEp is not only the largest fraternity ... we are simply the best fraternity. The national fraternity has the largest support staff, the best leadership training programs, the largest endowment, and SigEp has the highest grade point average of any fraternity.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was founded on November 1, 1901 in Richmond, Virginia by twelve young men of high moral character who wanted a fraternity that was different. Sigma Phi Epsilon is different. Our mission is to build balanced leaders who espouse the high moral character of our founders.

Our cardinal principles are virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. Every SigEp embraces these principles and strives to be a balanced man – sound mind and sound body. SigEps are leaders on college campuses and in their communities. You will find SigEps among the nation's leaders in business and government as well as sports and entertainment. Your first experience with SigEp probably came via Green Eggs and Ham ... yes, even Dr. Seuss was a SigEp.



TENNESSEE ALPHA

The SigEp chapter here at The University of Tennessee is known as the Tennessee Alpha Chapter. Tennessee Alpha is consistently one of the top chapters within Sigma Phi Epsilon and among the best fraternities at Tennessee. With over 2,400 total initiates, Tennessee Alpha has a history of excellence since our founding on May 29, 1913.

The active chapter is over 100 members strong, and we excel in all areas of fraternal life from campus leadership to community service ... from athletics to All Campus Events and Greek Week ... from academics to social functions.

We truly believe Sigma Phi Epsilon is a lifetime experience. The bonds of brotherhood extend long beyond graduation. Tennessee Alpha is commonly recognized as having the most outstanding alumni program of any SigEp chapter. Our local scholarship foundation awards over \$40,000 in scholarships each year to deserving brothers. Our housing corporation maintains the largest fraternity house on the campus. Alumni events like Founder's Day dinners, golf tournaments, and group travel afford all members, young and old, the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of brotherhood.

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SCHOLARSHIP

Sigma Phi Epsilon has high expectations for academic performance. The primary purpose for fraternity involvement is to get the most of one's educational opportunities. SigEp maintains a minimum GPA requirement for all members and encourages all members to excel in the classroom.

Sigma Phi Epsilon has the highest GPA of any national fraternity and Tennessee Alpha is consistently among the top fraternities at The University of Tennessee with a overall chapter grade point average greater than a 3.0.

Academic success is rewarded at Tennessee Alpha. Our alumni scholarship fund is over \$1 million and allows our alumni to grant scholarships in excess of \$40,000 each year to deserving brothers at UT. In addition to our local scholarships, our national fraternity awards over \$1 million dollars in scholarships and leadership grants annually.

New members can receive tutoring from older members as well as advice on choosing classes, professors, etc. We realize that mentoring, assistance, and encouragement produces better results on an academic level. One attends college to attain an education and we have not forgotten this purpose.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sigma Phi Epsilon has a long-standing tradition of serving charitable causes around Knoxville. Each year the chapter logs hundreds of community service hours assisting with such worthy organizations as The East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and countless others.

Our efforts in philanthropy have been recognized with a Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Community Service. However, we don't do it for the recognition; we do it to give back to those less fortunate than ourselves. While our service is important and needed in the community, it is personally gratifying and most of all, fun.



ATHLETICS

Our commitment to athletics is serious, but we haven't forgotten the main reason for sports. Win or lose, SigEp does it with good sportsmanship. Fortunately, we don't lose very often. SigEp competes for championships on a consistent basis including recent championships in football, basketball, and softball.

SigEp fields competitive teams in all intramural athletics ... from football and basketball to swimming and golf. All members are encouraged to participate. Whether you are a serious competitor or just want to be a part of the team, there is a spot for you. We field competitive teams as well as teams who participate just for the fun of it.

**You need not be a star to participate,
you only need the desire to have fun.**



CAMPUS EVENTS

Sigma Phi Epsilon competes in many events on campus – usually while teaming with one of the top sororities. From Homecoming to Greek Week, SigEp has a winning tradition second to none.

Homecoming, a week of hard work and even more fun, has been our pride. Building winning floats and lawn displays, painting windows and banners, and Smokey's Howl have become SigEp traditions. Since 1984, we have won the Homecoming competition 17 times - more than all other fraternities combined.

While the trophies are nice, the real victory is the fellowship with your brothers and the time you get to spend with some of the cutest girls on campus.



SOCIAL

Sigma Phi Epsilon boasts the best social calendar of any fraternity. Social functions afford brothers the opportunity to solidify the bonds of brotherhood as well as the opportunity to mix with the best sororities on campus.

SigEps get more out of a party than those who awake to find their hands stamped from bars on The Strip. Being a SigEp is retaining the brotherhood developed during events like sorority mixers and band parties. Popular parties include 80s parties, the Bon Voyage party, No Regard Week, and our infamous Hurricane Party. Brotherhood events include NASCAR races, away football games, camping trips, whitewater rafting, and paint ball. There are also date parties, and, of course, formals.

There are also social and networking opportunities through alumni events. Many SigEps have been mentored and employed by an alumnus, while others have just made contacts and enjoyed some stories from “the good ole days.”



We believe your primary goal in college is your education, but there is no reason you can't enjoy yourself also.

BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood is the element of a fraternity that lasts forever. The road begins with a bid, or formal invitation to join the fraternity. The development program promotes personal growth within the fraternity as well as the campus and community as a whole. As a member, you will learn our history, traditions, and most importantly, your brothers. You will learn how the fraternity operates on the local and national level. You will receive a “big brother” to assist and guide you in your quest.



The initiation ceremony is a time-honored tradition dating back to the founders of our fraternity. Once initiated, you will take your place among the brothers with an equal voice in the affairs and day-to-day operations of the fraternity.

After graduation, brotherhood continues as an alumnus. Functions such as Founder's Day and Homecoming afford alumni the opportunity for reminiscing and renewing fraternal bonds. In addition, alumni are kept abreast of fraternity news through our local newsletter, *The Spiel*, and our national publication, *The Journal*.

After dust covers the trophies and our diplomas hang on the walls, one thing remains – brotherhood. The fraternal experience is unending because the bonds of brotherhood last a lifetime.



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SIGMA PHI EPSILON

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