

#### **Deferred Joining Policy:**

Linfield College Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) abides by a deferred joining process, meaning that:

- First year/freshmen students **shall not be** eligible to receive/accept a bid (invitation for membership) to join a fraternity or sorority chapter until their second semester at Linfield.
- Non-first year/freshmen students (sophomore, junior, senior, transfer, international exchange) **shall be** eligible to receive/accept a bid (invitation for membership) to join a fraternity or sorority chapter at any time.

#### **Regarding transfer students:**

- Transfer students must have completed at least one full semester at another higher education institution to be eligible to join a fraternity or sorority during their first semester after transferring to Linfield. AP/IB, dual enrollment, running start, and high school transfer credits do not apply

#### **Regarding foreign exchange/International students:**

- Most foreign exchange, non-degree-seeking students who are only at Linfield for 1-2 semesters are not considered first year students as they are on an exchange from another institution so they would be eligible to join in their first semester at Linfield. However, international students who are at Linfield seeking a four-year degree do fall under the first-year deferred joining policy, and thus would need to wait until their second semester.

**In addition to the deferred joining policy, in order for any student to be eligible to join a fraternity or sorority at Linfield, they must meet the following criteria:**

- Be enrolled at Linfield College
- Not be subject to any pending or active conduct violations or sanctions

#### **Utilizing your first semester**

While first-year, non-transfer students cannot join a chapter until their second semester at Linfield, there are opportunities to get to know fraternity and sorority members and their chapters during the fall semester through Open Houses and Freshmen Activity Nights (FANs), as well as chapter philanthropy and other public FSL events. The FSL community wants to get to know you and the best way to do that is to be open to new opportunities and to attend these events, ask questions, and be yourself. One of the main points of the deferred joining process is specifically for unaffiliated students to have an adequate chance to get to know as many members in the FSL community as possible during their first semester. Joining a fraternity or sorority is not just like joining a club or team. It is a lifelong membership commitment. This is a decision that students should take seriously and make absolutely sure it is the organization they want to become an initiated member of.

#### **Summary of Benefits of Deferred Joining – Why we do this**

- Better first-year grades
- Higher college retention rates
- Higher FSL/chapter retention rates
- More time to prepare and think about decisions regarding joining
- More opportunities to get to know FSL members (and for them to get to know you) on a deeper, more personal level. This makes for better connections and new member classes in the long run.

#### **Resources:**

<http://students.case.edu/greek/leadership/ifc/research.html>

<http://www.alphagammadelta.org/alphagams/blog/archive/deferredrecruitmentexperience>

<http://sororityeverafter.com/guest-blog-deferred-recruitment/>