The Fraternity and Sorority Experience Survey (FSES) assesses member experiences in the context of their chapter involvement. Members are asked to share their perspectives around 10 themes including:

1. Values
2. Academics
3. Programming
4. Engagement
5. Mentorship
6. Leadership
7. Alcohol and Drug Use
8. Social Problems
9. Bystander Intervention
10. Belonging

This summary report is organized first by sharing student demographic information of the participants followed by each area mentioned above. The information contained in this report was based on data collected from members of Alpha Alpha Alpha Sorority HQ during the spring 2021 semester.

Demographic Information

Response Rate

A total of 10,823 members were invited to participate in the survey at Alpha Alpha Alpha Sorority HQ. A total of 3984 members responded for a 29% response rate. Of those that responded:

Region

- Region 1 (573 responses, 14%)
- Region 2 (616 responses, 15%)
- Region 3 (856 responses, 21%)
- Region 4 (537 responses, 13%)
- Region 5 (713 responses, 18%)
- Region 6 (689 responses, 17%)

Gender

- 3885 identified as female
- 28 identified as another gender identity

Race/Ethnicity

- 70% identified as White or Caucasian
- 8% identified as Hispanic or Latino
- 8% identified as Asian
- 7% identified as Black or African American
- 2% identified as Middle Eastern or North African
- 1% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native
- 1% identified as Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, or other ethnicities not listed

Parent College Attendance

- 6% of the members had at least one parent who attended but did not graduate from college.
- 13% of the members had at least one parent who completed high school or a GED.
- 2% of the members’ parents did not finish high school.
FSES Themes

The following summarizes data around the 10 themes of the survey. Where possible, factors have been created to succinctly summarize groups of questions. These factors are embedded in the themes summarized below. The information presented in this report represents a sampling of the entire Alpha Alpha Alpha Sorority HQ dataset and was selected based on what is useful for higher education practitioners.

Values

- Commitment to Organizational Values – On average, members serving as leaders rated 4.5 on a scale of 1 (disagree)-5 (agree) for items related to their chapter’s commitment to organizational values.
- Chapter Upholds Values – 95% stated that their organization “usually” or “always” upholds their chapter values.

Academics

- Enhancing Academic Performance – 83% “somewhat agree” or “agree” that their chapter has a positive impact on their GPA.
- Learning Course Material – 85% of respondents report their chapter spends the “right amount” of time supporting learning of course material.

Programming

- Chapter Educational Programming – On average, members rate their chapter a 4.2 on a scale of 1 (poor) -5 (excellent) regarding the quality of educational programming provided within the chapter.
- Personal Development – On average, respondents rated their chapter a 4.5 on a scale of 1-5 on issues of personal development, indicating they generally feel strongly supported in personal development by their chapter.
Engagement

- Commitment to Philanthropy and Community Service – 82% perceive their chapter spends the “right amount” of time working on philanthropy and community service.
- Commitment to Campus Involvement Opportunities – 84% perceive their chapter spends the “right amount” of time helping members to get involved.

Mentorship

- Chapter Relationships with Stakeholders – Members who have served in a leadership position rated their chapter an average of 4.5 on a scale of 1 (never)-5 (always) for the factor related to relationships with external stakeholders. External stakeholders include non-fraternity/sorority peers, campus faculty and staff, alumni/ae, and their inter/national organization.
- Chapter Advising – Considering the various sources of chapter advising, chapter leaders rated 4.2 on average, indicating that they usually receive advising from external stakeholders. The most common sources of advising were:
  - Chapter advisors (85%)
  - Campus fraternity and sorority life staff (72%)
  - Governing council (66%)
- Alumni Involvement – on average, members rated their chapter a 3.0 on the factor related to alumni involvement, suggesting that alumni are sometimes involved in helping the chapter.
- According to the members, alumni/alumnae always or usually assist the chapter with:
  - Networking for careers (54%)
  - Recruitment (46%)
  - Philanthropy projects (36%)

Leadership

- Leadership Development – 88% of active members believe the chapter’s education programs on leadership development are “excellent” or “good.”
- Chapter Leadership Role – 45% state they have held leadership roles of committee member, committee chair, or executive board officers in their chapter.
Alcohol and Drug Use

- Chapter Alcohol Use – 41% of respondents reported that most or all of the chapter uses alcohol. (25% of respondents were unsure what proportion of the chapter uses alcohol.)
- Chapter Drug Use – Most members (67%) were unsure what proportion of their chapter uses non-prescribed drugs, and about half (51%) were unsure how many members of their chapter use recreational drugs.
- Member Binge-Drinking – In a typical week:
  - 35% of members do not drink four or more drinks at a time
  - 34% of members drink four or more drinks at a time once
  - 18% of members drink four or more drinks at a time twice
  - 6% of members drink four or more drinks three or more times
  - 6% of members do not drink alcohol
- Alcohol and Drug Use Impact on Members –
  - 15% of members reported their sorority members’ drinking or drug use has negatively affected their sleep.
  - 10% of members reported their sorority members’ drinking or drug use has negatively affected their studying

Social Problems

- Chapter Social Issues – The five most cited issues for members in the chapter were:
  - 40% mental health disorders
  - 38% body image
  - 30% eating disorders
  - 15% sexual assault
  - 10% discrimination against others
- Hazing Perception – 88% of members reported that the hazing of other members was not an issue within their chapter.

Bystander Intervention

- Personal Bystander Intervention – On average, members rated themselves a 4.1 (on a scale of 1-5) on items related to their own ability to intervene for others in various dangerous or harmful situations.
- Chapter Bystander Intervention – Considering their intervention skills and their chapter environment, members averaged a 4.8 (on a scale of 1-5), indicating that they believe they have the skills to intervene when needed and that they want to be part of a chapter that intervenes when others need assistance.
- Member Intervention:
  - 41% of members set limits on their own alcohol consumption at least once
  - 35% of members encourage others to limit their alcohol consumption at least once
  - 28% of members encourage others to avoid an unwanted sexual situation at least once
- Member Conflict – 10% cited the chapter “rarely” or “never” deals with conflict between members.
Belonging

- Quality of Chapter Living (if housed in chapter housing) – members rated the quality of their chapter house a 4.4 (on a scale of 1-5) on average, indicating they generally feel that their house is a good place to live, study, hold meetings, have meals, and feel safe.
- Value of Member Experience – 85% cited their sorority experience as “valuable” or “very valuable” in their overall collegiate experience.

Alpha Alpha Alpha Experience

Highlights from additional questions would be included at the end of the Executive Summary. Recent example topics for additional questions have included:

- Value of the organization to the member
- Impact of membership on the member
- Connection to religious community as a result of membership (used by faith-based organizations)
- Rights and responsibilities of members after accepting a bid
- COVID-19 impacts on members
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion