



# **SIGMA BETA**

**DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**EST. 1921**



## **Questions and Answers about Sigma Beta Fraternity**

Version 1.2, updated February 4, 2010

Is the chapter recognized with the University?

Not currently. Sigma Beta has been an important part of the UNH community since 1921, most of the time as a local fraternity. At this time, there are no Active members.

How does the chapter's grade point average compare to the All-Greek and All-University averages?

There are currently no Active Brothers for comparison as the fraternity has been closed.

What does the chapter do to promote scholastic achievement?

Scholastic achievement is a primary focus of the fraternity. Sigma Beta recognizes students attend UNH for a quality education. It is in the best interest of the House, the University and the individuals (of course) to promote their academic success.

Physically, we have re-built our House with student's study interests in mind. All walls (internal walls included) are super-insulated to mitigate any noise distraction. High-speed network access is available in all rooms and common areas. A central printing station may be available for in-House use.

Organizationally, quiet hours are enforced in the common study area (the dining room in off-meal hours) and throughout the House during exam periods.

Are chapter members able to articulate the values upon which their organization was founded?

Brothers are required to learn the values and ideals as part of the Pledging process. As discussed further below, all pledging activities will adhere to Greek system policies.

How much time is spent on Greek-related activities? Is this time mandatory or optional?

There are activities that are mandatory but most are optional.

All Brothers are required to participate in the operation and maintenance of the House. This will consist of occasional day-to-day tasks for normal cleaning, especially bathrooms, dining room and kitchen and common areas. Typically, one day per semester is set aside where all Brothers and Pledges work on a specific task for the House. Required House meetings are scheduled weekly to insure all Brothers are kept informed and have a forum to discuss any issues.

In addition, there are occasional social gatherings, intramural sporting events, community service projects and alumni mentoring activities in which Brothers are encouraged to participate.



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This obligation is greater during the Brother's Pledging semester. However, the programs are designed so as not to interfere with the student's ability to complete his coursework.

Of what does the new member (pledge) program consist?

Pledge program activities are designed to educate the candidate about the history of Sigma Beta, the current Active Brothers, the candidates Pledge classmates and day-to-day fraternity living and expectations. Activities also allow the Active Brothers to learn more about the Pledges and develop relationships and bonds. All activities conform to the University's and NH State's anti-hazing guidelines and laws ([http://www.stophazing.org/laws/nh\\_law.htm](http://www.stophazing.org/laws/nh_law.htm)).

Are new members (pledges) treated the same as active (initiated) members? Do they have the same privileges?

No. Pledges progressively earn their privileges throughout the Pledge period.

What are the financial obligations, and what is included?

In addition to the Room and Board costs indicated in the "*Questions and Answers for students considering living at Sigma Beta House*" document, there are Sigma Beta Fraternity membership dues required (and determined) on a semester-by-semester basis. Brothers not living in the House would also pay a fee above their membership dues as a contribution to the upkeep of the House.

Is there a special weekend for parents or other activities to which parents are invited?

Yes, parents are encouraged to attend UNH Parents' and Homecoming weekend events as well as graduation (of course). Other activities may be scheduled from time-to-time but are not a regular part of the experience.

If the chapter has a house, what features does it offer, and how is it maintained?

Please see the "amenities" and the "jobs" responses in the "*Questions and Answers for students considering living at Sigma Beta House*" document.

How long is a member expected to live in the chapter house?

Brothers are expected to live in the House whenever there is an opening. A "point system" is devised to give upperclassmen and tenured Brothers more "points" to decide on room selection (or out-of-house choices).

Are there alumni who are actively involved in chapter and house management?

Yes. "House parents" live in a suite in the House to offer oversight and stabilization to the residents. An Executive Board of Active Brothers manages all aspects of the operation and maintenance of the facility. This Executive Board answers to and seeks assistance from the Sigma



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Beta Board of Governors (a group of Sigma Beta Alumni dedicated to guiding the Executive Board and resolving issues beyond their control or influence). A strong (local) Alumni Association directs the Board of Governance and is available for additional assistance.

What type of programming does the chapter offer (i.e. career networking, alcohol and other drug education)?

Each Brother has the opportunity to work within our Mentorship program. Through teaming with alumni throughout the world, Brothers can work on entrepreneurial projects, network with professionals or simply seek advice of connected alumni.

Does the chapter participate in intramural sports?

Currently, as an unrecognized fraternity, Sigma Beta cannot participate in intramural sports. In years past, Sigma Beta has encouraged a strong intramural sports presence with many all-campus champions. Until such time as we have achieved full reinstatement, Brothers can participate on non-Greek intramural teams as can any UNH student.

What risk management procedures does the chapter implement to ensure safety at social events?

Sigma Beta strictly adheres to the risk management guidelines established for local organizations. In addition, Sigma Beta House and Sigma Beta Fraternity are fully-insured. The House meets or exceeds all of Durham's 2010 safety codes including a fire alarm and sprinkler system and a 24/7 video surveillance security system.

What opportunities are there for leadership development? Do members participate in other campus organizations?

An important part of the Sigma Beta experience is the opportunity for self-governance. There are many positions available (executive and otherwise). Active leaders are able to direct Sigma Beta Fraternity with the assurance that the Board of Governance is there to assist.

Active Brothers are not restricted from participation in other campus activities and organizations.

Is the chapter part of an (inter)national organization that has oversight?

No. However, Sigma Beta has a very active Alumni organization with many individuals local to Durham. A Board of Governors (appointed by the Alumni Association) is in place to oversee the operation of the House and the Actives.

Does the chapter participate in philanthropic activities?

Yes. Sigma Beta fraternity engages in community service as decided by the Actives on a year-by-year basis. The fraternity ideals encourage the members to regularly contribute and recognize this activity as a basic pillar of the organization.