



Finances for Residential Fraternities

The following data is chapter-reported and compiled from the annual University Approved Housing application. The information is relevant for the 2018-2019 academic year. It is not a guarantee of cost, and should be used only for estimates.

The Process

When your student joins a chapter, he should be given information about the finances involved in membership. For men who summer sign a fraternity, this might come from the chapter's Recruitment Chair. For men that join in the fall or spring, this will likely take place on Bid Day or at the first New Member Education meeting (within the first week of school). If you do not hear anything about finances, ask your student for the contact information for the chapter Treasurer. If you are asked for cash or a check without a receipt, we encourage you to contact the CFSL prior to paying.

Chapters will be able to offer your student a payment plan if needed, and you can pay in installments over the course of each semester. Please make sure your student communicates his desire for a payment plan as soon as possible, otherwise the option might not be available after the billing cycle begins.

Disclaimer

Because chapters are private organizations, WSU has no information regarding billing or payments. All inquiries regarding chapter finances will need to be directed to the undergraduate officers or the chapter advisors. If you are having difficulties connecting with them, please contact our office.

Terminology for Fraternity/Sorority Finances

Damage Deposit – This cost is paid to cover any damages while your student resides in the facility. The tenants should receive this amount, less damages, once he/she moves out.

Room – Rent for a fraternity/sorority includes a bed, desk, dresser, and closet for each tenant, as well as all utilities, cable TV, and internet. Room arrangements vary from chapter to chapter.

Board – This includes at least 10 “hot” meals per week (prepared lunch and dinner on school days) and at least 5 continental breakfasts. Some meal plans include weekend meals, but not all.

Live-Out Fee – This is the cost for members not living in the facility to be able to access and utilize the amenities. It typically includes the cost of a few meals per week and additional facility resources.

One-Time New Member Fees – This is the expense all new members pay when joining a chapter. Some of what is included is the membership fee to the inter/national organization, a badge, education materials, and an initiation fee.

Initiated Member Fee – Every year, members will need to pay into officer budgets and fees to the inter/national organization for the cost of membership. This money is what helps the chapters operate, and allows officers to plan events, host philanthropies, and sponsor brotherhoods.

Estimated New Member Expenses

Plan A – Your student lives in the residence halls and joins a fraternity during the fall semester. He lives in the halls during the spring as well.

	FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
	One-Time New Member Fee	Live-Out Fee	Total	Initiated Member Fee	Live-Out Fee	Total
Average	\$655.26	\$486.39	\$1141.65	\$578.95	\$486.39	\$1,065.34
Highest	\$1,465.00	\$800.00	\$2,265.00	\$3,000.00	\$800.00	\$3,800.00
Lowest	\$75.00	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$140.00	\$200.00	\$340.00

Average Cost for the First Year, Living Out: \$2206.99

Plan B – Your student joins a fraternity during the fall semester (or summer). He cancels their residence hall contract in December and moves into the chapter house in the spring.

	FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
	One-Time New Member Fee	Live-Out Fee	Total	Initiated Member Fee	New Tenant Room & Board	Total
Average	\$655.26	\$486.39	\$1141.65	\$578.95	\$2,906.53	\$3,485.48
Highest	\$1,465.00	\$800.00	\$2,265.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,995.00	\$6,995.00
Lowest	\$75.00	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$140.00	\$800.00	\$940.00

Average Cost for the First Year, Moving In Spring Semester: \$4627.13

Estimated Initiated Member Expenses

Plan A – Your student is returning and lives in the chapter house (mostly sophomores and juniors).

	FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
	Initiated Member Fee	Room & Board	Total	Initiated Member Fee	Room & Board	Total
Average	\$578.95	\$2,906.53	\$3,485.48	\$578.95	\$2,906.53	\$3,485.48
Highest	\$3,000.00	\$3,995.00	\$6,995.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,995.00	\$6,995.00
Lowest	\$140.00	\$800.00	\$940.00	\$140.00	\$800.00	\$940.00

Average Annual Cost for Live-In Member: \$7123.59

Plan B – Your student is returning and does not live in the chapter house (mostly seniors).

	FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
	Initiated Member Fee	Live-Out Fee	Total	Initiated Member Fee	Live-Out Fee	Total
Average	\$578.95	\$486.39	\$1,065.34	\$578.95	\$486.39	\$1,065.34
Highest	\$3,000.00	\$800.00	\$3,800.00	\$3,000.00	\$800.00	\$3,800.00
Lowest	\$140.00	\$200.00	\$340.00	\$140.00	\$200.00	\$340.00

Average Annual Cost for Live-Out Member: \$2130.67

If your student does not live in the chapter house or a residence hall, the cost of living in Pullman will vary widely. Things to consider if your student plans to move out of the residence halls or a chapter facility are: rent, food and kitchen supplies, utilities, furniture, transportation, etc.