

Greek Life Assessment
Summary of Findings
The Ohio State University
Office of Student Affairs Assessment

The 2004 Greek Life Survey was conducted in order to assess progress within the Greek community after the implementation of the Standards of Excellence presented in the Greek Life Task Force Report. A similar survey was conducted in 2001 to provide baseline data prior to the implementation of the initiatives and standards presented in the report. In both 2001 and 2004, two surveys were conducted: one of Greek members and the other of non-Greek students. The two surveys were parallel in structure and whenever possible asked the same questions of Greek and non-Greek students. In this summary, highlights of the survey findings are provided. For further details and additional findings, refer to the complete report.

Overall Impressions of OSU and the Greek Community

- In both 2001 and 2004, Greek students reported being significantly more satisfied with their experience at OSU and more connected to the OSU community than did non-Greek students.
- While evidence suggests non-Greek students were more satisfied with their experience and more connected to the OSU community in 2004 than they were in 2001, Greek students reported similar levels of satisfaction and connectedness in 2001 and 2004.
- It was significantly more important for Greek students to feel a sense of community on campus than it was for non-Greeks in both 2002 and 2004, and there was a significant increase in the importance Greeks placed on feeling connected in 2004 than in 2001.
- In both years, an overwhelming majority of Greek members found their Greek experience to be satisfying and to be better than they expected. For example, over 95% expressed satisfaction with the Greek experience. No notable changes occurred between years.
- In both years, over 95% of Greek students were satisfied with the leadership development activities offered through their chapter, and 89% were satisfied with the cultural activities offered through their chapter.
- In 2004, 43.6% of non-Greek students viewed the influence of the Greek community on the OSU community as “somewhat positive” or “very positive” compared to 28.8% in 2001.

Campus Involvement and Employment

- In 2004, 67.8% of Greek students reported being involved in activities and organizations on campus other than their Greek participation. This is a significant increase from the 59.5% who responded this way in 2001. Moreover, Greek students were significantly more likely to be involved than were non-Greek students.
- In both years, almost all Greek students (98.5% in 2001 and 97.1% in 2004) agreed their chapter encouraged campus involvement.
- While Greek and non-Greek students were equally likely to work in 2001, Greek students were significantly less likely to be employed in 2004 than were non-Greeks. Of those students who were employed in 2004, non-Greek students, who averaged 21.3 hours a

week, worked significantly more hours than Greek students, who averaged 17.0 hours a week.

- In both 2001 and 2004, data suggest that, for non-Greek students, Greek life at OSU has little influence on their college experience. For example, approximately 75% indicated they attended events at fraternities or sororities less than two times a quarter.

Community Service and Philanthropic Involvement

- In 2004, 67.3% of Greek students responded that they had participated in community service activities that were not required by their chapter, whereas 44.7% of non-Greek students indicated that they had participated in community service.
- In 2004, 68.6 % of Greek students indicated that they had personally participated in chapter-required community service activities during the year. This was a significant increase from the 62.6% in 2001.
- On average, Greeks participated in 2.92 philanthropic events in 2004 compared to only 0.12 in 2001, a significant increase.
- In 2004 (as well as in 2001), Greek students were significantly more likely to agree Greek organizations raise money for non-profit organizations and perform community service than were non-Greeks.
- Non-Greek students were significantly more likely to agree OSU Greek organizations perform community service both by raising money and through hands-on service in 2004 than in 2001.
- Greek students were also significantly more likely to agree that Greek organizations contribute to the community through hands-on service in 2004 than in 2001.

Membership Recruitment and Membership Education

- When asked why Greek students joined a fraternity or sorority, most commonly students responded that they joined in order to make friends, meet people, and make the campus feel smaller. This was consistent in both 2001 and 2004.
- In both years, most frequently Greek students reported learning about fraternities and sororities from friends – roommates, classmates, and friends from other organizations.
- In 2001, the most common reason given by non-Greek students for deciding not to join a fraternity or sorority was they were too busy with other activities. In 2004, most frequently non-Greeks mentioned they were not interested or had no reason to join.
- In both years, approximately 5% indicated they had experienced activities during the new member process that made them uncomfortable. However, over 55% indicated they were aware of others who had participated in activities that would be embarrassing to the University or to the national organization.
- Evidence suggests an improvement in non-Greeks perceptions of hazing in the Greek community. For example, in 2004, 38.5% of non-Greeks agreed hazing is a problem in the Greek community at OSU compared to 61.6% who agreed in 2001.
- In 2004, 23.1% of Greeks agreed they had trouble keeping up academically during pledging, a significant increase from the 17.3% who agreed in 2001. (This increase may be reflective of the changes in new members created with deferred recruitment and a higher minimum GPA for membership rather than changes in the membership process.)

Academics

- Overall, Greek and non-Greek students reported spending approximately the same amount of time on academic activities outside of class, and both groups reported spending slightly less time studying in 2004 than they did in 2001 (although these differences were not statistically significant.)
- Data suggest Greek students have found support for their academic pursuits through their chapter and generally do not feel that their Greek involvement was harmful to their grades. There was little change in students' responses between 2001 and 2004. For example, 92.0% in 2004 and 92.8% in 2001 were satisfied with their chapter's academic support.
- In both years, the majority of non-Greek students (at least 60%) felt fraternity and sorority members performed about "the same" as other male students and female students, respectively, at OSU.
- In 2004, the all-Greek grade point average was higher than the all-undergraduate average; the IFC average was higher than the all-men average; and the PHA average was higher than the all-women average. However, there were 28 (out of 57) chapters with grade point averages less than the all-undergraduate average.

Diversity

- Although in both years Greek students perceived their chapters to be more diverse when compared to the perceptions of non-Greeks, there was a significant increase in the percentage of non-Greeks who perceived the Greek community to be inclusive in all of these ways. In 2004, 38.0% responded this way compared to 25.6% in 2001. (This change may be a result of the growth in the number of multicultural organizations on campus.)
- In 2004, 82.0% of Greeks responded that their chapter offered or encouraged attendance at programs on diversity, a significant increase from the 59.8% who responded positively in 2001.
- Moreover, in 2004, Greek students were significantly more likely to believe the Greek community was concerned with issues related to diversity. In 2004, 64.5% responded the community was either "very concerned" or "somewhat concerned" compared to 55.0% in 2001.
- Although non-Greeks were significantly less likely to perceive Greek students to be more accepting of difference, non-Greeks rated the Greek community more positively in 2004 with regard to being interested in knowing people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds and being more accepting of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals than in 2001. In addition, they perceived Greeks to be less likely to be prejudice or racist in 2004 than they did in 2001.
- In 2004, Greeks perceived their community to be less likely to be prejudice or racist and more accepting of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals than they did in 2001.

Fiscal Issues and Risk Management

- In both 2001 and 2004, approximately 24% of Greeks thought the cost of belonging to their chapter was “too much.”
- In 2004, 12.7% said the cost of living in their chapter house was “too much,” marking a significant increase from 9.4% who responded this way in 2001.
- In both years, the majority of Greek students agreed that the cost of belonging to a fraternity or sorority is a barrier to attracting new members and that they have had members who became inactive because they were unable to pay their dues.
- In 2004, Greek students were significantly less likely to agree their chapter has difficulty getting members to pay their bills than they were in 2001.
- In both years, most Greek students said they were knowledgeable of risk management policies, but students were more likely to agree that their chapter’s risk management policies were appropriate in 2004 than in 2001.
- In both years, most Greek students (over 96%) said they had learned about hazing policies and about hosting responsible social functions through their chapter.
- Furthermore, in both years, most Greek students agreed their chapter enforces the Council’s alcohol and drug policies. In 2004, students were significantly less likely to feel policies and guidelines have limited chapter social functions.

Alcohol and Partying

- In both 2001 and 2004, approximately 70% Greek students agreed alcohol is a central part of the social life at OSU, and approximately 63% agreed it is a central part of the social life for the Greek community.
- Although non-Greeks were significantly more likely to agree alcohol was a central part of the social life for both OSU and for the Greek community than were Greek students, non-Greek students were significantly less likely to agree alcohol is a central part of the social life at OSU and the Greek community in 2004 than they were in 2001.
- In 2004, 70.3% of non-Greek students agreed the Greek community places too much emphasis on partying compared to 75.6% in 2001, marking a significant decrease.
- In both years, the majority of Greek students (60.3% in 2001 and 63.0% in 2004) disagreed that alcohol is a central part of the social life of their chapter, and in 2004, Greek members were significantly less likely to agree there is a substance abuse problem among members of their chapter than they were in 2001.
- Greeks continued to report a higher use and abuse of alcohol than did non-Greeks. In both years, Greek students reported a higher binge drinking rate than non-Greeks: a difference of 17.0% in 2001 and 21.3% in 2004. Greek respondents also reported a greater likelihood of bingeing frequently (three or more times in the two week period) with 32.4% reporting such behavior compared to 22.7% of non-Greeks in 2002 and 22.7% compared to 16.8% in 2004.
- Greek students also averaged more drinks per week than non-Greek students; Greeks averaged 8.14 drinks per week compared to 5.52 for non-Greeks in 2004. However, the average number of drinks per week for Greek students decreased from 2001 to 2004 even though the high-risk drinking behavior remained relatively consistent.
- In 2004, 57.5% of Greeks said they drank more now than they did before coming to college compared to 43.0% of non-Greeks.

University Support of the Greek Community

- In 2004, Greek students were significantly more likely to agree the University provides a welcoming environment for its Greek organizations than they did in 2001. In 2004, 66.2% agreed compared to 37.3% in 2001. Despite this improvement, Greek students continued to be less likely to see the University as supportive when compared to non-Greeks.
- Overall, the data reveal a more positive relationship between the fraternities and sororities and the University in 2004 than in 2001. Greek students were significantly more satisfied in 2004 with the level of support they receive from the University than in 2001. And, they were more likely to agree that the Ohio Union and Student Activities office helped their chapter form relationships with the rest of the University and provided positive publicity for the Greek community as a whole.
- Although Greek students were less likely to have heard of the GLTF report (by name) in 2004 than in 2001, they were more likely to support the report and to think it will improve the Greek community at Ohio State.