

Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups @ MIT

Frequently Asked Questions

What are FSILGs?

- Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups
- MIT has 26 fraternities, 7 sororities and 5 local independent living groups

Wait, MIT has Greek life?

- Yes! Fraternities were the Institute's first organized student housing
- 40% of MIT students are affiliated with an FSILG
- Approximately 50% of undergraduate men are affiliated with a fraternity
- One-third of undergraduate women are affiliated with a sorority
- Another 2% of undergraduate men and women belong to an independent living group (non-Greek)
- Two MIT fraternities and four ILGs are co-ed
- Some MIT students participate in Boston-wide multicultural fraternities and sororities
- Chapter houses are located in Boston, Cambridge and Brookline

Why do MIT students join an FSILG?

FSILGs provide academic and emotional support, leadership development, service opportunities, and foster mentoring relationships with upperclassmen and connections with MIT alumni/ae. Big brother/big sister relationships and meaningful interactions with peers at FSILGs are important for helping students thrive at MIT and for creating lifelong friendships. Alumni/ae and upperclassmen provide career support and mentorship.

How does involvement affect academics?

Involvement in a FSILG affects academics in a *positive* way: FSILGs have a higher overall GPA than the MIT average. Chapters actively monitor members' academic progress and provide support when necessary.

Are MIT FSILGs exclusive?

MIT's overall culture is one of appreciation and respect for others. **All** students can explore the option of belonging to an FSILG by participating in recruitment. The goal is for each student to find a supportive community and comfortable living environment.

Are MIT FSILGs inclusive?

The membership of FSILGs reflects MIT's diverse student population. As an example, *Affiliated*, was formed by LGBTQ students in FSILGs and is supported by the FSILG student governing councils and MIT FSILG Office. Students in FSILGs are involved in all aspects of MIT campus life: athletics, performing arts, philanthropy, scientific research and entrepreneurship.

Is there hazing at FSILGs?

Hazing is strictly prohibited by the FSILG student councils, MIT, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Frankly, MIT students are too busy to be bothered with hazing. New member education programs have a maximum duration of 10 weeks and culminate in initiation as a brother/sister/member of the chapter.

What is FSILG recruitment?

Recruitment is the process by which students explore the options and find their best fit in an FSILG community. Fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups have different schedules and processes for recruitment; the student council websites listed at the bottom of this document provide more specific information about recruitment. FSILG recruitment activities are completely ***dry and substance-free***.

Why is FSILG recruitment at the beginning of freshman year?

One of the most valuable parts of joining an FSILG is immediately being part of a caring and supportive community. Many students find it challenging to adjust to the intense environment at MIT. In addition, the first semester at MIT is Pass/No Record, which helps new students acclimate to MIT academics and allows them to explore extra-curricular opportunities. While the majority of chapters recruit at the beginning of freshman year, a handful of organizations hold informal, ongoing recruitment or can accept upperclassmen.

What is the financial commitment?

Financial obligations differ among different FSILG chapters. The cost of living in a chapter house ranges from well below the cost of MIT housing to the same as MIT dine-in dorms. Fraternities and sororities typically have initiation fees and annual member dues. In some cases, scholarships are available.

Do students have to live in the chapter house?

All MIT freshmen live on campus. With very few exceptions, members of fraternities and independent living groups reside in their chapter houses as upperclassmen. Sororities cannot fit all members in their chapter houses, so some sisters live in the dorms; each chapter has its own live-in guidelines.

What supervision and oversight are provided in the chapter house?

Each chapter house is managed by a leadership team of students and alumni advisors. Every FSILG has a live-in Graduate Resident Advisor (GRA) who is employed and trained by MIT. The FSILG Office in MIT's Division of Student Life and the MIT Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG), an alumni organization representing all FSILGs, provide additional oversight and support for FSILGs.

How do students get across the river at night?

The MIT Saferide shuttle provides transportation at night within the campus and to all MIT living groups.

How can I help support my student during this process?

First and foremost, be open-minded. MIT's FSILGs are vastly different from the public's perceptions of "animal house" fraternities or "cliquey" sororities. Your student should ask about a chapter's philanthropic activities, academic support, community involvement, and career mentoring programs. Once your student has joined an FSILG, there will be opportunities to visit the chapter house and meet members during Family Weekend and other MIT events.

For more information:

MIT Interfraternity Council (IFC)

ifc.mit.edu

MIT Panhellenic Association (Panhel)

panhel.mit.edu

MIT Living Group Council (LGC)

lgc.mit.edu

FSILG Office in the MIT Division of Student Life

studentlife.mit.edu/fsilg

Association of Independent Living Groups

ailg.mit.edu