

Learning Outcomes of Fraternity Membership: Early Insights (Spring & Fall 2024)

1. Fraternity Membership Shows Consistent Positive Impact on Key Learning Domains

- Across both survey administrations, fraternity men reported the strongest outcomes in **Communication, Critical Thinking, and Leadership** domains, with stable scores across two semesters.
- Compared to national samples, fraternity members in this study scored notably higher in Leadership and Communication, suggesting the fraternity experience cultivates transferable skills linked to academic success and career readiness.

2. Leadership Roles Amplify Learning Gains

- Serving in a chapter leadership role was consistently associated with significantly higher scores **across all five domains**, particularly in understanding organizational dynamics, empowering others, and actively seeking leadership opportunities.
- Members with leadership roles scored higher in Citizenship and Leadership domains, and reported greater ability to analyze arguments, manage organizations, and act on diversity and social justice.
- These findings underscore the educational value of structured leadership roles and experiences within the chapter.

3. Fraternity Experience Levels the Field for First-Generation and Low-SES Students

- Both Spring and Fall surveys found similar **learning outcomes between first-generation and continuing-generation members across most domains**, highlighting fraternities as an equalizing environment for student development.
- In Fall 2024, students whose parents had no college experience scored lower in Communication and Critical Thinking, but fraternity membership still appeared to provide substantial gains, narrowing gaps compared to peers.
- Similarly, low socioeconomic status (proxied by Pell Grant status) found similar domain scores, reinforcing the potential of fraternity membership to support student success among underrepresented populations.

4. Volunteering Correlates with Broader Development

- Those who reported regular volunteer activity scored **significantly higher in Citizenship, Diversity, and Leadership domains**, with meaningful differences in diversity and inclusion-related behaviors.
- This suggests that the service ethos of fraternities contributes directly to civic engagement and leadership competencies.

5. Stability Across Time Supports Early Findings

- The consistency of domain scores between Spring and Fall 2024 indicates the educational benefits of fraternity membership are not artifacts of a single sample but reflect a reproducible trend.

- This stability positions the study to credibly document consistent learning gains among fraternity members. Further, as longitudinal quantitative and additional qualitative data is added, there is the potential to strengthen these findings.