History of UNC Fraternities and Sororities

Fraternity and sorority life at Carolina dates back to 1851, when our first men's fraternity was founded. Today, 61 diverse chapters with over 3,900 members enjoy the experience of membership. We have large chapters, some with close to 200 members, and small chapters, with less than 10 members. We have 30 groups who own and operate recognized off-campus houses, and we have almost as many who do not live in any formal residence but share the same bonds of brother and sisterhood. Collectively, our organizations perform 22,000 hours of community service and raise over $1.0 million for local and national philanthropies annually. Our members are involved in scholarly research, Student Government Association, the Honor Court, and Varsity and club sports, and serve as orientation leaders, residence assistants, and writers for the Daily Tar Heel. We have Morehead-Cain, Rhodes, Marshall, Truman and Luce scholarship recipients.

Some important dates in Carolina Fraternity & Sorority History:

1795: Admission of Undergraduate Men to Carolina.

1851: Delta Kappa Epsilon charters as the first fraternity on campus. Phi Gamma Delta fraternity colonizes.

1852: Beta Theta Pi colonizes.

1854: Delta Psi (St. Anthony Hall) forms as an all-men's fraternity.

1855: Chi Psi and Delta Phi fraternities colonize. Delta Phi closes 6 years later in 1861.

1856: Phi Kappa Sigma and Theta Delta Chi fraternities colonize. Theta Delt closes in 1860.

1857: Sigma Alpha Epsilon colonizes.

1858: Chi Phi & Zeta Psi colonize.

1861: Most fraternities disband due to the Civil War. St. Anthony Hall disbands until 1926.

1875: Di and Phi Societies formed.

1879: Alpha Tau Omega colonize.

1881: Kappa Alpha Order colonizes.

1885: University officially recognizes fraternities as student organizations.

1885: Phi Delta Theta charters.

1888: Sigma Nu charters.

1889: Sigma Chi charters.

1893: Kappa Sigma charters.
1895: Pi Kappa Alpha charters.
1914: Pi Kappa Phi charters.
1917: Admission of Undergraduate Women to Carolina.
1920: Delta Sigma Phi & Theta Chi charter.
1921: Sigma Phi Epsilon & Delta Tau Delta charter.  Delt closes in 1935.
1923: Acacia fraternity charters and closes in 1932.
1923: The first sororities Pi Beta Phi and Chi Omega charter at Carolina in the same year.
1924: Tau Epsilon Phi charters.
1926: Lambda Chi Alpha and Phi Sigma Kappa fraternities charter.  St. Anthony Hall is revived.
1927: Zeta Beta Tau fraternity charters as the first Jewish fraternity, and closes in the 1950s.
1933: Delta Sigma Phi closes.
1935: Phi Sigma Kappa closes.
1937: Alpha Epsilon Pi charters as the second Jewish fraternity at Carolina, but closes in the 1960s.
1938: Theta Chi closes and recharter in 1949.
1939: Alpha Delta Pi sorority.
1940: Pi Lambda Phi fraternity charters
1943: Delta Delta Delta sorority charters.
1945: Alpha Gamma Delta sorority charters, but closes in 1965.
1949: Theta Chi recharts but closes in 1963.
1951: Kappa Delta sorority charters.
1953: Delta Upsilon charters.
1955: Admission of students of color into Carolina.
1958: Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority charters.
1964: Phi Mu sorority charters.
1966: Kappa Alpha Theta charters.
1970: Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority charters.

1972: Delta Tau Delta recharter.

1973: First black Greek organizations: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., & Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. charter.

1974: Delta Phi Epsilon sorority and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. charter.


1977: Alpha Chi Omega sorority charters.

1978: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. charters.

1979: Zeta Tau Alpha sorority charters.

1980s: Number of students from non-black minority groups significantly increases.

1982: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. colonizes.

1984: Pi Lambda Phi fraternity closes.

1986: Delta Sigma Phi recolonizes in a new house on Finlay Golf Course Road. Theta Chi recharter.

1988: Delta Zeta sorority charters.

1989: Sigma Sigma Sigma closes.

1989: IFC adopts Dry Rush Policy.

1990: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. colonizes.

1990: Sigma Alpha Epsilon closes.

1990: IFC passes policy requiring closed parties and security guards at all social events.

1991: Kappa Alpha Theta closes due to low numbers.

1991: IFC rejected proposal to ban kegs and common source alcohol and the collection of money for alcohol at fraternity functions.

1994: Board of Trustees hold national search for advisor to fraternities and sororities. Ron Binder hired as Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Affairs.

1994: The first Native American sorority in the nation, Alpha Pi Omega, forms at UNC-Chapel Hill.

1994: Chi Alpha Omega Christian fraternity becomes a recognized student organization.

1995: Office of Greek Affairs established to bring Greeks more closely in line with University
mission and goals.

Ron Binder named director.

1995: Order of Omega and Gamma Sigma Alpha charter as national honorary societies for fraternity and sorority members only.

1995: Delta Phi Epsilon sorority closes due to low numbers.

1996: Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority recolonizes at Carolina.

1996: Pi Lambda Phi begins recolonization effort.

1996: Phi Gamma Delta house fire on graduation day causes 5 student deaths.

1996: Chancellor’s Committee on Greek Affairs is created.

1996: Chancellor approves recommendations by the Committee on Greek Affairs to: establish a minimum chapter grade point average (2.5) to maintain social privileges implement fire safety standards for inspections and chapter fire marshals maintain first semester freshmen recruitment create a 8-week new member period for all groups by Fall 2000

1997: Theta Nu Xi, the first multicultural sorority in the nation, forms at UNC-Chapel Hill.

1997: Phi Beta Chi Christian social sorority forms; Sigma Alpha Epsilon recolonizes.

1997: Sigma Alpha Epsilon recolonizes.

1997: IFC and Panhellenic Council reaffirm Greek Alcohol Policy, which prohibited kegs and common source containers; required guest lists and security guards at social events; prohibited alcohol during rush; and prevented the collection of chapter funds for the purchase of alcohol.

1999: Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity closes and leases their house in Fraternity Court to Pi Lambda Phi.

1999: Pi Lambda Phi fraternity recharter.

2000: Eight-week new member period and 2.5 chapter GPA rules implemented; Panhellenic Council passes alcohol-free mixer policy in fraternity houses.

2000: Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship forms at Carolina.

2001: The second Director of Greek Affairs, Jay Anhorn, is hired.
2001: Lambda Upsilon Lambda colonizes at UNC-Chapel Hill

2001: Greek Alliance Council charters to govern religious and cultural fraternities and sororities.

2001: Pi Lambda Phi gives up its house in Big Fraternity Court due to finances.

2001: Beta Theta Pi fraternity loses its national charter. UNC continues to recognize the fraternity for one year.

2002: Delta Sigma Phi national headquarters reorganizes the chapter and recruits new founders.

2002: Alpha Epsilon Pi recolonizes.

2002: Chapter Excellence awards are rewarded on an annual basis and monetary awards are given to chapters and individuals.

2002: Phi Mu sorority votes to close their chapter.

2002: Sigma Nu alumni vote to close the chapter.

2003: Lambda Upsilon Lambda chapter closes at UNC.

2003: Delta Zeta national closes their chapter at UNC.

2003: Chancellor’s Committee on Greek Affairs delays IFC Rush until after Labor Day.

2003: Psi Sigma Phi Multicultural Fraternity, Pi Alpha Phi Asian American Interest Fraternity, and Phi Sigma Nu Native American Interest Fraternity all gain recognition.

2004: Delta Upsilon charters.

2004: Jenny Levering, Assistant Director of Greek Affairs, is hired.

2005: Sigma Rho Lambda and Phi Beta Chi become Associate Members of Panhellenic, but do not participate in their formal recruitment process.

2005: Delta Sigma Iota South Asian Cultural Fraternity charters.

2006: Pi Kappa Phi chapter and alumni give up charter to nationals.

2006: Zeta Beta Tau begins recolonization efforts.

2006: Sigma Nu begins recolonization efforts.

2007: Jenny Levering named Assistant Dean of Students, and Colleen Drazen hired as
Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

2007: Delta Phi Omega colonized.

2007: Sigma Nu Colonizes and moves back into fraternity court house.

2007: Tau Kappa Epsilon: Begins colonization efforts, recognition pending.

2007: Phi Mu begins colonization efforts.

2007: Lambda Upsilon Lambda colonized.

2008: Kayte Sexton Fry hired as Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

2008: Phi Mu Charters as a chapter.

2009: Pi Kappa Phi re-colonizes.

2010: Tau Epsilon Phi Closes.

2011: Brittney Balhman hired as Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life and Community Involvement.

2015: Alpha Phi begins colonization efforts.

2015: Audrey Walker and Cherie Michaud hired as Coordinators of Fraternity & Sorority Life and Community Involvement.

2016: Alpha Phi Charters as a chapter.

2017: Carolina Greek Life reaches 21% of the UNC population. This is the largest the community has ever been at Carolina.

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