



FOUNDATION FOR FRATERNAL EXCELLENCE

RESEARCH AGENDA

ABOUT

The Foundation for Fraternal Excellence (FFE) exists to support organizations and individuals invested in developing the next generation of fraternity/sorority leaders.

The FFE, in collaboration with its Alliance Partners, serves a membership consisting of more than 70 fraternal foundations, including their associated professionals and volunteers.

Now more than ever, our college campuses, work places and communities need strong, values-driven leaders. Because a healthy, positive fraternity/sorority experience acts as an incubator for leadership and personal development, the FFE has a responsibility to protect and preserve the integrity of that experience.

RESEARCH: A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

FFE believes in coordinating and sharing research to help inform data-driven decision making within the fraternal industry. In delivering on this priority, FFE:

- Champions research on the value of the fraternity/sorority experience in partnership with key fraternal stakeholders.
 - *FFE fosters a culture of research and insight into the fraternal industry by encouraging key stakeholders to utilize FFE as the vehicle to facilitate research on their specific interests through sponsored research grants.*
- Surveys members to gather fundraising and management data and reports out on insights gained.

Additionally, to encourage and support the study and dissemination of high-quality research on the fraternal experience, the Foundation for Fraternal Excellence makes available small grants to research fellows engaged in studies which advance FFE's Research Agenda.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

FFE reviews and updates its research agenda annually. FFE will consider topics and proposals that advance the organization's mission even if they are not formally outlined below. FFE also reserves the right to decline research projects which are fundamentally adverse or in conflict with FFE's priorities.

The following list, while not comprehensive, includes topics which have been endorsed by the FFE Board of Directors in alignment with the current strategic plan.

Potential Sponsored Research Topics:

- Replication and expansion of previous studies on the fraternal experience, such as:
 - Biddix (2014) *First-Year Retention and National Panhellenic Conference Sorority Membership: A Multi-Institutional Study*

- Pike (1997) *The Influence of Fraternity or Sorority Membership on Students' College Experiences and Cognitive Development*
- Replication and expansion of previous studies on fraternal fundraising, such as:
 - Cygnus Applied Research (2011) *NICF Donor and Alumni Engagement Survey*
 - Cygnus Applied Research (2015) *NICF Donor and Alumni Engagement Survey*
- Value of the Single-Sex Experience: Does the single-sex experience make a difference?
- Fraternity and Sorority Members and Fatalities: Comparison with non-affiliated students
- Fraternity and Sorority Members and Sexual Misconduct: Comparison with non-affiliated students

Potential Research Fellows Topics:

- Fraternity, Sorority and Alumni Engagement: Comparison with non-affiliated students with organizations;
 - with their institutions;
 - engagement in the community after graduation;
 - engagement with each other;
 - volunteerism – for organization, for communities, for college;
 - giving and participation – for organization, for communities, for college
- Fraternity/Sorority Membership and Bystander Intervention: Comparison with non-affiliated students
- Fraternity/Sorority Members and Depression: Comparison with non-affiliated students
- Fraternity/Sorority Members and Loneliness: Comparison with non-affiliated students
- Fraternity/Sorority Members and Suicidality: Comparison with non-affiliated students
- Fraternity/Sorority Members and Retention: Comparison with non-affiliated students
- Fraternity/Sorority Members and Graduation Rates: Comparison with non-affiliated students