



# MIAMI CHAPTER

## DELTA UPSILON FRATERNITY

February 1, 2021

Delta Upsilon  
Miami Chapter  
400 E. Vine St.  
Oxford, OH 45056

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Delta Upsilon family. We're happy to have your son as a new Associate Member, but understand you may have questions and concerns about fraternities and Greek life at Miami University in general. This letter is an initial attempt to answer at least a few of those by providing some background information about Delta Upsilon and our Chapter in particular. We hope that as time goes on, you'll see for yourself why your son chose to become a member of Delta Upsilon.

DU's or "Ducks" are, in fact, a bit of an odd duck as fraternities go, starting from our founding at Williams College in Massachusetts in 1834. If you take a look at our crest above, you see a helmet with an open visor. There's a reason for that, the same reason that our newsletter has always been called the "Open Visor" - we have always been a NON-SECRET fraternity. No secrets. No secret handshakes, ceremonies, passwords, nothing. Our values and principles are available for all to see. If we fail to live up to those values, everyone, not just our membership, will know. Everything about our pledging and membership process, our songs, our ceremonies, our alumni - it's all intentionally transparent. There is literally NOTHING your son cannot talk to you about as far as DU goes.

It starts with our motto, in Greek, on our crest - "Dikaia Upotheke" - "Justice our Foundation." DU has four founding principles, our "Four Pillars," which we still adhere to today: The Advancement of Justice, the Promotion of Friendship, the Development of Character, and the Diffusion of Liberal Culture. DUs don't just accept. They don't "go along to get along." We ask and expect our brothers to develop, grow, and challenge each other to become better men, friends, scholars, and eventually husbands, fathers, and leaders. That starts with taking care of each other.

Part of the reason for the initial adoption of the "no secrets" policy was a reaction to the "secret society" fraternities at the time. Another part was a reaction to hazing: the founding members thought that if there were no secrets, there would be no hazing because hazing was obviously a hidden activity that society did not approve of even back then. Sadly, hazing is still the most significant issue facing fraternities today, nearly 200 years later, and we are well aware it would be any parent's largest concern. So what can we say or do to alleviate those concerns?

First of all, we are non-secret and are serious about it. Secondly, it's always seemed strange to us that you would theoretically welcome a new brother by making him suffer first. Why? We say we are "brothers" for a reason. Brothers not of blood, but of shared beliefs. You cannot build shared beliefs by hazing, it doesn't work. As you may know, Miami University has extremely strict, heavily enforced rules and penalties regarding hazing. We understand we those rules are necessary for the University, but we believe the best protection against hazing is within the undergraduate chapter itself. It starts with the very beginning of membership when an invitation is extended. Associate Members are told, immediately and clearly, what is and is not permissible. Active members are reminded at the same time. Our Associate Members participate in a four-week education process, a primary and focused part of which is reinforcing the prohibitions on hazing,

reminding them that DU men have always found hazing to be unacceptable. We emphasize what we expect from each brother's moral courage, character, and integrity, all of which includes the willingness to say no and act appropriately when something is not right. No matter the circumstances, or who else is involved. Education is not left up simply to the active members: alumni will regularly come back and participate in the education programs and are present at all initiation ceremonies. Why? Please understand where the alumni are – in pretty much the same position as you. A number of them have college-aged students, some attending Miami. We take the safety of their children, and yours, extremely seriously, for both moral and practical reasons.

The practical: COVID-19 has created an ever-changing environment that we are continuing to adapt to. Our fraternity has taken a number of steps to comply, and exceed local guidance including hiring professional cleaners for the house and limiting gatherings of the entire chapter. For our Associate Member Education program, we will be utilizing a number of virtual events in addition to our normal in-person education. Despite these changes, we are committed to delivering a meaningful experience for each member to ensure a strong brotherhood after the pandemic is over.

When you have an opportunity (hopefully next fall!), please take a tour of the chapter house. It's beautiful and pretty unique to the campus. For 90 years, our home has acted as the center of our fraternity. As part of the fraternity experience, every brother is expected to live in the house during their time as an undergrad. Most choose to do this as 2nd-year students, but those looking for leadership roles often live-in their 3rd-year as well. This year we are excited to offer a limited number of new brothers the option of a two-year lease at a discounted rate. By committing to live in the house for two years now, a brother will save a minimum of \$1,000. Additionally, this forward planning will help the Chapter ensure a full house and the ability to provide each member with a more enjoyable fraternity experience.

Our Chapter – the Miami Chapter - recently had its 150th anniversary, of this chapter, on this campus. That's almost unheard of for a fraternity. We have a HISTORY here, something we are very proud of and want to see continue. We invite you to ask questions, not just of us but of any of our alumni. Being a Delta Upsilon brother has made a positive impact on our lives and challenged us to make a difference for others. We welcome your son to that brotherhood and look forward to knowing the man that he will become by the completion of his degree.

#### Undergraduate Leadership:

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Sincerely,  
The Brothers of Delta Upsilon