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A message from Su Yeong Kim, Chief Researcher

Earlier this year, the Davis Research Project initiated a follow-up project. Close to 80% of the original families who had participated in the project in 2002 completed surveys again four years later in 2006. We are very excited about the continued participation and interest in the project from the families! We are currently processing the data that we had gathered earlier this year and plan to share some of the major findings with you in a future newsletter.

As many of the students in the project are starting their first year in college or finishing their last year in high school, we wanted to provide information that may be helpful as students make the transition from high school to college. Specifically, we highlight information on how to select courses in college as well as provide information on social organizations such as fraternities and sororities students may be asked to join in college.

Please note that I have moved. I am presently at the University of Texas at Austin and all future correspondence regarding the project will come from the University of Texas at Austin. While the mailing address for the project has changed, all other contact information remains the same. We can be reached by e-mail at projectfamilies@yahoo.com, by phone at (415) 271-0390, 1-(866) 7-FAMILY (toll-free), and on the internet at <http://www.geocities.com/projectfamilies/davis/>.

We look forward to your continued support and participation in the project!

Selecting Classes in College

When it comes to selecting courses in college, choosing the right classes to take is often a frustrating experience. Most colleges offer a myriad of classes that may seem overwhelming compared to high school, but if taken the time to plan out one's college career, selecting classes becomes a less daunting task. Before scheduling classes, it is important to ensure that one's advanced placement (AP exams) credits taken in high school are properly credited by the college that the student has selected to attend. Also, students should find out if their college grants credits for CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) exams or credit for other types of examinations. Described next are some strategies and guidelines to consider when planning one's college courses.

"Close to 80% of the original families in the Davis Research Project participated in the follow-up project in 2006."

Fraternities and Sororities

Almost all students start off college without an established social network of people they already know. Because they may be miles away from their home and familiar faces, many students find it appealing to join social organizations such as fraternities and sororities to feel a sense of belonging in their new environment. Students often have misconceptions about what a fraternity/sorority actually is because movies such as the Animal House and the Revenge of the Nerds have presented negative, stereotypic images of fraternities/sororities. A fraternity is an organization comprised of males with similar interests that share a long-lasting bond of brotherhood while a sorority is analogous to a fraternity but comprised of women with similar interests that share a long-lasting bond of sisterhood.

“Many students find it appealing to join a fraternity/sorority to feel a sense of belonging in their new college campus environment.”

Fraternities/sororities and other student organizations on campus

By definition, a fraternity/sorority is simply a subset of an organization. There are many different types of fraternities and sororities. For example, there are cultural-interest fraternities/sororities that focus on Asian American interests (e.g., Sigma Phi Omega), while other fraternities/sororities are social organizations without a cultural focus (e.g., Delta Delta Delta).

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TYPE OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY	FOCUS/HIGHLIGHTS	EXAMPLES
<i>Social</i>	Cultural and non-cultural interests; primarily for developing friendships	Asian-American Interest Sorority: Sigma Phi Omega Alpha Kappa Delta Phi Sigma Omicron Pi Asian American Interest Fraternity: Lambda Phi Epsilon Pi Alpha Phi Social Fraternity: Sigma Alpha Epsilon Zeta Psi Social Sorority: Delta Delta Delta Delta Phi Epsilon
<i>Service</i>	Volunteer Service	Fraternity: Alpha Phi Omega Sorority: Omega Phi Alpha * Both provide service to community, campus, and the nation. Examples of service events include blood drives, tutoring, and charity fundraising events.
<i>Professional</i>	Exclusive membership in a particular field of professional education	Business: Delta Sigma Pi Chemistry: Alpha Chi Sigma Medicine: Alpha Phi Sigma
<i>Honorary</i>	Exclusive membership based primarily on academic achievement in a field of study	Biology: Beta Beta Beta Physics: Sigma Pi Sigma Civil Engineering: Chi Epsilon

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It is common for many freshmen to start college without selecting a major. Every major, even undeclared ones require a set of core classes one must take. It is important to use the course catalog, available in print or online, to determine the classes that are required for every student, and take those classes early in one's college career. When students encounter difficulties about selecting classes, seeking the advice of an academic advisor can be helpful in course selection. One way to make the most out of an appointment with an advisor is to prepare a list of questions about scheduling before the appointment. It is also important to be mindful of the registration timeline. At a large university, classes will be filled quickly and closed within the first few days of registration. Also, depending on the school, registering for classes may be based on a lottery system or be on a first-come-first-serve basis. It is recommended that students plan for backup classes or other options in the event that the students' first-choice classes are closed.



Classes, Lifestyles, and Priorities

College courses should also be compatible with the students' priorities and lifestyles. If a student is not a morning person, choosing an eight a.m. class may not be a wise choice. Even if a student considers himself/herself to be a morning person and have a history of waking up at 5 a.m. every morning during high school, college life may have students on an entirely different sleeping schedule. Depending on the student's social life and his/her school and work schedules, she or he may find himself/herself staying up past midnight to keep up with course work or to socialize. This will make it difficult to wake up and be attentive in early morning classes.

Quarter vs. Semester System

Almost all colleges and universities are on a semester system. However, with the exception of Berkeley, schools in the University of California (UC) system and many schools in the California State University (CSU) system are on a quarter system rather than on a semester system. Essentially, this means that instead of having a school year divided into two semesters, there are three ten-week quarters in the fall, winter, and spring. Transitioning from a two semester system in high school to a quarter system in college may not be easy. By the time a student feels finally situated, a new quarter will start and the process of settling into a new quarter system starts all over again. Because of this, students must learn to pace themselves and become quickly acclimated to the quarter system, and keep track of important deadlines such as add/drop deadlines and finals schedule. Getting into a regular study schedule and being diligent with schoolwork early in the quarter is essential for success in a fast-paced quarter system.

“Transitioning from a two semester system in high school to a three quarter system in college may not be easy.”



Are you Moving?

Please update your address and phone number with us! We would like to keep in touch with you for a follow-up project in the future.

Updating your information is easy:

By Phone: (415) 271-0390

By Phone: (866) 7-FAMILY
(This is a toll-free number.)

By E-mail:
projectfamilies@yahoo.com

By Web:
[http://www.geocities.com/
projectfamilies/davis/](http://www.geocities.com/projectfamilies/davis/)

Fraternities and Sororities from page 2

Why do people join a fraternity/sorority to become a “Greek”? Some people prefer to join a fraternity/sorority over other student organizations on campus because the inducted members are smaller in number and the process of becoming a member is more selective. Typically, only a few pledges are initiated into a fraternity/sorority during each cycle. Most members will get to know each other on an individual basis and will have the option of living together in a fraternity/sorority house if a house is available. Stronger bonds are formed through such interactions.

Fraternities and sororities are more prevalent in four-year than in two-year institutions. For example, the City College of San Francisco does not have a Greek system on campus. Therefore, students who are interested in joining a fraternity/sorority should check the availability of such organizations on their campuses.

References on Fraternities and Sororities:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraternities_and_sororities
<http://www.akdphi.org/>
<http://www.sigmaomicronpi.com/>

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