

The Crux - October 2021

Being Queer in Fraternity

Watch: ["Being Queer In A Fraternity"](#)

What it's about:

The video highlights the positive experiences of men who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and other) community and are also members of fraternity chapters. Despite initial fears, their knowledge of fraternity stereotypes, and other reservations, they shared the benefits that joining an accepting organization had on each of their lives.

Why it's Important:

[Historically, campus environments have been especially difficult for students who did not identify as heterosexual.](#) As the demographic of today's college student continues to diversify, universities and fraternities alike have recognized the value of a welcoming and inclusive collegiate experience.

Each man interviewed reflected the positive impact that acceptance can have on brothers and serves as a reminder that our interactions with LGBTQ+ members should always be rooted in support. Additionally, open-mindedness and curiosity, when done well, can lead to a respectful and inclusive fraternity culture.

Although the men in the video shared mostly positive experiences, we know that there are members who have had the opposite. Every member should feel comfortable being themselves and each of us is responsible for fostering an environment that is affirming and supportive of all brothers.

Reflect & Discuss:

- When you take an honest look, how safe is your chapter for LGBTQ+ members and guests?
- Are there additional chapter practices needed to promote safety and affirm LGBTQ+ identifying members?
- How does your chapter address behaviors that aren't inclusive of LGBTQ+ members?

Want to learn more?

- [Thinking of coming out?](#)
- [Inclusive Classroom Community](#)
- [Resources](#)