

Greek Glossary

Throughout this Recruitment experience, you may encounter a number of terms and aspects of Greek life that are new to you. This overview of Greek vocabulary will help you to define many of the words and phrases that are common in this process.

Active - A sorority woman who has been formally initiated by her chapter into a lifelong membership

Advisor - An alumna/ alumni member of a sorority or fraternity that serves as a mentor to a collegiate chapter officer.

Alumna - A sorority woman who completed her undergraduate sorority membership. Usually, it is someone who has graduated.

Alumnae (feminine): The plural of alumna.

Alumnae Panhellenic – an area organization of alumnae of National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) member group sororities

Badge - Sorority pin worn by an initiated member

Bid – invitation to join a sorority/fraternity

Bid Card – recruitment membership acceptance binding agreement

Candlelight A sorority ceremony in which a sister or new member announces receiving a lavalier, a pin, or an engagement ring

Chapter- A local group of a national organization, designated by its own Greek letter name.

College Panhellenic – the cooperative college organization of women’s NPC member sororities

Colony- a new sorority being formed by their national organization.

Continuous Open Bidding- an opportunity for chapters who are not at quota or total to extend bids to women who did not join a sorority during formal Recruitment

Deferred Recruitment – membership recruitment week scheduled after classes begin or in the second semester

Dirty Recruitment – illegal contacting of and communication with a potential new member by an active

Formal Recruitment - A series of parties given by each sorority during a prescribed period which is scheduled and governed by the Panhellenic Council

Fraternity – name that applies to all Greek-letter organizations (informally, women’s fraternities are called sororities)

Greek - A member of a sorority or fraternity

House Director/Mother- A woman who lives in the sorority house and cares for all of the women living in the sorority house. She manages the house.

Initiation - The formal ceremony which brings the new members into full membership of the sorority

Interfraternity Council (IFC)- An umbrella organization that presides over men’s fraternities, each of which is autonomous as a social, Greek letter society of college men, undergraduate and alumnae.

Lavalier - Necklace bearing the letters of a fraternity/sorority.

Legacy - A woman whose mother, sister, or grandmother is an alumna or collegiate member of a national sorority. A legacy should be open-minded while going through recruitment, giving herself an opportunity to meet the members of all sororities before she makes her decision. A sorority is not obligated to pledge a legacy, a legacy is pledged on her own merits.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)- a conference body composed of delegates from the 26 women's national sororities, each of which is autonomous as a social, Greek letter society of college women, undergraduate and alumnae.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)- a national conference body composed of the nine historically, predominately African American Greek letter organizations at both the college and alumni level. Locally, the NPHC at FSU is the governing council for seven chapters.

New Member – anyone who has accepted a sorority/fraternity bid, but has not yet been initiated

One Calendar Year- the period from a given date in one year to a comparable date in the next year. If a PNM accepts a bid on Preference night, she must wait one calendar year before she is permitted to go through the Recruitment process again.

Panhellenic (PH) – meaning “all Greek” – it is the organization nationally, locally and on college campuses to further the aims of all member groups

Panhellenic Exec- the nine members of Panhellenic Executive Board that lead the FSU Panhellenic Council.

Pledge- A promise made by a new member to an organization.

Pool- The group a PNM is a part of, based on class standing. There are two pools: Freshman Pool and Upperclassman Pool.

Potential New Member (PNM)- a woman who is participating in the Recruitment process and wishes to explore the possibilities of sorority membership.

Preferential Bidding – the conclusion of formal recruitment when potential new members and sororities indicate their choices

Quota – the number of women who may be recruited by each group during recruitment – the quota is set by the college Panhellenic and depends on the number of potential new members and sororities on that particular campus

Recommendation/ Reference- a written statement recommending a PNM for membership in a sorority/fraternity. It is not necessary for a PNM to have a recommendation.

Recruitment- A period of time during the school year in which events are held by each sorority for the purpose of selecting new members. The recruitment period is organized and implemented by the College Panhellenic. Potential new members visit all chapters, and through a mutual selection process, finds a chapter that best suits her. No longer referred to as rush.

Recruitment Counselor / Recruitment Guide / Rho Gamma- a neutral representative from the college Panhellenic community who guides and supports the PNM through Recruitment.

Recruitment Week – period of time formally designated by the campus Panhellenic for meeting potential new members

Silence – the period of time designated by campus Panhellenic when there are no communications between potential new members and sorority members

Single Intentional Pref. – intentional indication of only one choice at preferential signing – the National Panhellenic Conference strongly recommends that every potential new member list at least a 2nd preferential choice

If there are other terms you hear and do not know, please ask your Recruitment Counselor.

~ Chicago Northwest Suburban Alumnae Panhellenic

Greek Alphabet

ΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩ

Α

Alpha
(Al-fuh)

Β

Beta
(Bay-tuh)

Γ

Gamma
(Gam-uh)

Δ

Delta
(Del-tuh)

Ε

Epsilon
(Ep-sil-on)

Ζ

Zeta
(Zay-tuh)

Η

Eta
(Ay-tuh)

Θ

Theta
(Thay-tuh)

Ι

Iota
(Eye-oh-tuh)

Κ

Kappa
(Kap-uh)

Λ

Lambda
(Lam-duh)

Μ

Mu
(Mew)

Ν

Nu
(New)

Ξ

Xi
(Ks-eye/Ks-ee)

Ο

Omicron
(Om-i-kron)

Π

Pi
(Pie)

Ρ

Rho
(Row)

Σ

Sigma
(Sig-muh)

Τ

Tau
(Tau)

Υ

Upsilon
(Oop-si-lon)

Φ

Phi
(Fee/Fie)

Χ

Chi
(K-eye)

Ψ

Psi
(Sigh)

Ω

Omega
(Oh-may-guh)

National Panhellenic groups:

ΑΧΩ ΑΔΠ ΑΕΦ ΑΓΔ ΑΟΠ ΑΦ ΑΞΔ

ΑΣΑ ΑΣΤ ΓΦΒ ΔΔΔ ΔΓ ΔΖ ΔΦΕ

ΖΤΑ ΘΦΑ ΚΑΘ ΚΔ ΚΚΓ ΠΒΦ ΣΔΤ

ΣΚ ΣΣΣ ΦΜ ΦΣΣ ΧΩ