



Go Greek Glossary

Active: A collegiate, initiated member of a sorority chapter.

Alumna/Alumnus/Alumni: Any initiated member(s) of a sorority or fraternity who graduated or left college in good standing.

Alumni Association: An organization of alumni from an individual fraternity or sorority. The association may be based on geographical location or chapter.

Badge: An insignia (pin) of fraternity or sorority membership worn by initiated members. Each sorority has its own badge.

Bid: At the end of recruitment, each sorority will extend a bid to every PNM that they invite to join their house. PNMs will only end up with one bid at the end of the week. For example, if the PNM ranks Sorority A, Sorority B, and Sorority C in that order on preference day, then Sorority A can extend them a bid. If Sorority A doesn't want to extend that PNM a bid, then Sorority B will have the opportunity to extend a bid to the PNM.

Bid Day: The last day of recruitment, when potential new members receive bids to join chapters and become new members. Chapters often host a Bid Day activity to help the new members get to know each other and the rest of the chapter, like bowling or roller skating, or may have a celebratory open house for new and active members. At many campuses, parents are welcome to attend bid day events.

Big sister/little sister: An active member of a chapter is paired with a new member as a mentor and friend. Big and little sisters will be assigned during the first few weeks after bid day. Sometimes temporary big sisters are assigned right away to help the new members adjust to campus life very quickly.

Continuous Open Bidding (COB): An opportunity for chapters that do not reach quota during primary recruitment to bid up to quota. The continuous open bidding process is less formal, and not all chapters will participate in continuous open bidding.

Cut: The term used when a PNM is not invited back to a sorority during recruitment week. PNMs are cut for multitudes of reasons. Many of these are not personal but are a function of a sorority's restrictions on how many PNMs they are allowed to invite back each day.

Disaffiliation: Your recruitment counselor will disaffiliate from their sorority during recruitment week, meaning they're supposed to take any trace of their sorority off of their social media and do not have contact with their sorority during recruitment week. The PNMs are not supposed to know which sorority each recruitment counselor is in so that the PNMs have an unbiased and positive experience.

Greek: A term applied to all fraternities and sororities and their members.

Hazing: Any action taken or situation created intentionally, whether on or off sorority premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Hazing is not permitted and harsh penalties are often imposed if hazing occurs.

Initiation: A formal ceremony that brings a new member into full membership of a sorority or fraternity. This usually takes place during the first semester or early the second semester after joining a sorority. Once you are initiated into an NPC sorority, you are ineligible for membership in any other.

Intentional single preference: When a woman lists only one chapter on her membership recruitment acceptance binding agreement following preference round. If the PNM doesn't get a bid from this sorority, then they won't be in a sorority at all. This is also known as "**going suicide**" and is highly discouraged.

Legacy: A daughter, sister or granddaughter of an initiated member of a sorority. Being a legacy does not guarantee a bid to that particular sorority. Each inter/national organization has its own policy for invitations to legacies during recruitment. Each university chapter also has their own guidelines for any preferences given to legacies.

Letters: The first Greek letter of each Greek word that makes up the motto of a fraternity or sorority; these are generally displayed on clothing and other Greek paraphernalia.

Letters of Support: a personal letter of recommendation written by an alumna who knows the PNM. Letters of support provide an additional way to recommend a PNM in addition to the formal recommendation. Like formal recommendations, letters of support may be more important at some campuses than others.

Maximizing your options: A PNM may hear this often during recruitment from the recruitment counselors. To maximize their options, a PNM should rank the maximum number of houses they receive invitations to instead of just putting the ones they only want to be in and leaving out the ones that they didn't like as much. A person might not have had a great conversation at one house, but if they come back the next day and talk to a different girl, they could end up loving the sorority.

MRABA: The Membership Recruitment Acceptance Binding Agreement. This is a one-year binding agreement signed by a potential new member when ranking chapters after preference round. A PNM agrees to accept a bid from any chapter she lists on her MRABA. If a PNM receives a bid to a chapter she lists and declines it, she is bound to it for one year or until the next primary recruitment period, meaning she cannot accept a bid to any other organization. If a PNM signs an MRABA and does not receive a bid, she is eligible for continuous open bidding or snap bidding.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC): Campus governing body for the nine historically African-American sororities and fraternities.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC): The conference body of the twenty-six women's sororities established in 1902 to support the collegiate and alumnae chapters of the NPC.

New member: A person who has accepted a bid from a sorority but is not yet an active member of that chapter. Chapters will have some sort of new member process during which the new members learn more about the sorority and prepare them for initiation. In the past, new members were called **pledges**, but this term is not formally used any longer.

Panhellenic Association (PHC): The campus governing body for all social sororities

Philanthropy: Each sorority has a charity or organization that they support through philanthropy events to raise money for the organization.

Potential new member (PNM): A woman who is eligible to participate in recruitment or currently going through recruitment. On campuses that hold deferred recruitment during second semester, chapters might use the term PNM to refer to any woman eligible for recruitment.

Preference day (or night): This is the last event during recruitment week, in which girls will typically go to up to either two or three houses (depends on the university) for the last rounds of recruitment parties. It's also possible that a PNM may go to just one preference party. After going to each house, all PNMs will then rank their sororities in order of which sorority they want a bid from most. Attire for Pref parties is usually dressier than for the previous recruitment parties.

Quota: The number of potential new members to which each chapter can offer bids during recruitment. This is determined using a formula involving the number of chapters and the number of women participating in recruitment.

Recommendation: A form completed by an alumna member of a sorority recommending a potential new member for membership. Recommendations may be

more important at some campuses, and for some sororities, than others. Check with the campus fraternity and sorority life office to find out more information.

Recruitment: This is also commonly referred to as rush week, but formally referred to as recruitment. Recruitment is the week-long process in which every sorority chooses their new members.

Recruitment counselor: A sorority member who is disassociated from her sorority to serve as a recruitment guide. Each PNM will be assigned a recruitment counselor during primary recruitment. These girls may live in the dorms with the PNMs during recruitment week and are a great source of information and support. They are known by different names depending on the university – some examples are Rho Chis (recruitment counselors) or Rho Gammas (recruitment guides).

Ritual: The private traditions and practices of a sorority deeply rooted in the shared values and purpose of the members. Ritual serves as a reminder to each member of her responsibilities and inspires her to fulfill them. Rituals connect the past with the present and the future.

Silence: A period of time after the close of membership recruitment events and prior to the distribution of bids when there is no communication between potential new members and sorority members.

Sister: The term a girl in a sorority will use to refer to another girl also in her sorority. If you talk to several different girls during one round of recruitment, one will often introduce the next girl to you as her sister – don't take it literally!

Snap bidding: An option available to chapters that did not fill quota. Chapters may offer bids to potential new members whose preferences were not matched, meaning they would not be extended a bid by chapters they listed on their preference rankings after preference round. This process usually takes place before bids are distributed, and a potential new member would receive a phone call or other contact by a sorority offering her a snap bid. If she chooses to accept, the new member would participate in normal Bid Day activities.



mckinney area alumnae panhellenic

