

Greek Life Terminology



Active

A formal initiated member of a fraternity or sorority

Badge (Pin)

The insignia that designates your fraternity or sorority

Brother

A term used when referring to other members of a fraternity

Chapter Adviser

An alumnus/alumnae or faculty/staff member who serves in an advisory role to provide guidance to the organization

Fraternity

A group of men sharing common interests

Intake

The membership recruitment and induction process for culturally based

Line

The members of a cultural fraternity or sorority new member class

Alumnae

A sorority member who has graduated from college

Bid

A formal invitation to join a fraternity or sorority

Call/Chant

A vocal sound (sometimes high-pitched) used by members of cultural based fraternities and sororities to acknowledge one another

Colony

A newly formed affiliate of a national organization that has not yet received its charter. The members of a colony are referred to as "founders."

Greek

A member of a fraternity or sorority

Initiation

The traditional ritual, which brings the new member into full membership

Neophyte

A new member of a cultural fraternity or sorority

Alumnus

A fraternity member who has graduated from college

Big Brother/Big Sister

An active member assigned to be the personal mentor for a new member.

Chapter

Name for the local organization of a national fraternity/sorority

Crossed

The actual date of initiation into a cultural fraternity or sorority. The term is used to represent the symbolic "crossing of the burning sands"

Hazing

Mental or physical abuse or harassment of a member. Hazing is prohibited by university policy, state law, and the policies of inter/national fraternities and sororities

Legacy

Name for the local organization of a national fraternity/sorority

New Member/Associate

A member who has not been initiated (Some organizations use other terms such as *pledge*, *associate*, *candidate*, or *line brother/sister*) - One who has been accepted as a probationary member of a sorority or fraternity but has not yet been initiated. Collectively, the New Members who join the same semester are called the *new member class* or *pledge class*.

New Member Education Process

The time period in which candidates for active membership (or new members) learn about the organization and participate in brotherhood/sisterhood activities

Potential New Member (PNM)

A term for men or women being recruited by a fraternity or sorority; anyone not affiliated with a fraternity or sorority is a PNM

Ritual

The traditional ceremonies of a chapter, which are usually secret

Strict Silence

Not discussing recruitment with non-sorority members outside of the recruitment events

New Member Pin

A pin that designates a new member of a fraternity or sorority

Recruitment Counselor (Gamma Chi)

A disaffiliated member of an organization who assists potential members through the recruitment process (only in CPC sororities)

Sister

A term used when referring to other members of a sorority

Stroll/Step Show

A line dance done by members of cultural fraternities or sororities

Philanthropy

The chapter's specific charitable organization(s) that they donate money and volunteer hours

Recruitment (sometimes called RUSH)

The action of finding new people to join an organization

Sorority

A society for female students in a university or college, typically for social purposes