



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Fraternity & Sorority Life™

Community Terms

Active Member/Active/Initiate – An undergraduate fraternity/sorority member who has been initiated by his/her chapter.

Alumna/Alumnus – A sorority/fraternity member who is no longer a member of a collegiate chapter (plurals are alumnae and alumni). Synonym: Graduate Member

Badge/Pin – The pin of an initiated member.

Bid – A formal invitation to join a sorority or fraternity

Bid Day – The last day of recruitment in which potential new members receive formal invitations to join a fraternity or sorority.

Big – Short for big sister or big brother; an active member who serves as a mentor for newer members. Synonym for prophyte.

Brand – Organizational symbol(s) burned into members, usually on the arms or chest. Relates to scarification practiced by African tribes. Branding is a voluntary process, not a requirement for membership.

Call/Chant – A vocal sound used by members of the NPHC to acknowledge or gain the attention of other members. Calls may vary regionally within organizations, and some organizations may use more than one call.

Chapter – A local membership unit of a national or international fraternity/sorority.

Colony – A new local membership unit of a national or international fraternity/sorority that must complete certain tasks prior to receiving their charter

Community Service – Hands-on activities directly benefitting others.

Continuous Open Bidding (COB) – (Panhellenic Term) COB bids may be extended and accepted at any time during the school year other than Formal Recruitment (COB is also referred to as Open Bidding and Informal Membership Recruitment).

Club – Refers to a member's designated spot on line within NPHC and MGC Organizations i.e. Ace Club, Deuce Club, and Tail Club.

Crossing – The formal end (specific date/time) to the intake process into an NPHC fraternity/sorority whereby membership is fully conferred. Synonym: Initiation and Rituals.

Daily Selections – each day Potential New Members will list all available fraternities or sororities in order of their preference within the ICS system.



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Dean of Pledges/Pledge Master/Induction Officer/DP – The membership educator for NPHC and MGC Organizations. Synonym: New Member Educator.

Dirty Rushing – When one organization will attempt to influence a potential new member through gifts, bad mouthing other organizations, etc. Forbidden by all Panhellenic chapters.

Event – A recruitment occasion hosted by a fraternity or sorority. The ICS system will schedule events for you.

Family – Multiple generations of big brothers/sisters, brought together to form a family line.

Formal – Typically every sorority/fraternity hosts a formal once a year where each member is allowed one date, they are often themed, awards are given, and fraternity formals are often out of town. This event occurs over a span of three days.

Formal Recruitment – A designated membership recruitment period comprised of a series of events hosted by the Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council. Synonym: Intake.

Fraternity – Greek-letter organizations that are characterized by a ritual, badge, and a strong tie of friendship. Informally, women's fraternities are called sororities.

FIPG – A group of national/international fraternities which have grouped together to form a uniform risk management policy in order to obtain adequate liability insurance.

Graduate Member – Term used to describe a member of an NPHC organization who has either graduated from college, or completed the alumni-status process with their organization. Members of Greek chapters possess an exclusive, lifetime membership to their organization. Synonym: Alumni.

Greek Peek – A Panhellenic program where potential new members are able to meet and learn about the Panhellenic chapters outside of formal recruitment. Synonym: Meet the Greeks

Hand sign – used to identify members of the same organization. Most have a deep meaning to that organization or ritualistic symbol.

ICS – The recruitment software used to facilitate formal recruitment.

Initiation – The formal, secret ceremony that brings a new member into full membership. Synonym: Crossing and Rituals.

Intake – A delayed recruitment process held by NPHC and MGC where the new member process begins after the semester begins. Synonym: Formal Recruitment.

Intentional Single Preference (ISP) – When a Potential New Member intentionally selects only one fraternity or sorority in the ICS system at the conclusion of Preference Night.



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Interfraternity Council Executive Board – The leadership elected to serve the Interfraternity Council member fraternities. The Executive Board facilitates the governance of the fraternity community.

Interfraternity Council Advisor – The Texas Tech University professional staff member that assists and advocates for the fraternity community.

Interfraternity Council (IFC) – governing body of the fraternities at Tech who are eligible for membership in the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). IFC strives to promote high academic standards, philanthropic services, resources for recruitment, and inter-fraternity unity.

Junior Initiate/Just Initiate (JI) – A member who is recently initiated into an IFC organization.
Synonym: Neo and Little

Kickback – An informal gathering held by NPHC and MGC organizations.

Legacy – A man or woman whose mother/father, sister/brother, or in some cases grandmother/grandfather, is an alumna/alumnus or active member of a sorority or fraternity.

Line – The new member class of a NPHC and MGC Organizations. Synonym: Pledge Class

Line Brother/Line Sister (LB/LS) – Refers to a member who was initiated at the same time.

Little – Short for little sister or little brother; a newer member who is mentored by an older member of the organization. Synonym: Neophyte and JI.

Meet the Greeks – A program traditionally held by NPHC where potential new members are able to meet and learn about the NPHC organizations. Synonym: Greek Peek

Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) – MGC is a cooperative campus organization of Latino/a, Southeast Asian, Asian, and Multicultural fraternities and sororities, 15 of which are active on TTU's campus. Three of these organizations were founded on TTU's campus.

Mutual Selection Process – The process in which both the Potential New Members and the individual fraternities are making membership selections throughout Recruitment. Potential New Members will make decisions regarding fraternities they want to join and the fraternities will make decisions regarding the men they want to invite to their events.

National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO)—NALFO is the national governing body composed of the 24 Latino/a Greek-letter organizations.

National Interfraternity Conference (NIC)—NIC is the national governing body composed of the 74 member organization fraternities, 24 of which are active on TTU's campus.



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National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)—NPC is the governing body composed of 26 national women's fraternities/sororities, 11 of which are active on TTU's campus.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)—NPHC is the governing body composed of the 9 national historically African-American fraternities and sororities. NPHC is also the name of the cooperative campus organization of collegiate members of NPHC fraternities and sororities.

Neophyte/Neo – A newly initiated MGC/NPHC fraternity or sorority member. Synonym: Little and JI

New Member/Associate Member—A man or woman who has accepted a sorority or fraternity bid but is not yet an initiated member.

New Member Educator – The chapter officer who oversees the development of new members and prepares them for initiation. Synonym: Dean of Pledges

Open Recruitment (365)—Open Recruitment bids may be extended and accepted at any time during the school year other than Formal Recruitment.

Order of Omega – An Honor society recognizing juniors and seniors who have attained a high standard of leadership and scholarship within the Greek Community.

Paraphernalia/Para/Pari/Nalia – Clothing and other items with NPHC and MGC Organizations' letters and emblems signifying one's membership in a specific organization.

Panhellenic Council (PH) – This is a cooperative campus organization of collegiate members of NPC sororities.

Philanthropy—A service project revolving around the raising of funds undertaken by Greek organizations at the campus, community, or national level. Each fraternity and sorority has a designated cause to which they serve.

Pin Attire – The attire traditionally worn when wearing a chapter pin or badge. Examples of pin attire include clothing that would be appropriate to wear to church or a nice dinner.

Pledge Class/New Member Class: The group of new members that will be going through the New Member Program and imitation together.

Potential New Member (PNM)—Any man or woman interested in becoming a member of a social Greek-letter organization who is eligible to join according to specific council requirements.

Probate/New Member Presentation – A showcase by the new members of an NPHC or MGC Organizations to signify the completion of their new member process.

Prophyte – An older member of an MGC/NPHC organization who mentors younger members. Synonym: Big.



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PR Shirt – A t-shirt worn primarily by IFC and Panhellenic chapters that positively promote the chapters specifically for recruitment purposes.

Recruitment Captain—A Greek man carefully selected and trained to guide potential new members through the IFC formal recruitment process. Synonym: Rho Gammas

Recruitment Counselors (Rho Gammas)—Greek women carefully selected and trained to guide potential new members through the Panhellenic formal recruitment process. Synonym: Recruitment Captains.

Rho Lambda – An Honor Society recognizing junior and senior sorority women who have attained a high standard of leadership and scholarship within the Greek community.

Ritual – The activity by which a sorority or fraternity brings into membership its new members who have met initiation requirements; these are traditionally secret ceremonies. Synonym: Initiation and Crossing.

Saluting – A means by which members of an organization can praise a particular member within their fraternity or to honor the organization's past and current accomplishments. This act is not set to music or rhythm unlike strolling or stepping.

Showcase—An opportunity for NPHC and MGC fraternities and sororities to "showcase" their individual chapters to the community. Both NPHC and MGC host annual Showcase events.

Sister/Brother/Soror/Frat—A term used by members of a sorority or fraternity when referring to one another.

Social – A get-together event with another Greek organization.

Sorority—A Greek-letter sisterhood.

Stepping – A historically NPHC tradition characterized by synchronized hand/foot movements, along with singing, dancing, chanting, and acting. Many Multicultural groups participate in stepping as well.

Strolling/Party Walk/Party Hop – A line dance by members of NPHC and MGC Organizations usually at a party, showcase, or step show.

Surfacing – The first public appearance of a line. More widely used post-1990 by Latino organizations that maintain an aboveground pledge program.

Yard – The term used to refer to the particular campus or university a chapter is at.



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Positions

President – Basileus, Polemarch, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Vice President – Anti-Basileus, Vice Polemarch, Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Treasurer – Tamiochus, Financial Keeper, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Secretary – Anti-Grammateus,

Historian – Epistoleus, Records Keeper,