

Terminology and Etiquette

A

- **Active:** A member who has been initiated into lifelong fraternity or sorority membership and is active at the collegiate level
- **Alumni/Alumnae:** Initiated fraternity or sorority members who have graduated from college

B

- **Bid:** An invitation to join a fraternity or sorority
- **Bid Day:** The last day of recruitment when new members celebrate getting their bids and when disaffiliated recruitment counselors rejoin their organization through "running home"
- **Big Brother or Sister:** An active member of a fraternity or sorority who serves as a sponsor, mentor, and special friend to a New Member, guiding them through their New Member program

C

- **Calls/Chants:** Vocal expressions unique to a Greek organization. While you can enjoy listening to organizations' Calls/Chants, it is disrespectful to imitate the Calls/Chants if you are not a part of the organization.
- **Chapter:** A local group of the larger national organization; an individual fraternity or sorority
- **Chapter Insignia:** The local designation for a Greek Organization, usually a combination of Greek Letters. (Ex. Phi Beta Sigma's Chapter Insignia is Theta Zeta)
- **Charter:** Permission from the national or international fraternity or sorority headquarters for the local chapter to operate
- **College Panhellenic Council (CPH):** The governing body of sororities at the Columbus State University Panhellenic operated under the direction of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)
- **Colony:** A group of students seeking a charter from a headquarters to a chapter
- **Crest:** Insignia used by sorority and fraternity members, usually with hidden, secret meanings within its design
- **Crossing:** A term used by NPHC groups to indicate that a new member has been fully initiated into a group

D

- **Disaffiliate:** To remove yourself from the Greek organization in which you have been initiated. This is done temporarily by recruitment counselors until bid day, when they "run home" to rejoin their organization.
- **Divine 9:** Refers to the nine organizations represented in the National Pan-Hellenic Council
- **Dry Recruitment:** The prohibition of alcohol at any chapter event where potential new members are or may potentially be present

F

- **Formal Recruitment:** The major period of time set aside by the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils for meeting potential new members
- **Fraternity:** The general term for all Greek-letter organizations, generally applied to men's groups
- **Function:** A social gathering for two or more fraternities or sororities

G

- **Greek:** Any member of a Greek-letter social organization (sorority or fraternity)

I

- **Informal Recruitment:** A time period outside of formal recruitment in which Greek organizations individually decide when they will extend bids to potential members

- **Initiation:** The formal ceremony or traditional ritual that brings a new member into full membership
- **Intake or Membership Intake:** The term typically used by NPHC organizations for bringing new members into their organization
- **Interfraternity Council (IFC):** One of the governing bodies of fraternities at Columbus State University. IFC operates under the affiliation requirements of the National Interfraternity Conference (NIC).

L

- **Legacy:** The brother or sister, son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter of a fraternity or sorority member. Each chapter has its own policy regarding legacies.
- **Line:** A term typically used by NPHC organizations for individuals going through the membership intake process together

N

- **National Panhellenic Conference (NPC):** A national organization composed of 26 member sororities/women's fraternities
- **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC):** A national organization composed of four sororities and five fraternities whose membership is historically African American; locally the governing council for six organizations
- **Nationals/NHQ:** A term referring to the central organization of a fraternity or sorority
- **Neophyte (Neo):** A term typically used by NPHC members for the newest members of a fraternity or sorority
- **New Member Program:** An educational journey in which New Members learn the history, ideals and values of the organization. The time frame of the New Member Program varies for each chapter.
- **New/Associate Member:** A member of a fraternity or sorority who has not been initiated
- **North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC):** A national organization composed of 66 national member men's fraternities and alumni associations.

O

- **Order of Omega:** An honors organization that extends invitations to juniors and seniors who are initiated members of a fraternity or sorority and have attained a high standard of leadership and scholarship within the fraternity and sorority community

P

- **Philanthropy:** A service project, fundraiser, or initiative taken on by a Greek organization at the campus, community, or national level
- **Pin:** (Two types) The active pin is worn on the chest designating an initiated member of a certain Greek organization. A new member pin is simpler and is used to designate a new member.
- **Potential New Member (PNM)**A person who has shown interest but not yet been offered or accepted a bid into a fraternity/sorority
- **Prophyte:** A term typically used by NPHC members for an older brother or sister in a fraternity or sorority who generally took part in the initiation of the organization's new members

Q

- **Quota:** The specified number of Potential New Members to which each Panhellenic sorority may extend a bid

R

- **Recommendation (Rec):** A written recommendation for a Potential New Member from an alumni member of an organization. Letters of recommendation do NOT guarantee a bid from any sorority.
- **Recruitment Counselor:** An active member of a fraternity or sorority, chosen and trained to assist Potential New Members with formal recruitment
- **Recruitment/Rush/Intake:** The activity by which chapters seek new members

- **Ritual:** The traditional ceremonies of a chapter, which are usually secret
- **Running home:** When disaffiliated recruitment counselors rejoin their Greek organization on Bid Day

S

- **Stepping:** A creative form of artistic dance and musical entertainment unique to some culturally-based fraternities and sororities, especially those of historically African American heritage
- **Signs:** A unique hand symbol or movement related to a Greek organization. It can be considered disrespectful to imitate the signs if you are not a part of the organization.
- **Sorority:** The term generally applied to Greek organizations of women
- **Strolling:** When a fraternity or sorority, typically an NPHC organization, forms a line and performs choreographed moves. While you can enjoy watching the organizations stroll, it is disrespectful to imitate their choreography if you are not a part of the organization. It is also considered disrespectful to walk between people in the line while they are strolling.

T

- **Total:** The maximum number of members and new members a Panhellenic sorority can have at the end of recruitment. If a Panhellenic sorority has obtained quota during recruitment and is still below total, that sorority may continue to extend bids to new members.

U

- **Unaffiliated:** A student not in a fraternity or sorority

Y

- **Yard:** A term used by NPHC groups to reference the campus.