

Fraternity & Sorority Life Terminology

Alumnus/Alumna

Member of a fraternity/sorority who has graduated; plural is alumni/alumnae.

Big Brother/Sister

An older member assigned to assist a new member or associate member.

Bid

A formal invitation to join a fraternity or sorority. A student may accept only one.

Bid Matching

A system for matching the choice of the potential member with the choice of the chapter during Panhellenic Formal Recruitment.

Call

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

Chapter

The collegiate group of a local, national, or international fraternity or sorority. Inter/national organizations often give chapters a name, usually a Greek letter or combinations of Greek letters and/or the state.

Chapter Advisor

An alumna/alumnus who establishes and maintains a close advisory relationship with a chapter and serves as a teacher, counselor and friend.

Colony

A term used to describe the collegiate group of a fraternity or sorority in a new organization on the campus.

Crossed

The actual date of initiation into a culturally based fraternity or sorority.

Continuous Open Bidding (COB)

The term for the time when Panhellenic Council sororities may take New Members outside of the formal recruitment process.

Cultural Based Fraternity/Sorority (CBFO)

Any organization founded as, or historically as, representing a minority population, such as historically black or Latinx fraternities/sororities.

Depledge/Deactivate

The termination of a new member's or initiated member's relationship with a Greek-letter organization.

Hazing

Any action taken, created, or situated which intentionally, negligently, or recklessly subjects any person to the risk of bodily harm or mental or physical harassment, intimidation, or bullying; interferes with academic activities; or causing or encouraging any person to commit an act that would be a violation of law or University policy; for the purpose of initiating, promoting, fostering, or confirming any form of affiliation with a recognized or unrecognized student group or organization.

Informational

A meeting held by a chapter for prospective members who are seeking more information about the organization and how to join. An informational is typically the first step in the Membership Intake process for NPHC Organizations.

Initiation

A formal ceremony in which an individual becomes a full member of a fraternity or sorority.

Interfraternity Council (IFC)

The student governing body for several of the inter/national fraternities at Stockton. The council is made up of one member from each member organization, and an Executive Board.

Inter/National Organization

A common way to refer to the larger fraternity or sorority with a chapter on a college campus. For the business center of these organizations Headquarters, Central Office, or Executive Office is appropriate.

Legacy

A student whose mother, father, brother, sister, or grandparent was a member of a particular Greek organization. Some organizations consider additional relatives such as aunts and uncles in the definition.

Line Brother/Sister

Term for members of an CBFO who were initiated at the same time and into the same organization. Lines are ordered and there is terminology for a person's position in the line.

Membership Intake

Intake is the process by which CBFOs take in new members. This process begins with an information meeting or formal rush and concludes with initiation. Each organization does membership intake on their own schedule and not necessarily every semester.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)

The national group of 26 women's sororities in North America and the Umbrella Organization for the Panhellenic Council. Representatives from each national sorority meet regularly to advocate for sororities, make common agreements about how Panhellenic sororities should function, and provide resources to collegiate and alumnae members.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

Refers both to the local and national coordinating body for historically African-American fraternities and sororities. Stockton has all 9 of the national organizations, although one has been dormant for almost 20 years. The council at Stockton is made up of one delegate per organization and Executive Board which includes four positions.

Neophyte/Neo

A term used to refer to new members of a CBFO. Sometimes abbreviated as Neo.

New/Associate Member

A term used to refer to a member of a fraternity or sorority who has accepted a bid but has not participated in the initiation ceremony. This time is when they get to know the members of the chapter, learn history and symbolism, and develop an understanding for the ideas and principles of the organization.

North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)

The national trade organization of 68 men's fraternities in North America and the umbrella organization for the Interfraternity Council.

Panhellenic Council (Panhellenic)

This is the unifying, governing, and coordinating body for the sorority system at Stockton. The council is composed of two delegates from each sorority and is led by an Executive Council. The Executive Council is made up of women elected from the member sororities for 7 positions.

Pin/Badge

Worn by an initiated member of a fraternity or sorority, unique to each organization.

Pledge Class

Group of members of an IFC or NPC organization who were initiated at the same time in the same organization.

Potential New Member/Aspirant

A term used for a student who has shown interest in being recruited by a fraternity or sorority, or who has registered for the formal recruitment process. Aspirant is common among NPHC organizations. *Formerly the term Rushee was used.*

Probate/Neophyte Show

An entertaining show where newly initiated members of CBFOs introduce themselves to the community and highlight what they have learned about the organization during their intake process.

Prophyte

A member of a CBFO who has been in the organization long enough to initiate a new line of members.

Quota

The number of new members that Panhellenic sororities may accept during formal recruitment. This is determined by the College Panhellenic based on the number of potential members participating in a given recruitment period, and is not determined until after the Preference round of formal recruitment.

Recruitment

The time when NPC & IFC fraternities and sororities select New Members. This process is conducted informally throughout the year (COR) and formally in the beginning of the second semester. Formal recruitment is organized and executed by the IFC and Panhellenic Executive Boards. *Note: The formal recruitment process was previously known as "rush".*

Recruitment Counselor

An upper-class member of a NPC sorority, chosen and trained by the NPC to assist PNMs with recruitment.

Ritual

A ceremonial event unique to each organization that plays out the ideals and principles of that organization. They are the same for every chapter of the same fraternity or sorority, and are usually the time when students take an oath to uphold the values of that organization.

Sands

A word used to acknowledge other members that crossed over in other organizations or in the same organization, but a different chapter.

Snap Bidding

An option available to chapters not receiving quota by bid matching during NPC Formal Recruitment.

Stepping

An elaborate performance involving dance, marching and the traditional culture of an organization.

Stroll

A dance done in a line formation by members of cultural Greek organizations (usually at a party or step show).

Total

The allowable chapter size as determined by the NPC. Chapters under this number are allowed to participate in Continuous Open Bidding (COB).

Umbrella Organizations

The national or international groups to which Stockton fraternities and sororities belong to; governing councils work on campus.

Unaffiliated

A student not in a fraternity or sorority

Unified Cultural Greek Council (UCGC)

This is the governing body for special interest and culturally-based fraternities and sororities at Stockton.