

Term	Definition
Active	A member who has been initiated into lifelong fraternity or sorority membership and participates in chapter activities at the collegiate level.
Alumni/Alumnae	Initiated fraternity or sorority members who have graduated from college.
Badge	The pin of an initiated member.
Bid	A formal invitation to membership in a particular fraternity or sorority.
Big Brother or Sister	An active member of a fraternity or sorority who serves as a mentor to a new member, guiding him or her through the new member program and initiation.
Call/Chant	Audible sounds used by members 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 group of the larger (inter)national organization, designated by a special Greek name.
Crossed	Equivalent to being initiated. The term means different things to different groups, but generally means crossing over from being a pledge to being a full member.
DOP/DP	Short for Dean Of Pledges an old term that groups still use to refer to the membership educator. ADOP/ADP would be the assistant dean.
Executive Office	The central organization of a particular fraternity or sorority. Often referred to as National Headquarters, International Headquarters, or just Nationals.
Financial	Term used to refer to an active member. (ie. someone paying dues.)
Fraternity	The name that applies to all Greek organizations, traditionally men's organizations. Informally, women's fraternities are called sororities.
Grad/Alumni Chapter	The graduate chapter of a National Panhellenic Council or Multicultural organization. Usually the local grad chapter oversees the operations of the undergraduate chapter.
Greek	Any member of a Greek-letter organization.
Hand sign	Used to identify members of the same organization across all chapters. Most have a deep meaning to that organization or ritualistic symbol.
Informational	Recruitment event for culturally-based groups.
Initiated Member	Any member who has completed the new member process and has gone through the initiation ceremony.

Initiation	The formal ceremony that marks the beginning of active membership. Each chapter has a different set of requirements in order to be initiated.
Intake	The process chapters conduct to recruit, interview, choose, and educate new members, traditionally a title given in culturally-based organization.
Interest	Title of a potential student who the organization knows is interested in becoming an active member.
Legacy	The brother or sister, son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter of a fraternity or sorority member. Each (inter)national organization has its own policy regarding inviting and initiating legacies.
Line	The members of a cultural Greek organization new member class.
Line Name	The name given to a pledge class. Some groups number their lines by Greek Letters (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, etc.) but may have a descriptive name as well that is specific to characteristics of the group.
Membership Recruitment	The mutual selection process that prospective members and chapter members go through during the recruitment period to get to know one another.
National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)	The umbrella organization for 26 women's fraternities. NPC supports its chapters by promoting values, education, leadership, friendship, cooperation, and citizenship.
National Panhellenic Council (NPHC)	A national organization composed of four sororities and five fraternities whose membership is historically African/Black-American. May also be referred to as BGLO's (Black Greek Letter Organizations).
Neophyte ("Neo")	A new member of a cultural Greek organization.
New Member	A member of a fraternity or sorority who has not been initiated.
New Member Presentation (Probate)	A formal presentation of a new line to campus. Usually done in a public forum after members have been initiated.
New Member Program	A period of learning about fraternity and sorority life prior to initiation. This period varies for all groups.
New Member Release	To end one's fraternity or sorority membership before initiation.

North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)	Governing body for 64 national member men's fraternities and alumni associations.
Number/Line Number	The number an initiate is assigned based on the chronological order they are in on the initiation line (often members of other culturally-based organizations identify or relate to one another by distinguishing that they are the "same" number).
Para ("Nalia")	Short for paraphernalia. The different items of Greek clothing or items someone is wearing.
Philanthropy	A charitable fundraiser or service project sponsored by a fraternity or sorority.
Pinning	A ritual ceremony that designates the start of a new member process.
Potential New Member (PNM)	A college student who is interested in joining a Greek Organization and is taking part in the recruitment process.
Preferencing	During the last part of Panhellenic sorority recruitment, a potential new member determines which particular sorority she is willing to join.
Prophyte	Term used to refer to an older brother/sister from the same chapter, typically only used for culturally-based organizations.
Quota	The specified number of a Panhellenic (PHA) potential new members to which each sorority may extend a bid.
Sands	A member of your organization or another culturally-based organization that was initiated at the same time you were.
Sister	A term used by sorority members to refer to one another.
Social	A get-together event with another Greek organization.
Soror	Term used to refer to a sister in a National Pan-Hellenic Council or Multicultural organization.
Sorority Recruitment Counselor (Pi Chi)	A Panhellenic sorority member who will assist potential new members during formal membership recruitment. She is specially trained to help potential new members and answer any questions they may have about sorority membership.

Stepping

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

Stroll

(also known as Party Walk, Party Hop). A line dance done by members of cultural Greek organizations; usually done at a party or step show.

Total

Total is the allowable chapter size, including both new and initiated members, as determined by the Panhellenic Council.

Yard

The term used to refer to the particular campus or university where a chapter is located.
