Greek Definitions

ACTIVE – an initiated member of a Greek organization who is currently still enrolled as an undergraduate.

ALUMNA - a sorority member who is no longer a student. The plural is Alumnae.

ALUMNUS ("Alum") - a fraternity member who is no longer a student. The plural is Alumni.

BID - An invitation to join a fraternity or sorority.

BID DAY – The last day of a Recruitment Period when Bids are issued and selected new members and initiated members share activities in the chapter house until the specified time, usually midnight. These activities must be alcohol free and include only chapter members and alumni/ae.

BID MATCHING – a system for matching the choice of the potential member with the choice of the chapter.

BROTHER - an initiated member of a fraternity.

CHAPTER - The campus group of a national organization. Within each organization, chapters are usually referenced via a Greek-letter order. For example, the founding chapter would be the "Alpha Chapter," and the second chapter is usually the "Beta Chapter."

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

COB – (Continuous Open Bidding) a continuous, open recruitment period with no specific, scheduled, system-wide activities Bids may be extended and accepted at any time.

COLONY - an approved student organization working toward recognition as a chartered chapter of a Greek-letter organization.

DEPLEDGE/DEACTIVATE - the termination of a new member's or initiated member's relationship with a Greek-letter organization.

DRY RECRUITMENT - Alcohol is forbidden from all events associated with introducing the fraternity/sorority to new members.

FORMAL RECRUITMENT - the primary selection period of the year for first year students. Specific scheduled events for entertaining and selecting new members is known as "Recruitment Week".

FRATERNITY - The name informally applied to a Greek-letter men's organization.

GREEK / GREEKS - a term applied to students affiliated with Greek-letter social fraternities and sororities.

HAZING - any willful act or practice by a member or associate member, directed against a member or associate member, which, with or without intent, is likely to: cause bodily harm or danger, offensive punishment, or disturbing pain, compromise the person's dignity; cause embarrassment or shame in public; cause the person to be the object of malicious amusement or ridicule; cause psychological harm or substantial emotional strain; and impair academic efforts. In addition, hazing is any requirement by a member or new member, which compels a member or associate member to participate in any activity which is illegal, is contrary to a member's or associate member's moral or religious beliefs, or is contrary to the rules and regulations of the fraternity, institution of learning, and civil authorities.

HELL WEEK – Refers to the week prior to Initiation when new members have additional activities to prepare them for becoming members. BEING CONFINED, ASKED TO PERFORM EMBARRASING OR UNPLEASANT TASKS, FORCED CONSUMPTION OF SUBSTANCES, SLEEP DEPRIVATION ETC. ARE CONSIDERED HAZING AND ARE FORBIDDEN BY ALL NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. Activities during this week should be educational and inspiring.

INACTIVE MEMBER - A individual is still a member of the organization, but is denoted as "inactive" to designate that they have no longer participate in the day-to-day activities of the fraternity or sorority. This status usually has a time limit of 1 academic year or less.

INITIATION - A formal ceremony by which new members become initiated members.

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL (IFC) - The governing council made up of all fraternities on a campus.

LEGACY – the child, sibling or grandchild ( or in some cases other relative) of an initiated fraternity or sorority member.

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC) – The governing council made up of the historically African-American Chapters.

PLEDGED NEW MEMBER – a member of a greek organization who has not yet been initiated.

NPC – National Panhellenic Conference is a group composed of delegates from each of 26 national women's fraternities who meet together periodically to discuss and rule on issues of common interest and concern.

PANHELLENIC - The governing council of all sororities on a campus which are chapters of any of the 26 National Panhellenic organizations. The word Panhellenic mean all-greek.
PHILANTHROPY – an active effort, project or service to promote human welfare or the raising of funds to be donated for that purpose.

PINNING - designates the start of a new member process. The New Member wears a fraternity/sorority pin or ribbon and at the moment of pinning, officially becomes a new member.

POTENTIAL MEMBER- a non-member, with a possible interest in affiliating with one organization who is eligible to participate in the fraternity or sorority recruitment events.

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.

RECRUITMENT - A series of events offering members and potential members the opportunity to get to know each other.

ROTATION – a recommended method for College Panhellenic officer selection which is based on the date of installation of collegiate chapters on that campus.

SISTER - an initiated member of a sorority.

SNAP BIDDING – An option available to chapters not filling quota by bidmatching during Formal Recruitment. This option extends only until matched bids are distributed.

SOVEREIGN RIGHTS – the basic rights of fraternities and sororities as private voluntary organizations which cannot be precluded by other agents or entities. For example the right to be single gender organizations.

TOTAL – the allowable chapter size as determined by the College Panhellenic. Wittenberg’s is 82.

UNANIMOUS AGREEMENTS – statements binding on all members of NPC organizations that express the fair play essential to interfraternity activity and that set forth the expectations and the rights of women’s fraternities.