

Fraternity & Sorority Term Glossary

Fraternity: A Greek-lettered brotherhood. Some sororities, such as Kappa Alpha Theta and Pi Beta Phi, are known as women's fraternities as the term sorority was coined by Gamma Phi Beta after these organizations were founded.

Sorority: A term coined by Gamma Phi Beta in 1882 to describe a Greek-lettered sisterhood. Some chapters are still referred to as women's fraternities.

Active/Initiate: A man or woman who has completed the orientation process, has been through the initiation ceremony, and is currently enrolled in college.

Alumni/Alumna: an initiated member who has graduated from his/her chapter.

Chapter: A chartered undergraduate or alumni group recognized by a national fraternity or sorority

Gamma Sigma Alpha: Greek honor society that recognizes junior and senior members' outstanding academic achievements.

Initiation: The ceremony in which a new member becomes an active member. All chapters' initiation ceremonies are different from one another and are typically kept secret. However, Delta Upsilon fraternity's initiation and ritual is not kept a secret and members encourage others to attend this special ceremony.

Interfraternity Council (IFC): The representative governing body of the 13 fraternities at UND.

North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC): A conference body composed of delegates from 66 recognized fraternities. The NIC is the umbrella organization for the campus Interfraternity Council.

Panhellenic Council (PHC): The representative governing body of the six sororities at UND.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC): A conference body composed of delegates from 26 recognized women's social fraternities (sororities). NPC is the umbrella organization for the campus Panhellenic Council.

Order of Omega: Greek honor society that recognizes juniors and seniors who have exhibited outstanding leadership.

Philanthropy: A fundraising effort to promote human welfare. All of the chapters at UND host philanthropic events in which they raise money for their respective philanthropic organizations. For example, Alpha Chi Omega's philanthropy is domestic violence awareness and prevention therefore they raise funds for the Grand Forks' Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC).

President's Award of Greek Excellence: An award given to chapters that fulfill certain criteria and demonstrate standards of excellence at UND.

Recruitment Terms

Legacy: A person whose parent, sibling, or grandparent is an alumnus or active member of a sorority or fraternity. Some chapters also define legacy as being a cousin, an aunt, or an uncle in addition to parent, sibling, or grandparent.

Quota: The number of women, determined by a local college Panhellenic, with which any sorority chapter may issue bids during formal recruitment.

Recommendation/Reference: A written letter or statement recommending a potential new member to a sorority chapter. Recommendations or references are typically written by an alumnus of the chapter in which they are recommending the potential new member for membership.

Recruitment Counselor (Rho Gamma): A member of the Panhellenic community who assists prospective members during the Recruitment process. This woman has completely disaffiliated herself from her sorority (does not recognize as a member of her chapter during the recruitment period) in order to provide objective advice and support to potential members going through the sorority formal recruitment process. UND refers to their Recruitment Counselors as Rho Gammas.

Continuous Open Bidding: The period, other than formal recruitment, in which eligible sorority chapters recruit new members. This period is typically held after formal recruitment.

Bid: An invitation to membership in a fraternity or sorority.

New Member: A woman/man who has accepted the bid, or invitation, to join a sorority or fraternity and has taken the first step toward full membership but has not yet been initiated.