

GREEK SPEAK

Active: A member who has been initiated into lifelong fraternity or sorority membership and is active at the collegiate level.

Alumna/Alumnus: A member of a sorority/fraternity who is no longer in college.

Badge: The pin of an initiated member.

Bid: A formal invitation to join a fraternity or sorority.

Bid Day: The last day of recruitment when new members accept their bids and officially join their new organization.

Big: Short for “big sister” or “big brother”; an active member who serves as a mentor for newer members.

Brother: A term used by fraternity members to refer to one another.

Chapter: A local group of the larger national organization.

Chapter Consultant: An alumna or alumnus who works for the national organization and maintains a close advisory relationship with a local chapter.

Closed Relations: A period of time when conversation and contact between potential new members and fraternity active members and alumni are strictly limited by the recruitment guidelines.

Colony: A student organization in the final stage before being installed as a chartered chapter of a nationally affiliated organization.

Continuous Open Recruitment: A process that allows chapters to continuously recruit and bid new members outside of the formal recruitment period.

Deferred Recruitment: The policy at Duke that requires students to delay fraternity or sorority membership until the second semester of their freshman year.

Formal Recruitment: The period of time set aside by the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association for meeting potential members.

Fraternity: The name applied to all Greek-letter organizations. Informally, this name applies to men's groups while women's organizations may be sororities or female fraternities.

Greeks: Members of a Greek-letter fraternity or sorority.

Greek Week: An annual celebration in which chapters participate in educational, social, and service events. It is a time for all Greek organizations to unify.

Initiation: The formal ceremony that brings a new member into full Greek membership. Each chapter has a different set of requirements that must be met in order to be initiated.

Intake: The process by which NPHC and IGC chapters recruit, inform, and initiate new members.

Interfraternity Council (IFC): The governing body of fourteen nationally recognized fraternities at Duke. IFC oversees Formal Recruitment for its member chapters.

Inter-Greek Council (IGC): The governing body of four culturally based chapters at Duke.

Legacy: Someone whose mother, father, sister, brother, grandmother, or grandfather is an initiated member of a Greek organization.

Line: The new member class of a NPHC or IGC chapter.

Little: Short for “little sister” or “little brother”; a newer member who is mentored by an older member of the organization.

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC): The governing body of nine nationally recognized fraternities and sororities, eight of which are active and operate on Duke's campus.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC): The governing body for 26 national and international sororities and female fraternities, nine of which are active and operate on Duke's campus.

North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC): A conference of men's private fraternities founded in 1909, which includes 66 member national and international fraternal organizations comprising 5500 chapters in the United States and Canada.

New Member: A potential member who has accepted the bid of a fraternity or sorority, but who has not been initiated.

New Member Educator: The chapter officer who oversees the development of new members and prepares them for initiation.

New Member Program: The period of learning about fraternity and sorority life prior to initiation. In addition to learning the history of the organization, new members may attend presentations on topics such as study skills, acquaintance rape, substance abuse, and other important issues.

Open Recruitment: The period after Formal Recruitment in which fraternities may recruit and offer bids without scheduled events through IFC.

Panhellenic Association (Panhel): The governing body for ten nationally recognized sororities and female fraternities at Duke.

Philanthropy: A service project sponsored by a chapter from which donations of goods, money, and/or time are given to charitable organizations.

Pledge: see "New Member."

Potential New Member: A college man or woman who is participating in Recruitment.

Preferential Bidding: The process of mutual selection between Panhellenic sororities and potential new members.

Probate Show: The introduction of new members of a NPHC chapter to the Greek and campus communities.

Quota: A specified number of women a Panhellenic sorority may offer bids to during formal recruitment.

Recruitment Counselor: An initiated member of a Panhellenic sorority who guides potential new members through the formal recruitment process.

Recruitment Guidelines: Guidelines set forth by the Interfraternity Council to ensure a fair and stress-free Recruitment process.

Rush: see "Formal Recruitment."

Silence: A period of time when conversation and contact between potential new members and Panhellenic sorority active members and alumnae are strictly limited by recruitment guidelines.

Sister: A term used by sorority members to refer to one another.

Soror: An initiated member of a NPHC sorority.

Sorority: A group of women joined together in friendship for leadership and academic purposes.