Greek Glossary

1. **Active Member**—An undergraduate fraternity/sorority member who has been initiated by his/her chapter.

2. **Advisor**—An alumnus or alumna member who serves as a resource for the active chapter and liaison between the alums and collegians.

3. **Alumna/Alumnus**—A fraternity/sorority member who is no longer a member of a collegiate chapter (plurals are alumnae and alumni).

4. **Associate/New Member**—a member of an IFC fraternity or PHC sorority not yet initiated.

5. **Bid**—A formal invitation to join a sorority or fraternity

6. **Big Brother/Sister**—An active who befriends and becomes a mentor for a younger member

7. **Brother/Sister**—A term used by active members in a chapter when referring to each other.

8. **Calls**—a unique vocal expression attributed by an NPHC or MGC organization.
   a. **Please Don’t**: Repeat an organization’s particular call or response. It is considered a sign of disrespect.

9. **Chapter**—A local membership unit of a national or international sorority or fraternity.

10. **Charter**—the official document recognizing a chapter’s status by the national organization.

11. **Colony**—status of a new chapter before installation.

12. **Colors**—The official pair or triad of colors that represent a specific Greek organization.

13. **Continuous Open Bidding (COB)**—COB bids may be extended and accepted at any time during the school year other than Formal Recruitment (COB is also referred to as Open Bidding and Informal Membership Recruitment).

14. **Crest**—Insignia used by sorority and fraternity members. Most Greek organizations reserve the crest for initiated members only. Each crest has hidden, secret meanings behind it. Also known as a coat or arms or shield.

15. **Divine Nine**—Term used to describe the nine NPHC affiliate organizations.
16. **Dues** - Charge of joining a fraternity or sorority. Covers costs of operation, formal events, activities and other events.

17. **Expansion** - When an organization is looking to expand and open a chapter at a new school.

18. **Formal Recruitment** — A designated membership recruitment period comprised of a series of events hosted by each NPC sorority, scheduled and governed by the Panhellenic Council.

19. **Fraternity** — Greek-letter organizations that are characterized by a ritual, badge, and a strong tie of friendship. Informally, women's fraternities are called sororities.

20. **House Director/House Mom** - A person hired to live in the chapter house and supervise the chapter members.

21. **Inactive Member** - An NPHC member who has elected or due to grades has to become inactive in sorority or fraternity life. They have no say or participation in chapter activities.

22. **Initiated Member** - Any member who has gone through the initiation ceremony and is currently enrolled.

23. **Initiation** - A formal ceremony that brings about the transition from new member to initiated member.

24. **Intake** - Term for the process by which NPHC/MGC members are selected to become new members of an organization.

25. **Informational Meeting** - An informational is a program usually hosted by NPHC/MGC organizations that strictly gives information to interested students.

26. **Interest Meeting** - A meeting usually hosted by NPHC/MGC chapters for prospective members to receive information about the intake process.

27. **Initiation** — the formal ceremony that brings a new member into full membership.

28. **Interfraternity Council (IFC)** — The IFC is a cooperative campus organization of collegiate members of NIC fraternities.

29. **Legacy** — A man or woman whose mother/father, sister/brother, or in some cases grandmother/ grandfather, is an alumna/alumnus or active member of a sorority or fraternity.
30. **Line** – An NPHC term somewhat equal to a pledge class. They are the potential new members of the organization. Lines are often given names.

31. **Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)**—MGC is a cooperative campus organization of Latino and Multicultural fraternities and sororities.

32. **National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO)**—NALFO is the national governing body composed of the 24 Latino Greek-letter organizations.

33. **National Interfraternity Conference (NIC)**—NIC is the national governing body composed of the 64 member organization fraternities.

34. **National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)**—NPC is the governing body composed of 26 national women's fraternities.

35. **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)**—NPHC is the governing body composed of the 9 national historically African-American fraternities and sororities. NPHC also is the name of the cooperative campus organization of collegiate members of NPHC fraternities and sororities.

36. **Neophyte (Neo)** - Term used by NPHC when referring to new members.

37. **New Member/Pledge**—A man or woman who has accepted a sorority or fraternity bid but is not yet an initiated member.

38. **Open Recruitment** - Membership selection process that occurs throughout the academic year; also known as continuous open bidding among Panhellenic sororities.

39. **Panhellenic Council (NPC)**—The Panhellenic Council is a cooperative campus organization of collegiate members of NPC sororities.

40. **Philanthropy**—a service project undertaken by Greek organizations at the campus, community, or national level. Each fraternity and sorority has a designated cause to which they serve.

41. **Potential New Member (PNM)**—any man or woman interested in becoming a member of a social Greek-letter organization who is eligible to join according to specific council requirements.

42. **Prophyte** - An older member of an NPHC organization.
43. **Recruitment Counselors (Rho Gammas)**—Greek women carefully selected and trained to guide potential new members through the Panhellenic formal recruitment process.

44. **Ritual** - Sacred and inspirational ceremonies used to inspire and educate members about the importance of the organization.

45. **Showcase**—an opportunity for NPHC and MGC fraternities and sororities to "showcase" their individual chapters to Potential New Members. Both NPHC and MGC host annual Showcase events.

46. **Signs** – a display of organization pride expressed by hand symbols
   a. Please don’t: Emulate an organization’s sign. It is a sign of disrespect

47. **Sister/Brother**—A term used by members of a sorority or fraternity when referring to one another.

48. **Soror** - NPHC term referring to one’s sorority sister.

49. **Sorority**—A Greek-letter sisterhood.

50. **Stepping/Step Show** - a tradition of NPHC organizations where entertaining synchronized movements and routines are performed.

51. **Strolling** – NPHC Organizational members move together in a line expressing pride for their organization. In this line, members may express their pride through use of their organization’s call, sign or historical information, ritual/custom dances, etc. All of this is done through movements that are unique to a particular organization.
   a. Please Don’t: Emulate the stroll or cut in between members of the line. That is considered a sign of disrespect.