

Glossary of Greek Terms

Active Member: A member of a fraternity or sorority who has been initiated and is currently an active student.

Alumna/Alumnae: An initiated member of a sorority who has received their undergraduate degree.

Alumnus/Alumni: An initiated member of a fraternity who has received their undergraduate degree.

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

Big Brother or Sister: An older member assigned to assist a new member in his or her college transition.

Brother: A term used within men's fraternities when referring to other members.

Chapter: A chartered undergraduate or alumni group that is recognized by the inter/national fraternity or sorority.

Formal Recruitment: A structured period set aside where potential members and chapters participate in a mutual selection process to match potential members with IFC and NPC organizations.

House: Refers to "Chapter House." Used interchangeably to refer to the physical house or to the general chapter.

Initiation: The formal ritual that brings new members into full membership of the sorority or fraternity. Through initiation, members learn and commit themselves to uphold the ideals of the sorority or fraternity.

Interfraternity Council (IFC): The governing body of all on-campus fraternities. This body follows rules and directives set forth by the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

Initiation: The formal ritual ceremony that brings new members into full membership of the sorority or fraternity. Through initiation, members learn and pledge themselves to the ideals of the sorority and fraternity. Initiation ceremonies are open to initiated members only.

Legacy: A prospective member whose parent, sibling, or grandparent is an alumnae/alumni or active of a sorority or fraternity.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC): The governing body for all National Panhellenic Conference sororities.

New Member: A woman or man who has accepted a fraternity or sorority bid, but has not been initiated.

New Member Education Period: The period of time before initiation when new members learn about their fraternity or sorority. At Colgate University this period is restricted to 4 total weeks.

North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC): The governing body for all North-American Interfraternity Conference fraternities.

Panhellenic Council (PC): The governing body for all on-campus sororities. This body follows rules and directives set forth by the National Panhellenic Conference.

Philanthropy: Fund-raising projects sponsored by fraternities or sororities supporting local and inter/national charitable organizations.

Potential New Members: A person participating in recruitment.

Sister: A term used within sororities when referring to other members.