

## Terminology

**Active:** An initiated member of a fraternity or sorority.

**Alumna/Alumnus:** Member of a sorority or fraternity who has graduated.

**Bid:** A formal invitation to become a member of a Greek Letter Organization.

**Big:** Short for "big sister" or "big brother"; an active member who serves as a mentor for new members.

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

**Call/Chant:** Audible sounds used by members based on the organizations to acknowledge other members. Non-members are not permitted to use the call/chant.

**Colony:** A new fraternity or sorority that is awaiting official recognition from their national to have a chapter at a campus.

**Chapter:** A recognized unit of a national or international fraternity or sorority.

**Culturally Based Fraternal Organizations (CBFOs):** Fraternities and sororities that are culturally based, celebrating identities such as race, ethnicity, and nationality.

**Formal Recruitment:** Predetermined time span at Saint Leo University during the Spring semester in which the majority of recruitment occurs each year.

**Founders:** The founding members of any Greek-lettered organization.

**Fraternity:** A group of men bonded together by ritual that contains the founding principles, ideals, and aspirations of the group.

**Governing Council:** Saint Leo has three governing councils that act as a liaison between Greek organizations within it and the University.

**Interfraternity Council (IFC):** The governing body of the fraternities at Saint Leo.

**Informal Recruitment:** An open recruitment period where bids may be extended and accepted at any time. This practice differs between councils.

**Initiation:** A formal ceremony where new members receive lifelong membership privileges into the organization.

**Legacy:** A potential new member whose grandparent, parent or sibling is a member of a Fraternity/Sorority.

**Line:** A term used by CBFOs to name a new member class.

**National/Headquarters:** Governing body and staff of each national fraternity or sorority.

**National Panhellenic Council (NPC):** 26 international sororities belong to this group which guides policies, practices and educational programs for collegiate sorority women.

**National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC):** Nationally, the governing body for the nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities.

**Neophyte (Neo):** A new member of a culturally based organization.

**New Member:** A person who has accepted a bid but is not yet initiated.

**New Member Presentation :** A formal presentation of a new line to campus. Usually done by CBFOs in a public forum after members have been initiated.

**Panhellenic Council:** The governing body for Panhellenic sororities at Saint Leo University.

**Potential New Member (PNM):** A term used to refer to a prospective new member of a fraternity or a sorority.

**Philanthropy:** A cause for which a Greek -lettered organization raises money.

**Prophyte:** A term used by CBFOs to refer to an older member in their chapter or from their organization.

**Recruitment:** A formal week of scheduled events to help enlist new members.

**Recruitment Counselor (Rho Gamma):** A Panhellenic representative who guides PNMs through the formal recruitment process.

**Ritual:** The traditional rites and ceremonies of a fraternity or sorority; generally private and known only to initiated members.

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

**Sorority:** A group of women bonded together by ritual that contains the founding principles, ideals and aspirations of the group.

**Stepping:** A historically African-American tradition that is a form of communication and storytelling by synchronized hand/foot movements.

**Strolling:** A line routine by members of CBFOs organization; usually done at yardshows and stepshows.

**Unified Greek Council (UGC):** The governing body of CBFOs at Saint Leo. Includes National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC).