Fraternity & Student Life Lingo

**ACTIVE** A fully initiated member of a fraternity or sorority who is currently participating as a member (aka Initiated Member).

**ALUMNI/ALUMNAE** Initiated fraternity or sorority members who are no longer active members of a collegiate chapter.

**NEW MEMBER/ASSOCIATE** A member of a fraternity or sorority who has accepted a bid but has not yet been initiated.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** A chapter’s group of new members after the recruitment process is complete.

**BROTHER/SISTER** A term used by fraternity and sorority members to refer to one another.

**BIG BROTHER/SISTER** An active member of a fraternity or sorority assigned to guide and serve as a personal mentor for a new member (aka Big).

**LEGACY** Someone whose family member is an alumni/ae of a fraternity or sorority; each organization determines legacies differently, but many include parents, siblings, aunts/uncles, and grandparents.

**CHAPTER** A local group of a larger inter/national fraternal organization (or locally) historical collegiate fraternal organization.

**COLONY** A newly formed affiliate of an inter/national organization that has not yet received its charter; the organizing members of a colony are often referred to as founders.

**BADGE** A membership pin of an initiated member.

**PHILANTHROPY** A charitable fundraiser or service project sponsored by a fraternity or sorority.

**SOCIAL** A get-together with another group for a party or other fun occasion.

**RECRUITMENT** The process of mutual selection between prospective members and active chapters, in which the chapter extends an offer of membership into the sorority

**POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER (PNM)** A college student who is interested in joining a fraternity or sorority.

**RECRUITMENT COUNSELOR** A sorority or fraternity member who has disaffiliated her/himself from their chapter during Formal Recruitment to help guide potential new members through the recruitment process without biased persuasion.
**BID** A formal invitation to join a fraternity or sorority.

**INITIATION** The formal ceremony that marks the beginning of active membership. Each chapter has a different set of requirements in order to be initiated.

**NEW MEMBER EDUCATION** A program in which new members learn the ideals and values of their respective fraternity or sorority. Each chapter’s time frame varies but is usually six to eight weeks.

**FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE (FSL)** The term used to refer to the fraternity and sorority community which consist of all recognized local and inter/national chapters.

**NORTH-AMERICAN INTERFRATERNITY CONFERENCE (NIC)** The trade association representing 75 Inter/national Men’s Fraternities. The NIC serves to advocate the needs of its member fraternities through enrichment of the fraternity experience; advancement and growth of the fraternity community; and enhancement of the educational mission of the host institutions.

**PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE (NPC)** A national governing organization composed of 26 member sororities, each of which is autonomous as a social, Greek-letter society of women, undergraduates and alumnae.

**NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC)** The national group of nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities in North America, also known as the “Divine Nine.” Rollins currently is represented by one member sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho which holds an associate seat and representation on the Rollins Panhellenic.

**INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS** The central operational organization of a particular fraternity or sorority to which chapters belong as one of many; structurally similar to a corporate headquarters is to a local branch of a business.