

ΑΣΑ • ΑΣΤ • ΦΜ

PANHELLENIC RECRUITMENT GUIDE 2024

FOR PARENTS



PANHELLENIC

A ALPHA
B BETA
Γ GAMMA
Δ DELTA
E EPSILON
Z ZETA
H ETA
Θ THETA
I IOTA
K KAPPA
Λ LAMBDA
M MU
N NU
Ξ XI
Ο OMICRON
Π PI
P RHO
Σ SIGMA
T TAU
Υ UPSILON
Φ PHI
X CHI
Ψ PSI
Ω OMEGA

GREEK LETTERS AND TERMINOLOGY

ACTIVE: A fully initiated member of a sorority who is currently participating as a member

ALUMNA: Sorority member who is no longer an active member of a collegiate chapter

ALUMNAE: Sorority members who are no longer active members of a collegiate chapter

BADGE: The sorority membership insignia, also worn for business meetings

BID: An invitation to join a sorority

BIG SISTER: Active member assigned to be the personal mentor for a new member

CHAPTER: A membership unit of a national or international sorority or fraternity

CHARTER: Documentation that an individual chapter is recognized and operates according to the national organization

CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING (COB): Process of extending bids on an individual basis that begins immediately following the formal recruitment program

FORMAL SORORITY RECRUITMENT: A membership recruitment period during which a series of organized rounds are held by each National Panhellenic Conference sorority, organized and implemented by the Panhellenic Council.

INITIATION: A traditional ritual that brings a new member into full membership of the sorority

LEGACY: Someone whose family member was an affiliate of a particular Greek-letter organization; each organization determines legacies differently, but may include mother, sister, aunt, or grandmother

NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE (NPC):

Conference composed of 26 national women's fraternities; each is autonomous as a general, Greek-letter society of college women, undergraduates, and alumnae

NEW MEMBER: A woman who has accepted a sorority bid, but is not yet an initiated member. (may also be called provisional member)

NEW MEMBER CLASS: A chapter's group of new members after the recruitment process is complete. (may also be called pledge class)

NEW MEMBER EDUCATOR: A liaison between the new member class and the chapter who is responsible for implementing and monitoring the new member program and preparing the new members for initiation

PANHELLENIC COUNCIL: A council made up of officers and one delegate from each of the NPC chapters

PHILANTHROPY: Fundraisers, projects, events, or donations to raise money for nationally sponsored charitable organizations

POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER (PNM): A student who is not yet affiliated with a chapter and is interested in becoming a part of the fraternity and sorority community

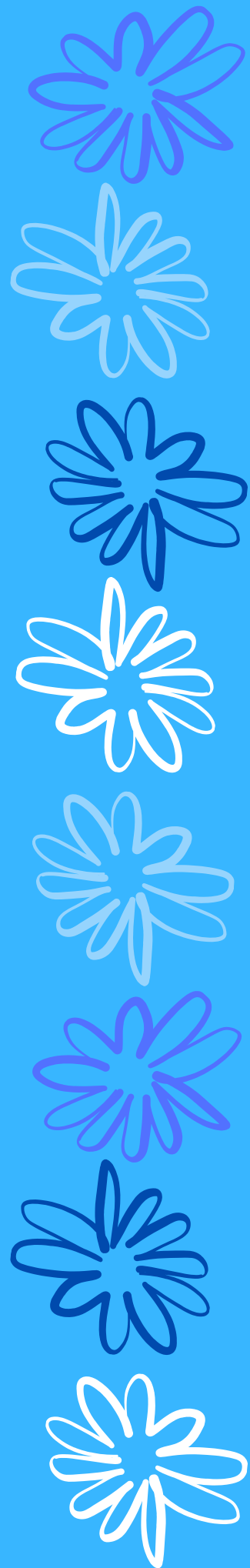
RECOMMENDATION/ REFERENCE: A letter written by an alumna member recommending a potential new member to a sorority; recommendations are generally not required.

RECRUITMENT: Membership process.

RITUAL: The ceremonies that bring together the beliefs and standards of a fraternal organization

SORORITY: A Greek-letter sisterhood (may also be called a fraternity)

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT OFFICE: A department of The University of West Alabama that advises Greek Life and other clubs/ organizations on campus. Found in Brock 201.



WHAT IS A SORORITY?

COLLEGE CAN BE HARD ENOUGH. HAVING A GROUP OF SUPPORTIVE WOMEN CAN EASE THE TRANSITION AND EVEN PREPARE WOMEN FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE.

SORORITIES ARE VALUES-BASED SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY FOUNDED TO PROVIDE WOMEN A SPACE TO GATHER AND SHARE COMMON INTERESTS, OFTEN IN TIMES WHEN WOMEN WERE EXCLUDED FROM OTHER CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

WHILE NPC SORORITIES HAVE VARYING CREEDS AND MOTTOS, THEY ARE UNITED IN STRIVING TO PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH FRIENDSHIP, OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FUN. SORORITIES OFFER MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS BY SUPPORTING WHAT IS LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM WITH RELEVANT LIFE SKILLS.

SORORITY OPERATES ON THE FOUNDATION OF ITS VALUES, WHICH DETERMINE ALL ACTIONS THE ORGANIZATION MAKES.

THESE VALUES INFLUENCE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE SORORITY, MISSIONS, RITUAL, SOCIAL EVENTS, PHILANTHROPIES AND EVEN THE DAILY ACTIONS OF SORORITY MEMBERS. THE VALUES ARE A ROAD MAP FOR HOW MEMBERS OF THE SORORITY CAN PURSUE SUCCESS. SOME OF THE VALUES THESE GROUPS UPHOLD ARE INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT, LEADERSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, CITIZENSHIP AND COOPERATION.



MY STUDENT WANTS TO JOIN AN NPC SORORITY.. HOW CAN I SUPPORT THEM?

BE PART OF THE PROCESS WITH YOUR STUDENT

RESEARCH THE ORGANIZATIONS ON HER CAMPUS WITH HER, DISCUSS THEIR VALUES, PHILANTHROPIES, MISSIONS, ETC. IF YOU DO THE PRELIMINARY RESEARCH WITH HER YOU WILL BE READY TO SUPPORT HER DURING RECRUITMENT. HELP HER DECIDE WHAT SHE WANTS OUT OF A SORORITY EXPERIENCE. YOU CAN ALSO REVIEW COMMON TERMINOLOGY TOGETHER. THIS WILL HELP HER BE PREPARED AND CONFIDENT WHEN RECRUITMENT STARTS. YOU CAN ALSO DISCUSS WITH HER WHAT SHE WANTS OUT OF SORORITY MEMBERSHIP. DURING RECRUITMENT, THIS WILL GUIDE HER DECISIONS AND MAKE HER CHOICES A LITTLE EASIER.

LISTEN!

SORORITY RECRUITMENT IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE. DURING RECRUITMENT YOUR STUDENT WILL BE MEETING A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE AND OPENING UP TO THEM QUICKLY. YOUR STUDENT GOING THROUGH RECRUITMENT IS GOING TO NEED TO PROCESS WHAT SHE IS EXPERIENCING. DURING RECRUITMENT, THERE ARE TRAINED WOMEN CALLED RECRUITMENT COUNSELORS WHO CAN HELP YOUR STUDENT WORK THROUGH HER FEELINGS. EVEN WITH THAT SUPPORT, SHE MAY BE MORE COMFORTABLE TALKING TO YOU. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO IS LISTEN TO HER. SHE WILL NEED YOU TO LEAN ON DURING THIS TIME.

SUPPORT THEIR DECISION

IF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH SORORITIES, PERHAPS YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ARE A MEMBER, YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD OF LEGACIES. MANY FAMILY MEMBERS WANT THEIR STUDENTS TO JOIN THEIR ORGANIZATION SO THEY CAN SHARE IN THAT EXPERIENCE, BUT THE TRUTH IS THIS PROCESS IS ABOUT HER AND WHAT SHE WANTS. SHE WILL BE HAPPIER IN THE ORGANIZATION SHE WANTS TO JOIN AND NOT THE ONE SHE FEELS SHE HAS TO JOIN. LET HER KNOW THAT YOU SUPPORT HER IN WHATEVER ORGANIZATION SHE JOINS BECAUSE IT ISN'T ABOUT THE LETTERS SHE WEARS, BUT BEING A SORORITY WOMAN.

HOW DOES RECRUITMENT WORK?

UWA FOLLOWS THE PARTIALLY STRUCTURED RECRUITMENT MODEL

PRIMARY RECRUITMENT HAPPENS ONCE PER SCHOOL YEAR AND MIGHT BE THE BUSIEST SEASON FOR SORORITY WOMEN AND POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS (PNMS). RECRUITMENT ON UWA'S CAMPUS HAPPENS FOR A OVER A WEEK. PRIMARY RECRUITMENT GIVES PARTICIPANTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PANHELLENIC SORORITY COMMUNITY ON CAMPUS.

BEING A PARTIALY STRUCTURED CAMPUS MEANS THAT PNM'S HAVE THE OPTION TO ATTEND AS MANY CHAPTER EVENTS AS THEY WOULD LIKE, BUT ONLY HAVE TO ATTEND (1) CHAPTER EVENT OF EACH SORORITY'S TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PREFERENCE ROUND. THIS IS DONE SO PNM'S CAN CHOOSE EVENTS THAT FIT AROUND THEIR SCHEDULE! IF YOUR STUDENT DECIDES THIS ISN'T FOR THEM DURING THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS, THEY ALSO HAVE THE OPTION TO WITHDRAW FROM RECRUITMENT.

THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS

REGISTER!

WHEN YOUR STUDENT MAKES THE DECISION THAT GOING THROUGH RECRUITMENT IS RIGHT FOR THEM, THEY HAVE TO SIGN UP. REGISTRATION MAY INCLUDE PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR GPA, INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT ANY FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALSO BEEN A SORORITY MEMBER. THERE IS ALSO A SMALL FEE WITH REGISTERING FOR PANHELLENIC RECRUITMENT.

ATTEND PRE-RECRUITMENT GREEK EVENTS!

AT UWA THERE ARE SEVERAL EVENTS PRE-RECRUITMENT TO HELP YOUR STUDENT UNDERSTAND WHAT GREEK LIFE LOOKS LIKE AT UWA THAT ARE FOR POTENTIAL MEMBERS. BE SURE TO CHECK OUT @UWACONNECT AND @UWAPANHELLENIC ON INSTAGRAM TO KEEP UP WITH THE VARIOUS EVENTS THAT WILL BE HELD.

ATTEND PANHELLENIC CHAPTER EVENTS

NOW THE FUN PART; YOUR STUDENT WILL GO TO EVERY SORORITY ON CAMPUS. ENCOURAGE THEM TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND AS THEY MEET CHAPTER MEMBERS RATHER THAN RELYING ON PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS OR SECONDHAND INFORMATION. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PREFERENCE (INVITATIONAL) ROUND, THEY MUST ATTEND (1) CHAPTER EVENT PER SORORITY, HOWEVER, THEY ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND AS MANY EVENTS AS THEY WOULD LIKE.

ASK QUESTIONS

AT EVERY SORORITY, THEY WILL GET TO TALK TO MULTIPLE WOMEN IN THAT CHAPTER. AS THE WOMEN GET TO KNOW THEM THEY WILL PROBABLY ASK ABOUT THEIR MAJOR, PASSIONS, WHERE THEY'RE FROM. THE OVERLOOKED PART IS THAT THEY ARE ALSO GETTING TO KNOW THE CHAPTER MEMBERS. THEY CAN ASK THEM THE SAME QUESTIONS. IN FACT, IT IS ENCOURAGED. WHAT SORORITY THEY JOIN IS UP TO THEM SO TAKE THIS VALUABLE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THE WOMEN.

EVALUATE CHAPTERS

BASED ON THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS YOUR STUDENT ASKS AND THINGS THEY EXPERIENCE DURING CHAPTER EVENTS, THEY WILL NEED TO EVALUATE THE CHAPTERS. BEFORE PREFERENCE (INVITATIONAL) ROUND, YOUR STUDENT WILL BE ASKED TO RANK THE CHAPTERS 1-3 WHICH WILL BE CALLED THEIR "LIST." THIS LIST ALONG WITH THE LIST THE CHAPTERS SEND IN, WILL DETERMINE WHICH PREFERENCE (INVITATIONAL) ROUND INVITES THEY RECEIVE. AS YOUR STUDENT IS MAKING DECISIONS, SO ARE THE SORORITIES. THIS MUTUAL SELECTION PROCESS MAY MEAN NOT GOING BACK TO A CHAPTER THEY PRIORITIZED HIGHLY. THEY MAY RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO A CHAPTER THEY HAVE INDICATED AS A LOW PRIORITY. CONSIDER THIS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR STUDENT TO GET TO KNOW THE CHAPTER FURTHER AS THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED THEM AS SOMEONE WHO FITS THE VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS OF THEIR ORGANIZATION.

PREFERENCE ROUND (INVITATIONAL ROUND) + MRABA SIGNING

YOUR STUDENT WILL ONLY BE INVITED BACK UP TO TWO SORORITIES FOR PREFERENCE ROUND. PREFERENCE ROUND IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROUND OF RECRUITMENT. THIS IS WHEN THEY WILL NEED TO MAKE THEIR FINAL DECISIONS ABOUT WHERE THEY THINK THEIR "HOME" IS WITHIN THE PANHELLENIC SORORITIES. IF YOUR STUDENT GETS INVITED BACK TO A PREFERENCE EVENT, THIS MEANS THAT THOSE CHAPTERS SEE THEM AS A GOOD FIT FOR THEIR SORORITY.

THERE IS ONE MORE IMPORTANT THING YOUR STUDENT WILL DO BEFORE LEAVING RECRUITMENT; THEY WILL FILL OUT WHAT IS CALLED THE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT ACCEPTANCE BINDING AGREEMENT, OR MRABA. ONCE THEY SUBMIT THIS AGREEMENT, THEY ARE AGREEING TO ACCEPT A BID FROM ANY SORORITY THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO LIST ON THEIR FORM. IF YOUR STUDENT RECEIVES A BID AND THEN DECIDES THEY DON'T WANT TO BE A MEMBER, THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A BID FROM ANOTHER PANHELLENIC ORGANIZATION ON THAT CAMPUS UNTIL THE NEXT PRIMARY RECRUITMENT PERIOD. TRADITIONALLY THAT IS ONE YEAR FROM WHEN THEY SIGN THE FORM.

BID DAY

THE FINAL STEP TO RECRUITMENT IS BID DAY! THIS IS WHERE EVERYONE DRESSES UP, CHEERS, AND GETS SO EXCITED TO BRING HOME NEW MEMBERS THEY'VE TALKED TO ALL OF THE RECRUITMENT. THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN ON BID DAY: 1. YOUR STUDENT RECEIVES A BID FROM THEIR TOP CHOICE CHAPTER 2. THEY RECEIVE A BID FROM ONE OF THE CHAPTERS LISTED ON THEIR MRABA 3. THEY DO NOT RECEIVE A BID 4. THEY RECEIVE A PHONE CALL OFFERING A SNAP BID. IF THERE IS AN OUTCOME THAT YOUR STUDENT WAS NOT EXPECTING, THE BEST THING THEY CAN DO IS KEEP AN OPEN MIND. THEY MAY NOT THINK A CHAPTER IS THE BEST FIT, BUT MAY FIND IT IS THEIR HOME AWAY FROM HOME. IF YOUR STUDENT DOES NOT RECEIVE A BID, THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS, LIKE PARTICIPATING IN CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING (COB) OR SNAP BIDDING. FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BID DAY.

BENEFITS YOU CAN EXPECT WHEN YOUR STUDENT JOINS A SORORITY...

GAINING LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

MEMBERS LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH OTHERS AND HANDLE CONFLICT RESOLUTION. THEY ALSO LEARN HOW TO WORK ON A TEAM AND MANAGE THEIR TIME WISELY. THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MARKETABLE SKILLS MEMBERS GAIN THROUGHOUT THEIR SORORITY EXPERIENCE.

AMONG THE SKILLS GAINED IS LEADERSHIP. MEMBERS ARE PROVIDED WITH A MULTITUDE OF LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. COLLEGIATE MEMBERS TAKE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS TO PLAN EVENTS, HANDLE THE FINANCIALS, ORGANIZE MEMBER EDUCATION AND MORE.

CREATING A PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

PARTICIPATING IN A SORORITY IS NOT ONLY BENEFICIAL TO YOU WHILE YOU'RE IN COLLEGE. IT CAN ALSO HELP YOU ONCE YOU GRADUATE. MANY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALUMNI NETWORKS THAT THEY MAINTAIN IN DIFFERENT CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IF YOU TAKE THE TIME TO TAP INTO THESE NETWORKS, THERE'S NO LIMIT TO THE RESOURCES THAT YOU CAN FIND THERE. JOINING A SORORITY IS A GREAT WAY TO MEET PEOPLE IF YOU'RE MOVING TO A NEW CITY, BUT IT CAN ALSO BE A PLACE TO TURN FOR CAREER ADVICE OR GUIDANCE.

THE DRIVE TO GIVE BACK

DESPITE HOW GREEK LIFE IS OFTEN DEPICTED IN THE MEDIA, AT ITS CORE IS A DEDICATION TO PHILANTHROPY. WHILE FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES ALL HAVE UNIQUE TRADITIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS, ALL ARE UNITED BY THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PHILANTHROPIC EVENTS. GREEK CHAPTERS ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES INDIVIDUALLY GENERATE TENS, AND SOMETIMES EVEN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, OF DOLLARS FOR CHARITY EVERY YEAR THROUGH PHILANTHROPIC EVENTS THEY ORGANIZE. THESE KINDS OF PHILANTHROPIC EVENTS MIGHT INCLUDE ANYTHING FROM CHARITABLE RUNS TO BAKE SALES TO LARGE-SCALE EVENTS.

UNDERSTANDING THE COST OF SORORITY MEMBERSHIP

WHEN YOU JOIN A SORORITY, THERE IS A FINANCIAL OBLIGATION THAT COMES ALONG WITH MEMBERSHIP.

THIS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS “DUES” OR “MEMBERSHIP DUES” BY CHAPTER MEMBERS. THE DUES AMOUNT WILL VARY FROM CHAPTER TO CHAPTER. THE WOMEN OF THE SORORITY CHAPTER VOTE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET EITHER EACH SEMESTER OR EACH YEAR. THIS VOTE DETERMINES HOW MUCH EACH MEMBER WILL PAY IN DUES. THESE DUES GO TOWARD CHAPTER EXPENSES AND ACTIVITIES SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING, FUNDRAISING EVENTS OR SISTERHOOD ACTIVITIES. THEY ALSO COVER THINGS SUCH AS INSURANCE FOR EACH MEMBER AND FEES TO THE INTER/NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ENSURE THEY CAN PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND HELPFUL RESOURCES TO CHAPTERS.

RECRUITMENT IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO HAVE QUESTIONS ANSWERED. ASK ABOUT WHAT THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE. YOUR STUDENT CAN ALSO ASK ABOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE A SORORITY PROVIDES. WHILE THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, SORORITIES OFTEN ALLOW MEMBERS TO SET UP A PAYMENT PLAN THAT WORKS BEST FOR THEM. SORORITY CHAPTERS SHOULD PROVIDE ANSWERS TOWARD THE COST OF SORORITY MEMBERSHIP DURING RECRUITMENT. TYPICALLY, THE FIRST SEMESTER AS A SORORITY MEMBER WILL BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN ANY OTHER BECAUSE YOUR STUDENT WILL BE ASKED TO PAY NEW MEMBER AND INITIATION FEES AS WELL AS PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP BADGE.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OWED FOR DUES WILL VARY WITH EACH CHAPTER AND WITH EACH CAMPUS. THE FUNDS COLLECTED FROM CHAPTER MEMBERS HELP PAY FOR CHAPTER OPERATIONS, EVENTS, PROGRAMMING, AND SUPPORT FOR THE INTER/NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. CHAPTERS THAT HOST MORE EVENTS MIGHT CHARGE MORE MONEY IN DUES TO PAY FOR THOSE EVENTS. OTHER CHAPTERS MIGHT CHARGE LESS MONEY FOR DUES BUT EXPECT YOU TO PAY INDIVIDUALLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR DIFFERENT THINGS YOUR STUDENT MIGHT WANT TO DO SUCH AS PURCHASING T-SHIRTS OR PARTICIPATING IN ADDITIONAL SISTERHOOD OR SOCIAL EVENTS. A BREAKDOWN OF COSTS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS BOOKLET.

YOUR STUDENT'S RECRUITMENT ISN'T YOUR *"RUSH"*

RECRUITMENT IS DIFFERENT OVER TIME AND EVEN ACROSS INSTITUTIONS.


MOTHERS OF COLLEGIANS SIGNED UP FOR "RUSH," BUT TODAY'S WOMEN GO THROUGH "RECRUITMENT." THOSE MOTHERS MAY HAVE CALLED THE RUSH COUNSELOR WHO GUIDED THEM FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE A RHO CHI; THEIR DAUGHTERS ARE LED BY RECRUITMENT COUNSELORS OFTEN CALLED GAMMA CHI, RHO GAMMA OR PI CHI. THE ROUNDS OF PARTIES MAY HAVE DIFFERENT NAMES, AND THE SONGS AND SKITS OF YESTERDAY HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SISTERHOOD AND PHILANTHROPY VIDEOS. EVEN THE BID DAY PROCESS MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN YOU REMEMBER. LET YOUR STUDENT SHARE THE TERMINOLOGY, SCHEDULE AND EVENTS WITH YOU THE WAY SHE IS EXPERIENCING IT. WE SUGGEST STICKING TO THOSE TERMS WHEN SHE CALLS TO DISCUSS HER DAY – IT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO AVOID CONFUSION, HELP CALM HER NERVES AND MAKE HER FEEL SUPPORTED.

UWA PANHELLENIC PUBLISHES A RECRUITMENT GUIDE THAT SHARES THE WEEK'S SCHEDULE, OFFERS SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING AND GIVES SOME DETAILS ABOUT EACH HOUSE AND MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS. WHILE THIS GUIDE IS INTENDED FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS, IT'S ALSO A GREAT RESOURCE FOR PARENTS.

YOUR STUDENT MAY NEED YOUR HELP IN NAVIGATING THE PROCESS.

BY THE TIME THE DOORS OPEN AT THE FIRST CHAPTER YOUR DAUGHTER VISITS, SHE'S ALREADY TALKED TO HER FRIENDS AND STUDIED THAT SORORITY'S INSTAGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, SHE MAY BE REMEMBERING THE STORIES YOU HAVE SHARED ABOUT YOUR RECRUITMENT AND SISTERHOOD EXPERIENCE. JUST LIKE YOU, SHE WILL BE THRILLED TO BE INVITED BACK TO HER PREFERRED CHAPTERS. ON THE FLIP SIDE, SHE MAY BE HEARTBROKEN WHEN SHE DOESN'T GET A CALLBACK SHE REALLY WANTED. REASSURE HER THAT THE PROCESS WORKS TO MATCH HER WITH A CHAPTER THAT IS A GOOD FIT, THAT MOST CUTS AREN'T PERSONAL AND EVERY CHAPTER HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER.

REMIND HER TO GET A GOOD FEEL FOR THE PERSONALITIES IN EACH CHAPTER AND TO REALLY EMBRACE THOSE WHERE SHE FEELS MOST WELCOME AND WHERE SHE HAS THE MOST IN COMMON WITH THE SISTERS SHE MEETS. LET YOUR DAUGHTER SHARE HER IMPRESSIONS OF EACH CHAPTER AND AVOID TALKING ABOUT ANY STEREOTYPES OR STORIES ABOUT OTHER SORORITIES FROM YOUR DAYS AS A COLLEGIATE MEMBER, EVEN IF YOUR DAUGHTER IS AT YOUR SAME SCHOOL. CHAPTERS CAN BE DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL AND YEAR TO YEAR.



MANAGE YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS

THE DAY YOUR DAUGHTER FIRST VISITS YOUR ORGANIZATION DURING RECRUITMENT IS EXCITING. YOU CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT SHE THINKS, AND YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF DREAMING THAT SHE GETS A BID FROM YOUR HOUSE – GIVING YOU A SISTERHOOD BOND TO STRENGTHEN THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER CONNECTION. IF YOU DO, KEEP THOSE FEELINGS TO YOURSELF. ALTHOUGH IT WAS LONG BELIEVED, LEGACY STATUS GUARANTEED A BID, THAT ISN'T TRUE. YOUR DAUGHTER MAY HAVE GROWN UP WANTING TO BE JUST LIKE YOU, BUT WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T SEE HERSELF IN HER SCHOOL'S CHAPTER OF YOUR SORORITY? IF SHE DOES LOVE IT AND GETS CUT, IT MAY COME AS A SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO HER – DON'T LET YOUR THOUGHTS MAKE DEEPEN THOSE FEELINGS. REMEMBER, THIS IS HER CHOICE, NOT YOURS. IN THE END, THE RECRUITMENT GOAL IS FOR YOUR DAUGHTER TO FIND A PLACE TO CALL HOME AND SISTERS TO SHARE IT WITH. NO MATTER WHERE SHE ENDS UP, SHE WILL STILL BE A MEMBER OF THE PANHELLENIC COMMUNITY AND THAT IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN PANHELLENIC REPRESENTATIVES/ GREEK LIFE OFFICE ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT MY STUDENT OR MAKE SORORITIES RECONSIDER INVITATIONS?

Your student's journey through recruitment is their own and it is up to them to share their experiences with you. If a parent calls Greek Life, with questions we are very limited as to what we can share with you. We can't tell you which chapters invited your student back and we can't tell you why a particular chapter released your student. In fact, we aren't privy to that information either. Each chapter has its own selection process that it follows with direction from alumnae advisors who are well versed in Panhellenic policies. They simply submit their invitations to us and we process them. Once preferences are made, we can't tell you which choices your student made and we can't tell you where the chapters placed your student on any certain list. What we can tell you is that each chapter has a democratic process of membership selection and that the lists are checked multiple times before submission to our office. In addition, each potential member makes her own selections and, once made, they are final. Potential members are not allowed to go back and make their own changes to their choices and preferences, so we will certainly not allow any changes to be made upon instructions from a parent.

MY STUDENT WAS RELEASED FROM RECRUITMENT. IS THIS COMMON?

There is no doubt that the number one concern parents have regarding recruitment is "will my daughter's feelings get hurt?" This is certainly a valid concern. There is always a possibility of your student getting released and someone will be released almost every year due to numbers and the matching process. Please know that the potential members who are released from recruitment are still important to us. When a potential member is released from recruitment, she is notified one on one by the Coordinator of Student Involvement and Communications at the earliest opportunity, so she does not find out while others are present and accepting invitations. If your student is released from recruitment, she still has options.

MY STUDENT IS NOT FROM ALABAMA, WILL THEY STILL BE CONSIDERED FOR SORORITY MEMBERSHIP?

We are often questioned by students and parents from out of state wondering whether they will be considered for sorority membership, even if they aren't from the area and don't know anyone beforehand. Each year, women from all over attend UWA, have a wonderful time making friends in recruitment, and find their sorority home.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MY STUDENT ISN'T SURE ABOUT JOINING A SORORITY - SHOULD SHE DO IT ANYWAYS?

To some college women and their parents, joining a sorority sounds terrific. They want to have something to help them socially and academically while providing structure. But, some look at it as too restricting and too time demanding. Each student needs to look at their strengths and weaknesses and evaluate what they can do. Some questions that need to be thought of is do they want to go to weekly meetings, have required study hours, maintain a high standard of behavior, attend and participate in campus events and volunteer in the community. If this is too overwhelming, then do not encourage them to participate. Our campus has wonderful campus ministries, lots of service and leadership organizations and many athletic and cultural events to attend. There are many successful students at UWA who do not join sororities. If your student participates in recruitment and decides it is not for them, they have the option to withdraw by contacting Leslie White, lwhite@Uwa.edu.

At UWA there are several events geared towards potential members, pre-recruitment, to help your student understand what Greek Life looks like. Be sure to encourage your student to attend these events. Events can be found on [@UWACConnect](#) and [@UWAPanhellenic](#) on Instagram.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS AND LEGACY STATUS... I STILL DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS.

We know in the South everyone believes they must actively seek and get recommendations for their daughter. If you wish to do so, that is fine. Feel free to ask your friends who are sorority alumnae to write your daughter a recommendation. Please be aware that Panhellenic Chapters at UWA do NOT have to accept recommendation letters, and some cannot even consider recommendation letters. Panhellenic sororities at UWA consider their legacies very carefully. However, they will not decide to pledge someone just because she is a legacy. Also, national policies for legacy status vary. Some organizations have done away with legacy status completely. Legacies are given the same amount of consideration as non-legacies. A woman will not get into a sorority just because she is a legacy. We know it is a natural tendency to lean toward that "legacy" sorority. We certainly understand that. But, encourage her to go through recruitment with an open mind and to make new friends at all the sororities during recruitment.

CAN I ATTEND BID DAY? DO I HAVE TO BRING ANYTHING?

Family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend Bid Day. This is a special time in your student's college memories as well as something they will remember forever. Please ensure to arrive 10-15 minutes earlier than the event time; your student will be opening their card the minute the event time arrives and you don't want to miss the excitement. Some organizations will have events immediately post Bid Day which you will be invited to, some have closed events for only active sisters and new members.

You do not have to bring anything to Bid Day. Some family and friends choose to bring flowers and gifts while others do not. There is no "right or wrong" way to do Bid Day, at the end of the day your support is what your student will remember the most.

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA

ZETA RHO

We are an organization dedicated to developing women of poise and purpose. A Sorority. This is who we are; an organization of sisterhood, heritage, leadership and service. Alpha Sigma Alpha offers an experience of fun campus activities to a lifetime of community impact. By fostering close friendships between members, Alpha Sigma Alpha develops women of poise and purpose who strive to continue improving the world around them. We inspire women to lead, to serve and most of all to make a difference.

In the fall of 1901, at Longwood University, five friends, Virginia Lee Boyd-Noell (Virginia Boyd), Juliette Jefferson Hundley-Gilliam (Juliette Hundley), Calva Hamlet Watson-Wootton (Calva Watson), Louise Burks Cox-Carper (Louise Cox), and Mary Williamson-Hundley (Mary Williamson) decided to rush the local women's fraternities on campus. However, rather than accepting bids that would separate the group, they decided to form their own sorority. On November 15, 1901, Alpha Sigma Alpha was named and chartered. The charter stated "The purpose of the association shall be to cultivate friendship among its members, and in every way to create pure and elevating sentiments, to perform such deeds and to mold such opinions as will tend to elevate and ennoble womanhood in the world."

The primary colors of Alpha Sigma Alpha are crimson and pearl white, supplemented by the secondary colors palm green and gold. Crimson represents loyalty and is a primary color of Alpha Sigma Alpha. Crimson is represented through our jewel, the ruby. Pearl white represents fellowship and a perfect blending of all colors. Pearl white is represented through our second jewel, the pearl. Palm green is a supplementary color, that signifies hope, immortality and victory, and is represented through our symbol the palm. Lastly, gold, another supplementary color, that signifies hope, immortality and victory and is represented through our symbol the crown.

The insignia of Alpha Sigma Alpha are the star, crown, palm tree and phoenix. The star represents the aspirations of Alpha Sigma Alphas to live up to the values of the Sorority. The crown represents leadership attained and the name of recognition given to our alumnae. The palm tree represents an emblem of sturdy development. The phoenix, the central symbol in our coat-of-arms, openly represents the reorganization of the Sorority that occurred in 1914.

The Zeta Rho chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha is dedicated to The University of West Alabama and the surrounding community. Its sisters are involved in organizations such as community service groups, resident association, and other various professional clubs. The sisters of Zeta Rho take immense pride in their philanthropy by supporting the Special Olympics, Girls on the Run, and ASA Foundation. Each year, Zeta Rho dedicates one week to DOT Days (donating our time). This week is set aside for all members to focus on service to their communities. Zeta Rho members donate their time to the national philanthropic partners and local community during this week.

From socials to community service, date parties to cheering on the Tigers, and formals to D.O.T. week, the sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha continue to flourish and exemplify excellence.

FACTS:

NICKNAME: ALPHA SIG OR ASA

CHAPTER NAME: ZETA RHO

VALUES: GROWTH, GENEROSITY, RELATIONSHIPS, RESPONSIBILITY, BALANCE, ENJOYMENT, LEARNING, INTEGRITY

MOTTO: ASPIRE, SEEK, ATTAIN

FLOWER: ASTER, NARCISSUS

COLORS: CRIMSON, PEARL WHITE, EMERALD GREEN, GOLD

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 1901

CHAPTER CHARTER DATE: MAY 9, 1998

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY: SPECIAL OLYMPICS, GIRLS ON THE RUN, ASA FOUNDATION

CHAPTER PHILANTHROPY: MERIDIAN CARE LODGE

NATIONAL WEBSITE: ALPHASIGMAALPHA.ORG

INSTAGRAM: @ASA_WESTALABAMA

TIK TOK: @UWA.ASA

ACADEMICS:

GPA NEW MEMBER FROM HIGH SCHOOL: 2.5

GPA TRANSFER: 2.5

GPA ACTIVE MEMBER (GOOD STANDING): 2.5

EXPENSES:

NEW MEMBER FIRST SEMESTER DUES: \$278 (INCLUDES INITIATION AND JEWELRY FEE)

ACTIVE MEMBERS DUES: \$416 PER SEMESTER

*THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL FEES SUCH AS T-SHIRTS

ALPHA SIGMA TAU

GAMMA GAMMA

Alpha Sigma Tau is a sorority that strives to enrich the lives of all women through networking skills and power they will need to excel in life. Members develop lifelong friendships whose core is the values they share with one another. All done within a community of support that will make them into a better version of themselves. Through gracious living and a beautiful spirit, the members of Alpha Sigma Tau achieve a vast amount of community impact that improves the quality of the world.

November 4, 1899 at Michigan State Normal College, also known as the teacher's college in Ypsilanti, a sorority movement was sweeping the country. Our founders: Helene M. Rice, Harriet Marx, Adriance Rice, Mayene Tracy, May Gephart, Mabel Chase, Eva O'Keefe, and Ruth Dutcher saw an opportunity for women to engage and grow together as sisters. They started the very first chapter known as the Alpha chapter, which is still thriving together. The goals they set were to instill the navigation of life for women who on their own wouldn't have it.

The colors of Alpha Sigma Tau are Emerald Green, which stands for prosperity, and Victory Gold, which stands for passion. The Victory Gold is the color of our crest, and the Emerald Green surrounds the crest. On the crest is a crown, star, book, anchor, and candle. Our national jewel is the white pearl. The national flower is the yellow rose, which represents friendship. Every two years the sisters join together at a convention, and reunite to bond over the shared purpose, "To promote the ethical, cultural, and social developments of the members."

The Gamma Gamma chapter provides business attire to all students who may need it through our on campus philanthropy known as Tiger Threads. University of West Alabama has recognized it as the Career Closet. Our national philanthropy called Dress for Success is what inspired Gamma Gamma to aid in the struggle against primarily women not having the means to present themselves adequately in the professional world. Gamma Gamma members are committed to participating in campus organizations. Currently our members have made impacts through SGA, Housing, Band, Tigerettes, Athletics, Ambassador. We value intellect and members study together, which has paid off and landed a lot of members in Honor Societies, President, and Dean's lists.

From socials to community service, date parties to cheering on the Tigers, and formals to fundraisers, the sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau continue to flourish and exemplify excellence.

FACTS:

NICKNAME: AST

CHAPTER NAME: GAMMA GAMMA

VALUES: GRACENOUSNESS, RESPECT, INTELLECT, CONNECTIONS, EXCELLENCE

MOTTO: ACTIVE, SELF- RELIANT, TRUSTWORTHY

FLOWER: YELLOW ROSE

COLORS: EMERALD, GOLD

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 1899

CHAPTER CHARTER DATE: MAY 15, 1987

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY: GIRLS WHO CODE, WOMEN'S WELLNESS, DRESS FOR SUCCESS

CHAPTER PHILANTHROPY: TIGER THREADS CAREER CLOSET AND GIRLS INC.

NATIONAL WEBSITE: ALPHASIGMATAU.ORG

CHAPTER WEBSITE: UWA.ALPHASIGMATAU.ORG

FACEBOOK: @UWA.AST

INSTAGRAM: @AST.UWA

ACADEMICS:

GPA NEW MEMBER: 2.5

GPA ACTIVE MEMBER: 2.5

EXPENSES:

- NEW MEMBER FEE: \$121

- INSURANCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY: \$49.50

- TECHNOLOGY FEE: \$18.70

- PANHELLENIC FEE: \$4.40

- INITIATION FEE: \$143.00

DUES PER FALL SEMESTER - \$400

DUES PER SPRING SEMESTER - \$360

PHI MU

KAPPA XI

Phi Mu Fraternity is a women's organization which provides personal and academic development, service to others, commitment to excellence and lifelong friendship through a shared tradition. The bond its sisters have does not just last four years in college, but rather a lifetime.

Phi Mu was founded in 1852 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, the first college chartered to grant degrees to women. Originally founded as the Philomathean Society, a literary club, it is the second-oldest sorority in the nation. For nearly 170 years, Phi Mu has provided social opportunities, a support network and personal enrichment resources to the nearly 200,000 women who have joined its sisterhood. Phi Mu Fraternity continually strives to provide members with the many benefits of a steadfast sisterhood, embodying its open motto, "Les Sœurs Fidéles," the Faithful Sisters. Phi Mu upholds the values of love, honor, and truth, and its creed defines what it means to be a noble woman.

The Kappa Xi chapter of Phi Mu is dedicated to the University of West Alabama and the surrounding community. Its sisters are involved in organizations such as varsity sports teams, community service groups, numerous honor societies and other various professional clubs.

The sisters of Phi Mu are #forthekids and take immense pride in their national philanthropy. Since 1986, Phi Mu has supported children's health initiatives through its corporate partnership with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Along with supporting Phi Mu's national philanthropy, the Kappa Xi chapter has also adopted two chapter philanthropies in honor of two sisters who left earth too soon. To keep the legacy of Bethany Joyce Harris and Libby Scott Hankins alive, the Kappa Xi chapter of Phi Mu continuously supports #BuckleUpForBeth and the Live-Like Libby, Love-Like-Libby Foundation.

From socials to community service, date parties to cheering on the Tigers, and formals to philanthropy events, the sisterhood of Phi Mu continues to flourish and exemplify excellence.

FACTS:

NICKNAME: PHI MU

CHAPTER NAME: KAPPA XI

VALUES: LOVE, HONOR, TRUTH

MOTTO: THE FAITHFUL SISTERS

FLOWER: CARNATION

COLORS: ROSE AND WHITE

NATIONAL FOUNDING DATE: MARCH 4, 1852

CHAPTER CHARTER DATE: JANUARY 11, 1969

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY: CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS

CHAPTER PHILANTHROPY: #BUCKLEUPFORBETH, LIVE LIKE LIBBY- LOVE LIKE LIBBY FOUNDATION

NATIONAL WEBSITE: PHIMU.ORG

CHAPTER WEBSITE: UWA.PHIMU.ORG

FACEBOOK: @PHIMUKAPPAXICHAP

TWITTER: @PHIMU_KAPPAXI

INSTAGRAM: @PHIMU_UWA

ACADEMICS:

GPA NEW MEMBER: 2.75

GPA ACTIVE MEMBER: 2.75

EXPENSES:

ACTIVE MEMBER MONTHLY DUES: \$85

PROVISIONAL MEMBER MONTHLY DUES: \$49.50

**NATIONAL OBLIGATION: \$101

*BADGE: STARTING AT \$88

*INITIATION: \$153

*HOUSING AND DECORATING: \$100

**SOCIAL FEE- \$50

*INDICATES ONE TIME FEE, ** INDICATES YEARLY FEE