The Fraternity/Sorority community at WPI has a language all its own. Here, you’ll find a list of our most common terms.

A

**Alumnus/Alumna** (plural: alumni/alumnae)

This is an initiated member of a fraternity or sorority who is no longer in college.

B

**Big Sister or Brother** (also called Sister-Mother/Sister-Daughter)

A new member of a fraternity or sorority will select or be assigned an initiated member to be his/her big brother or sister. This older member serves as a resource, role model, and mentor for the new member.

**Badge/Pin**

A badge or pin is worn on the chest of an initiated member showing that he/she belongs to a certain fraternity or sorority. A new or associate member pin is usually simpler in design and shows that the wearer is a new or associate member of the organization.

**Bid**

A bid is a formal invitation to join a fraternity or sorority.

**Bid Day**

This is the last day of recruitment, which includes activities at a fraternity or sorority’s chapter house.

C

**Chapter**

This describes the local group of the (inter)national fraternity or sorority.

**Chapter Alumnus/Alumna Advisor**

This is an alumnus/alumna who establishes and maintains an advisory relationship with a fraternity/sorority chapter, and serves as a teacher and counselor.
Continuous Open Recruiting (COR) or Continuous Recruitment (CR)

Some Panhellenic-affiliated sorority chapters continue to recruit and pledge women throughout the school year.

Faculty Advisor

The fraternity or sorority’s faculty advisor is a WPI faculty member or administrator who establishes and maintains an advisory relationship with the chapter and its scholarship program. The faculty advisor is not necessarily an initiate of the particular fraternity or sorority.

Formal Recruitment

This refers to the primary period of time set aside by the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils for meeting potential new members.

Fraternity

Formally, it’s the name applied to all Greek-letter organizations. Informally, it’s the name applied to men’s groups.

Greek Alumni Council (GAC)

WPI’s GAC is responsible for promoting and maintaining a strong and informed alumni body.

Greek Week

A week during which all chapters participate in events designed to promote pride in fraternity and sorority membership.

Informal or Open Recruitment

This refers to a recruitment period that is conducted at various times during the year.

Infraction

An infraction is a violation of a rule set by the Interfraternity Council (fraternities) or the Panhellenic Council (sororities).
Initiation/Crossing

The initiation (or crossing) ceremony brings a new member into full membership in a fraternity or sorority.

Intake

This refers to the period during which an aspirant pursues membership in a fraternity or sorority.

Interfraternity Council (IFC)

The Interfraternity Council is the governing body of the fraternities that are affiliated with the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC).

Legacy

For a man, this means his father, brother, or, in some cases, grandfather is an initiated member of a fraternity. For a woman, this means her mother, sister, or, in some cases, grandmother is an initiated member of a sorority. (Legacy stipulations differ for each fraternity and sorority.)

Line

This refers to the individuals who are participating in intake with a fraternity or sorority. (It’s used primarily among NPHC, NALFO, NAPA, and NMGC organizations.) [Note: We are having difficulty finding what NPHC, NAPA, and NMGC stand for/mean.]

North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)

An organization comprised of men’s fraternities, each chapter of which is autonomous as a social Greek-letter society of college men and alumni.

National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO)

A national organization comprised of historically Latino fraternities and sororities.

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)
An organization comprised of women’s sororities, each chapter of which is autonomous as a social Greek-letter society of college women and alumnae.

**New Member/Associate Member**

This describes a potential new member who has accepted the bid (or invitation to join) of a fraternity or sorority.

**New Member Educator**

This refers to the fraternity or sorority chapter officer who coordinates the education of the chapter’s new members.

**New Member Meetings**

Many fraternities and sororities hold special meetings each week for their new members. In addition to learning the history of their fraternity or sorority, new members may also attend presentations on such topics as study skills, acquaintance rape, and substance abuse, among others.

**Panhellenic Council**

The Panhellenic Council is the governing body of the sororities that are affiliated with the NPC.

**Potential New Member**

A potential new member is an individual who participates in the recruitment process for a fraternity or sorority.

**Preferential Bidding**

This describes the process of mutual selection between the sororities and their potential new members.

**Probate Show**

During the Probate Show, new members of a particular fraternity or sorority chapter are introduced to their fellow Greek-letter chapters as well as the WPI campus community. (It’s found primarily among NALFO, NPHC, NAPA, and NMGC organizations.) [Note: We are having difficulty finding what NPHC, NAPA, and NMGC stand for/mean.]
Q

**Quota**

This refers to the specified number of potential new members each fraternity/sorority chapter can pledge.

R

**Recruitment Counselors**

Recruitment counselors are fraternity/sorority members who have been carefully selected and trained to guide potential new members and answer their questions regarding recruitment.

S

**Sorority**

A sorority is a group of women who are joined together in friendship for academic and leadership purposes.