COMMON TERMS

**ALUMNA** (FEMININE)
A women's fraternity or sorority member who is no longer a member of a collegiate chapter.

**ALUMNAE** (FEMININE)
The plural of alumna.

**ALUMNUS** (MASCULINE)
A fraternity member who is no longer a member of a collegiate chapter.

**ALUMNI** (MASCULINE)
The plural of alumnus, the customary plural term when men and women are addressed.

**BID**
An invitation to join a men's fraternity or women's sorority.

**CHAPTER**
A membership unit of a national or international fraternity or sorority.

**CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING** (COB)
An informal membership recruitment process where sororities recruit new members at any time during the school year. Not every chapter participates in COB.

**FRATERNITY**
A values-based, social organization with a formed brotherhood and common principles.

**GREEK**
The common name applied to sorority and fraternity members.

**HOUSE DIRECTOR**
A woman or man who is hired to supervise the kitchen responsibilities, serve as official host or hostess for chapter events and be a “parent-away-from-home.”

**INITIATE**
A man or woman who has recently become an active member of his or her fraternity/sorority.

**INITIATION**
A ritualistic ceremony where new members receive lifelong membership privileges.

**INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL, OR IFC**
The collegiate governing body of the fraternities led by student members.

**LEGACY**
A relationship through a family member (e.g. father/mother, brother/sister, or grandfather/grandmother). Each chapter or national organization has its own policy regarding legacies and invitations for membership.

**NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**
A term used to describe the central organization of any given fraternity or sorority.

**NEW MEMBER**
A man who has accepted a fraternity bid but is not yet an initiated member, or a woman who has accepted a sorority bid but is not yet an initiated member.

**OFFICE OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE**
A K-State Division of Student Life department that advises IFC and PHC, provides leadership development opportunities to students and offers resources for student-led and initiated programs and services.

**PANHELLENIC COUNCIL, OR PHC**
The collegiate governing body of the National Panhellenic Conference women's fraternities or sororities led by student members.

**PLEDGE**
A promise made by a new member.

**POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER** (PNM)
Any woman interested in becoming a sorority member who is matriculated and eligible according to Panhellenic Council requirements.

**RECRUITMENT**
The process of joining a fraternity or sorority.

**SORORITY**
A values-based, social organization with a formed sisterhood and common principles.