



Our Office!

WELCOME TO CWRU!



Welcome to Case Western Reserve University. We are excited to have your student here. One of the great opportunities to build community and find support is through Greek Life. With 15 fraternities in our Interfraternity Congress, 10 sororities in our Panhellenic Council, and some on-campus and city-wide NPHC chapters, there is a place for everyone to feel belonging.

What is Greek Life?

Greek Life at Case Western Reserve is more than a way to make friends, it is a way to build community, gain academic and scholarship support, serve the community, and create lifelong connections. Our Greek organizations look to make college students the best versions of themselves academically, professionally, and personally. The four pillars of Greek Life are Citizenship, Leadership, Ritual, and Scholarship.

How does my student join a fraternity or sorority?

1. Complete interest form or recruitment registration
2. Attend chapter and/or council sponsored events

The recruitment process is one of mutual membership selection meaning not only do the Greek organizations select new members, but the potential new members (PNMs) select the chapter with which they wish to be affiliated. The majority of chapters have at least a 2.5 GPA requirement, but may have a higher GPA or additional membership criteria.

What will my student get out of this experience?

- Build community
- Create lifelong friendships
- Academic and scholarship support
- Service and philanthropy opportunities
- Social events with chapter and other orgs
- Networking
- Connection to Alumni across the globe
- Leadership opportunities
- Conventions, workshops, and more
- Values based organizations
- Opportunity for communal living or shared meeting place

Sorority
Information



Fraternity
Information



What is expected of my student if they join?

All New Members are required to attend New Member Orientation. Date and time will be announced each semester. Additionally, all must complete the SMARRT Quiz about risk and safety. Chapters also have their own New Member Education process, which includes sessions on chapter values, history, and expectations.

Fraternity Timeline

A structured recruitment occurs in the fall and spring.

Week 1 - Starting First Day of Classes

- Chapters hold individual events on and off campus
- IFC will host an event this week or before

Week 2

- Chapters hold individual events on and off campus

Week 3

- Chapters hold individual events on and off campus
- Some events will be invite only

Week 4

- Monday | *Bid Day*
 - Chapters will set up a time 6 PM - 11:59 PM
 - Meet in person, in public to offer bids
- Tuesday | *Consideration Day*
 - You can reach out to chapters for questions
 - Chapters will not reach out to PNM
- Wednesday | *Decision Day*
 - Starts at 9 AM
 - Chapters will give deadlines for PNMs to accept

Sorority Timeline

A structured recruitment occurs fall and unstructured in the fall and spring.

Fall

Primary Recruitment

- Open to all undergraduate students
- 2nd & 3rd weekends of semester (Sat & Sun) & Bid Day on the 4th Monday
- Meet all participating chapters
 - Chapters narrow down invites each day
 - Participants prioritize chapters each day but can be invited back to any group they day the round before. Participants make final decision on Day 4
- Only guaranteed process for all groups all academic year

Continuous Open Bidding

- Starts after Primary ends
- Open to all undergraduate students
- **Never guaranteed for all groups**
- Chapters will host individual events or 1:1s

Spring

Continuous Open Bidding

- Starts on the First Day of Class
- Open to all undergraduate students
- **Never guaranteed for all groups**
- Chapters will host individual events or 1:1s

Important Terms

- **PNM** - Potential New Member; any eligible student
- **Panhellenic Council / PHC** - The governing body of the sororities on campus
- **Interfraternity Congress / IFC** - The governing body of the fraternities on campus
- **National Pan-Hellenic Council / NPHC** - The governing body for the historically African American fraternities and sororities. Some are city wide.
- **Office of Greek Life / GLO** - The office / space that houses professional staff that support the governing bodies, chapters, and students in Greek Life
- **Primary Recruitment** - Sororities: the main period of time for all sororities to select new members.
- **Continuous Open Bidding (COB)** - Sororities: an opportunity for chapters to select more members if they are not the desired size.
- **Membership recruitment acceptance binding agreement (MRABA)** - Sororities: the contract that a PNM signs to join a chapter. If the PNM leaves the chapter before initiation they cannot participate in recruitment until the next Primary Recruitment.
- **Bid** - A formal invitation to join a fraternity or sorority. This is usually a physical card that is signed by the chapter. It can be accepted or denied.
- **Chapter** - The CWRU unit of a fraternity or sorority. Each chapter has a special designation within the inter/national organization to distinguish it.
- **New Member** - A person that has recently accepted a bid. They are considered new members by the Office of Greek Life for their first semester in the chapter.

Important Terms

- **Philanthropy** - A national and/or local organization or cause that a chapter supports, usually through hosting fundraisers or volunteering.
- **Active** - A person that has been initiated into the chapter. They are considered an active member by the Office of Greek Life starting their second semester in the chapter.
- **Alumna / Alumni** - A person that has graduated from a collegiate chapter. Alum will often support the chapter through advising, donations, or time.
- **Initiation** - A ritual ceremony that brings new members into full, active membership. This timeline for this depends on the organization.
- **Big** - An active member that is paired with a new member to serve as a mentor in the chapter. Not all chapters have this program.
- **Little** - The new member that is paired with the Active / Big and will be mentored and supported as they start their membership experience. Not all chapters have this program.
- **New Member Orientation** - Hosted by the Office of Greek Life and IFC/PHC to help New Members complete required trainings and learn more about the Greek Life community at CWRU.
- **SMARRT** - Students Meeting About Risk and Responsibility Training; an organization of Greek Life students that support peer education initiatives.
- **SMARRT Quiz** - A short risk and safety quiz required for all New Members.

Greek Letters

Α	Alpha	al-fah	Ν	Nu	new
Β	Beta	bay-tah	Ξ	Xi	z-aye / zee
Γ	Gamma	gam-mah	Ο	Omicron	om-e-cron
Δ	Delta	del-tah	Π	Pi	pie
Ε	Epsilon	ep-si-lon	Ρ	Rho	roe / row
Ζ	Zeta	zay-tah	Σ	Sigma	sig-mah
Η	Eta	ay-tah	Τ	Tau	taw
Θ	Theta	thay-tah	Υ	Upsilon	up-si-lon / oop-si-lon
Ι	Iota	eye-o-tah	Φ	Phi	fie / fee
Κ	Kappa	cap-pah	Χ	Chi	kie / k-eye
Λ	Lambda	lamb-dah	Ψ	Psi	sigh
Μ	Mu	mew	Ω	Omega	oh-may-gah