



# FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

### Glossary of CSU Fraternity & Sorority Terms & Acronyms

#### CSU Fraternity & Sorority Specific Terminology/Acronyms:

**CGA:** Stands for Chapter Graduate Advisor. CGAs are graduate students most typically enrolled in the Student Affairs in Higher Education graduate program that complete a supplemental assistantship with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority life advising an individual chapter (typically for up to five hours per week). Chapters can opt into the program and commit to a financial contribution to employ their CGA.

**DYAD:** Dyad strategies is the name of the company the CSU fraternity and sorority committee contracts with to conduct regular a community assessment. Data gathered through this assessment is utilized by the community and individual chapters to develop programming and adjust the experience based on what is learned.

**Elevation:** Name of CSU chapter accreditation program that creates expectations for chapter operations and goal setting and helps chapters continually improve over time. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/current-students/csuelevation/>

**FSASA:** Stands for Fraternities & Sororities Against Sexual Assault. FSASA is a one-credit course offered once per academic year for fraternity and sorority members to explore sexual assault prevention in the fraternity/sorority context. The course is co-taught by Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and Women and Gender Advocacy staff. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/programs/academic-courses/>

**FSL Ambassador:** Fraternity & Sorority Life Ambassadors are students selected and trained to serve as ambassadors for the fraternity/sorority community. FSL Ambassadors represent the fraternity and sorority community at events like orientation, admissions visit days, etc. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/programs/auxiliary-groups/fsl-ambassadors/>

**F/S Fest:** Fraternity/Sorority Fest (previously referred to as “Greek Week”) is a community celebration hosted each spring by the Programming Board. It is a series of events intended to bring together members of the fraternity and sorority community and celebrate points of pride.

**FSLI:** Stands for Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Institute. Annual leadership program for chapter presidents, council leaders, and auxiliary group leaders designed to provide learning opportunities, personal growth and reflection, collective visioning, and goal setting. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/programs/fсли/>

**Governing Councils:** Governing councils are ways to organize like fraternity/sorority chapters at CSU. Each governing council elects officers to create common expectations, provide education and development in group-specific ways, and bring together chapter delegates for discussion, sharing, and council business. The five governing councils at CSU include:

- **IFC:** Stands for Interfraternity Council. A council for social fraternities for men that are often associated with the North American Interfraternity Conference (although not all local chapters are nationally members of this group). Sometimes IFC organizations are referred to as historically white organizations as a way to understand the founding of all fraternities and sororities in relation to one another. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/about/governing-councils/interfraternity-council/>
- **MGC:** Stands for Multicultural Greek Council. A council for culturally based fraternities and sororities. Organizations in this council include multicultural organizations, Asian-interest organizations, and Latino/a organizations. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/about/governing-councils/multicultural-greek-council-mgc/>
- **NPHC:** Stands for the National Pan-Hellenic Council. A council for historically Black fraternities and sororities. This council nationally is often referred to as “The Divine Nine” in reference to the fact that there are nine members of the NPHC. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/about/governing-councils/national-pan-hellenic-council-nphc/>
- **PHA:** Stands for the Panhellenic Association. A council for social sororities for women associated with the National Panhellenic Conference. Sometimes Panhellenic organizations are referred to as historically white organizations as a way to understand the founding of all fraternities and sororities in relation to one another. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/panhellenic-association-pha/>
- **PFC:** Stands for the Professional Fraternity Council. A council for professional and interest specific fraternities and sororities sometimes affiliated with the Professional Fraternity Association. Groups in this council have a specific professional or major-specific focus (like business or agriculture), while others are interest-specific (like music, service, etc.). Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/about/governing-councils/professional-fraternity-council/>

**JJB:** Stands for Joint Judicial Board. The JJB is the fraternity/sorority judicial board that works with organizations when there are alleged violations of fraternity/sorority specific policies. Learn more at: <https://fsl.colostate.edu/programs/auxiliary-groups/joint-judicial-board/>

**Chapter Liaison:** An Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life professional staff member that advocates and provides direct support for a specific group of chapters.

**NHPW:** Stands for National Hazing Prevention Week. Late each year in September National Hazing Prevention Week is observed across the United States. The CSU fraternity and sorority community regularly hosts educational programming throughout this week (and beyond).

**OFSL:** Stands for Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

**Order of Omega:** Order of Omega is a leadership honor society for members of the fraternity and sorority community. Order of Omega recognizes members who have completed one full academic year of enrollment at their university and exemplified high standards in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and involvement within their respective organization and within the fraternity and sorority, campus, and local community. Membership cannot exceed 5% of the institution's fraternity and sorority community. Learn more here:

<https://fsl.colostate.edu/programs/order-of-omega/>

**OWS:** Stands for Officer Workshop Series. The OWS program provides chapter officer-specific educational content in a variety of areas. Workshops are designed to connect individual officers with useful resources and campus referrals. Learn more at:

<https://fsl.colostate.edu/programs/officer-workshop-series/>

**Panhellenic RMT:** The Panhellenic Recruitment Management Team is a group of Panhellenic officers that implement the Panhellenic primary recruitment process.

**Presidents Forum:** Presidents Forum is a required monthly meeting for every chapter and governing council president at which education and information is provided in a central space.

**Programming Board:** The Fraternity & Sorority Programming Board is a group of fraternity and sorority leaders selected to implement community-wide programming. This includes events like Homecoming, F/S Fest, and National Ritual Celebration Week along with co-sponsorship opportunities with governing councils. Learn more at:

<https://fsl.colostate.edu/programs/programming-board/>

**RSO:** Stands for Registered Student Organization. All fraternities and sororities are required to become registered student organizations through the Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement office (SLiCE). Learn more at: <https://lsc.colostate.edu/slice/student-organizations/>

**RCW:** Stands for Ritual Celebration Week. Early each March the CSU fraternity and sorority community celebrates RCW through events and initiatives designed to celebrate organization values congruence.

**SAAM:** Stands for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. SAAM is held each April and is largely planned by CSU's Women and Gender Advocacy office. The fraternity and sorority community regularly participates in campus programming and hosts fraternity/sorority specific sexual assault prevention programming.

### General Fraternity & Sorority Terms\*:

\*Terms are general and might be more specifically defined by the individual fraternity or sorority or the council (i.e., a term is only used by groups in a particular governing council).

**Active:** A member who has been initiated into lifelong fraternity or sorority membership and participates in chapter activities at the collegiate level

**Alumnus/Alumnae/Alumnx:** An initiated member who has graduated

**Bid:** A formal invitation to pledge or associate with a chapter

**Big Sister/Big Brother:** An active member of a fraternity or sorority who serves as a mentor to a new or prospective member guiding them through the new member or intake process and initiation (and beyond)

**Brother:** A term used by fraternity members to refer to one another

**Call/Chant:** Audible sounds used by members to acknowledge or gain the attention of other members or identify the organization. Calls may vary regionally within organizations and some organizations use more than one call.

**Chapter:** A local group of the larger (inter)national organization typically designated in some way by Greek letters.

**Crossed:** Being initiated as a member. The term may mean different things to different groups, but generally refers to crossing over from being a prospective or new member to being a full member. Term also refers to "Crossing the Burning Sands."

**Financial:** Term used to refer to an active member in some organization (i.e., someone paying dues that is in good financial standing).

**Frater:** Term used to refer to a brother in a NPHC organization (and sometimes in other culturally based organizations). Sometimes a chapter will refer to one another simply as "Frat."

**Fraternity:** A social, Greek-lettered organization for men. The term "fraternity" also applies to some sororities founded before the word "sorority" was coined.

**Hand Sign (aka "sign"):** Used to identify members of the same organization; most have a deep meaning to the organization or as a ritualistic symbol.

**Informational:** Term sometimes used to describe a recruitment event hosted by culturally based fraternities and sororities in which information about the organization is shared.

**Initiate:** An initiated member of a chapter

**Initiation:** Ritual or ceremony in which a new member begins full membership in an organization

**Intake:** The process some chapters conduct to recruit, interview, select, and educate new members

**Interest:** The title some groups use for a potential new member who the groups knows is interested. Sometimes these students will band together and form an interest group to pursue affiliation with a (inter)national organization.

**Legacy:** A member of an organization that has a family member that joined the same organization prior to them, typically with a generation or more between their membership processes (i.e., daughter/mother/grandmother, etc.). Each (inter)national organization has its own policies regarding legacies, including which relations qualify as legacies.

**Line Name:** The name given to a group of new members on the same line. Some groups number lines by Greek letters (alpha, beta, gamma, etc.) but some may use a descriptive name that is specific to the characteristics of the group

**Line:** The members of a culturally based fraternity/sorority new member class

**Neophyte (or “Neo”):** A new member of a culturally based fraternity or sorority

**New Member:** A member of a fraternity/sorority who has not yet been initiated

**New Member Presentation (aka Rollout, Probate):** A formal presentation of a new line to campus usually taking place in a public forum after members have been initiated

**New Member Program:** A program through which new members of an organization learn about their chapter

**Number:** The number assigned to a prospective member based on the chronological order someone is on the initiation line (often members of culturally based organizations identify or relate to one another by distinguishing that they are the same number)

**Para (aka “Nalia”):** Short for paraphernalia. The different items of Greek clothing or other items a member wears

**Philanthropy:** Charitable project or event to raise money and awareness for a particular cause sponsored by each chapter

**Potential New Member (PNM):** A college student who is interested in joining a fraternity or sorority and is taking part in the recruitment process

**Prophyte:** Term used to refer to an older brother/sister/member in the chapter

**Quota:** The specified number of potential new members to which each sorority may extend a bid in Panhellenic recruitment

**Recruitment:** Experience organized by a governing council in which mutual selection allows each potential member to determine chapter membership

**Sands (aka Parallel):** A member of your organization or another culturally based organization that was initiated at the same time

**Sibling:** A gender inclusive term used by some all fraternity/sorority members to refer to one another (including within all-gender organizations).

**Sister:** A term used by sorority members to refer to one another

**Soror:** Term used to refer to a sister in a NPHC organization (and sometimes in other culturally based organizations)

**Sorority:** A social Greek-lettered organization for women

**Stepping:** A historically Black tradition characterized by synchronized hand and foot movements along with signing, dancing, chanting and acting. Many Latinx and Multicultural groups participate in stepping as well.

**Stroll (aka Party Walk, Party Hop):** A line dance performed to music by members of culturally based Greek organizations often done at a party, gathering, or step show/event

**TeeKee:** A large necklace work with large Greek letters on them; similar to a lavalier, but much larger and often made out of wood

**Total:** Total is the allowable chapter size, including both new and initiated members, as defined by the Panhellenic Council

**Yard:** The term used to refer to the particular campus or university at which a chapter exists