

# Panhellenic Recruitment 2022

*June 2022 Version*

## Frequently Asked Questions

Office of the Dean of Students • Sorority and Fraternity Life

[www.texasgreeks.com](http://www.texasgreeks.com) or [texaspanhellenic.com](http://texaspanhellenic.com)

### **About Recruitment Week**

#### **What is the Panhellenic Recruitment schedule for 2022?**

Opening Convocation: Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

Recruitment Events: Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>- Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

- 8/16 Open House Round
- 8/17 and 8/18 Philanthropy Round
- 8/19 Sisterhood round
- 8/20 Preference Round

Bid Day: Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

#### **Who is eligible for Recruitment?**

A student is eligible to participate in recruitment and join a sorority if:

- They are a regularly matriculated student at UT Austin which means they are enrolled and have been granted full-time status.
- They are not a new member or initiated member of a National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) sorority.
- Students participating in the Pathway to Admission through Co-Enrollment, also known as PACE are eligible to register for recruitment.
  - i. Each sorority has individual membership requirements and membership decisions are the sole responsibility of the organization. We would encourage you to consult with the national organizations should you have questions about eligibility requirements.

#### **How do I sign up for Recruitment? When does registration open and close?**

Register for Panhellenic recruitment using the online application. The registration page will open on June 1, 2022. The registration link can be found online at [texasgreeks.com](http://texasgreeks.com) or [texaspanhellenic.com](http://texaspanhellenic.com).

Registration will close Monday, August 8, 2022 at 11:59pm.

Please wait to register until you have a final high school GPA. No paper applications will be accepted.

#### **What chapters participate in Primary Recruitment in the Fall?**

The University Panhellenic Council represents 14 NPC organizations. 13 will participate in Primary Recruitment in August 2022.

- Alpha Chi Omega
- Alpha Delta Pi
- Alpha Epsilon Phi
- Alpha Phi
- Alpha Xi Delta
- Chi Omega

- Delta Delta Delta
- Delta Gamma
- Kappa Alpha Theta
- Kappa Delta
- Kappa Kappa Gamma
- Pi Beta Phi
- Zeta Tau Alpha

Sigma Delta Tau sorority is not participating in primary recruitment this year. To learn more about the organization please visit <http://www.texassigmadeltatau.com/>.

### **How much does it cost?**

The registration fee is \$175.00 payable at time of registration. Electronic payment only

### **What do I need to complete registration?**

When you register for recruitment please have the following items ready in an electronic format:

- High school GPA AND college GPA (if applicable)
- Legacy information for your family (if applicable) *Please do not submit men's fraternity legacies.*
- An electronic version of a current photo - in jpeg format
- An electronic version of your resume with a listing of activities from HS and/or College to upload.
- An electronic version of your transcript - HS students should upload a completed HS transcript (with full senior year), College students should upload a college transcript, and HS students with college hours should upload both. If you are uploading 2 transcripts, please combine them into a single document for upload.
- PNMs MUST complete the "Values Activity" linked [here](#). You can complete this activity now before accessing the form or when completing the form.

### **Where can I find more info about the Open House video PNMs submit as part of their registration?**

PNMs will create and upload an introductory Open House video to supplement their registration information. This video will serve as your Open House round introduction to chapters. Chapters will view these videos to get to know PNMs before offering invitations to meet them on Philanthropy Round. Detailed instructions for creating, submitting and uploading your video are included in your registration confirmation email. Videos should be submitted within 72 hours of completing registration.

### **How does recruitment work? What is a recruitment party like?**

The recruitment process is designed to allow all interested women to get to know chapters and find their home in the Panhellenic community. The week is broken down into different rounds which have different themes or focuses, such as philanthropy, sisterhood etc. As you and the chapter get to know each other better you will both begin to narrow your options at the conclusion of each round. Your schedule is created through a process called mutual selection. You make preferences about the chapters you would like to return to the next round and the sororities also make preferences about which Potential New Members (PNM) they would like to invite back.

During events you will spend most of your time talking and getting to know active members as well as see presentations relating to the round's theme. Our chapters also like to cheer and sing for PNMs as they enter and exit the house. It can be loud at times but it is always exciting and fun!

### **What is a legacy? Does it matter if I am one?**

A legacy is typically a sister, daughter, or granddaughter of an initiated member of a UPC sorority. For details on each chapter's legacy definitions and policies please visit their national website. Please note many national organizations have recently changed their legacy policies related to recruitment. Please refer any question on the policy or recent changes to each organization

If you are legacy you may be familiar with sorority life or a particular chapter. At UT Austin, there are often more PNMs who are legacies than it is possible to have in a new member class. Therefore while being a legacy might mean you have a special connection with a chapter it does not guarantee a bid. Additionally, if you are a legacy you should not feel obligated to that chapter if it is not a fit for you.

At UT Austin there are also many PNMs and chapter members who are not a legacy and may be the first person in their family to be interested in Greek Life. The best advice for any PNM, regardless of legacy status, is to keep an open mind throughout the process. Everyone is getting to know the chapter and active members during the recruitment process.

### **Are sophomores allowed to participate in formal recruitment? Do they have a chance at getting into a sorority at UT?**

Yes, sophomores and other upperclassmen can register for recruitment! At UT we utilize a sophomore pool, which is a process that allows for an increased placement of sophomores. In recent years about 20% of PNMs are sophomores or juniors. Over 200 upperclassman received a bid to membership in 2021.

### **Where do I live during Recruitment Week?**

You live where you will live during the school year. You will need to contact your residence hall or housing complex to find out what the move-in date is and to make the appropriate arrangements for early move-in as needed. There may be a prorated cost associated with early move-in.

### **Should I bring a car specifically for Recruitment Week?**

No. The chapter houses are within walking distance of most student housing. Additionally, because parking will be completely unavailable, PNMs cannot drive or be driven from house to house. The council encourages PNMs to take safety precautions such as traveling in groups and taking care when crossing streets. PNMs are discouraged from using motorized scooters during events. Privately chartered buses will be provided by UPC for PNMs to travel between the furthest distances in a timely manner.

### **Should I visit campus this spring to get to know sorority members?**

You should not visit campus during the school year with intention of meeting sorority women. The council's strict expectations about contact between PNMs and chapter members is in effect for most of the spring semester and all of summer break. Chapters and active members should not be recruiting women during the spring or summer by inviting them to campus or communicating via texting, calling, or social media.

### **If I am asked to dinner or to hang out with a sorority over the summer, should I go?**

The simple answer is no. This is called summer recruitment and UPC bylaws state no chapter should engage in summer recruitment activities of any kind. Chapters that do not abide by this policy will be subject to a judicial process. It is wise to think twice about joining a chapter that would knowingly break the rules.

## Should I attend The University of Texas at Austin's summer orientation?

Yes! Orientation is an important part of the Longhorn experience! It allows you to take any necessary placement tests, register for classes and become acquainted with campus. Sorority and Fraternity Life hosts an info session for both parents and students which is a great way to learn about the Greek community at UT. UPC will also host a late night event during each orientation which we highly suggest you attend! We highly suggest all students interested in going through Primary Recruitment attend a June or July orientation session.

## What if I have to attend the August orientation session. Can I still go through recruitment?

We encourage all women interested in recruitment to attend an orientation session during June or July. However, we understand this is sometimes not possible. If you attend the August orientation session you can still participate in recruitment. Our team will work to accommodate both the orientation and recruitment schedules. Be prepared to be flexible!

If you know you will attend August Orientation or know of another conflict such as an athletic team, spirit squad, or academic program please reach out to us at [sfl@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:sfl@austin.utexas.edu).

## Is there spring recruitment?

Some chapters continue to recruit and pledge women throughout the school year through a process called Continuous Open Bidding (COB). Chapters only participate in COB if they have spaces to fill and schedule and organize their own events independently. If you want the opportunity to interact with all of our sororities before making your sorority choice, then you should participate in fall primary recruitment.

## All About Recommendations

### What is an alumna reference/recommendation? How do I get them?

Alumna References (or recommendations) are introductions of a Potential New Member (PNMS) to the chapter and describe more about the PNM, her interests, and how her values aligns with the values of the sorority.

A reference is most often an online form that an alumna member will find on their national website. Sometimes members may also submit supplemental information (i.e. resume, transcript, photo) through an online portal. A recommendation letter, letter of support, or anything written and submitted to the chapter is supplemental to this process and does not carry the same weight as the official reference form.

Reference and recommendation letters **do not guarantee** a bid for membership, however they will help the chapters know a little about you in advance.

### *There are two ways to obtain an alumnae reference:*

- **Register with your local Alumnae Panhellenic** – Throughout the country Alumnae Panhellenic Associations host a reference letter process to help women in their area secure reference writers. This option provides an opportunity to get assistance with obtaining references, possibly meet local area sorority alumnae and attend a recruitment information session. To find the Alumnae Panhellenic Association in your area you can visit the UPC website or do a google search. If your town or city is not listed, consider contacting the nearest university campus with sororities and inquire. Most Alumnae Panhellenic Associations begin collecting registration forms in early spring and will set their own deadline in early summer.

- You may continue to seek references independently after the deadline has passed. There is no official deadline for references for recruitment at UT, but the earlier a chapter receives the reference the longer they have to read and get to know you.

- ***Independently find reference writers*** - This is a great option if you do not live in an area with an Alumnae Panhellenic, miss the Alumnae Panhellenic deadline, or if you just prefer to do things your own way with more control over the process. Use your network to find members of sororities willing to submit a reference on your behalf. The alumna writing the reference is responsible for submitting the appropriate form through her national organization's process. There is no official deadline for references for recruitment at UT, but the earlier a chapter receives the reference the longer they have to read and get to know you.

### **What is a third-party reference or a self-recommendation?**

Many organizations have made recent changes to their reference process and now accept third-party references and/or self-recommendations. The intention behind this change is to make references, and the recruitment process overall, more accessible to PNMs who may not know sorority alumnae.

Each organization may have a slightly different definition of who an acceptable third-party is. Generally, any adult (non-relative) who knows you well and can speak to your character, values, interests, and accomplishments would be an appropriate third-party reference. Great examples include teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, spiritual leaders, and supervisors (from work or volunteer experiences).

A self-recommendation is a way for a PNM to introduce herself to an organization without the need for an outside recommender (alumna or third-party). If an organization accepts self-recommendations or a third-party reference it will be noted in the "[Chapter-Specific Recommendation Information](#)" section on the Panhellenic website.

### **Who can submit a reference?**

Each sorority has different rules about who can submit a reference for a PNM. Some organizations allow collegiate members at other universities to submit references while in other organizations only alumnae may submit them. Some organizations also accept third-party references or self-references.

Most organizations allow family members to submit an alumnae reference for PNMs who are relatives. If your reference writer has questions about her eligibility we encourage her to check with her membership organization. An alumnae (or active) member from any university may submit an alumnae reference, they do not have to have been a member of the chapter at UT.

Please see the "[Chapter-Specific Recommendation Information](#)" section on the Panhellenic website to learn more about each organizations specific policies.

### **What information should I provide for my reference writer?**

It is standard to provide a resume, a transcript, and 2 pictures (one head shot and one full body) in electronic form. Don't forget a thank you note as well!

### **How many references should I try to get? Should I try to get them for every chapter?**

We encourage all PNMs to actively seek recommendations for all chapters at UT. On average PNMs at UT submit 1-2 recommendations for each chapter.

## Can Panhellenic get references for me? What if I am having trouble finding women to submit references?

No, unfortunately UPC cannot help PNM's find references. It is an individual process for each PNM, either through your local Alumnae Panhellenic or by asking contacts you and your family have within your community.

If you are having trouble finding affiliated women in your networks you may have to get creative! Have family members post on social media that they are looking for sorority members- you may have family and friends that you didn't realize were affiliated. Have family members ask co-workers if they or anyone they know are sorority members. Ask guidance counselors, teachers, and coaches if they or anyone they know are affiliated. Keep in mind older friends that are sorority members at other universities may be able to submit a reference or know a recent graduate that can.

Third-party references and self-recommendations are another great way to introduce yourself to a chapter if you do not know an alumnae member, if that organization accepts them.

## Can I go through recruitment without reference letters?

Yes, you can still register and participate in recruitment without obtaining references. However, it is HIGHLY encouraged you seek out references for all of the chapters at UT. Try your best to find women willing to submit a reference, they only help the chapter to get to know you better. However, sometimes you won't be able to find a member of one or two chapters. In this case do not stress, chapters will still get to know you through your registration materials and through their conversations with you.

## What is the deadline for submitting recommendations/references?

The University Panhellenic Council has no set official deadline for recommendation letters or packets. However, we recommend that all reference materials be submitted to chapters by the first week in August at the latest.

Individual alumnae associations or groups may have independent deadlines to help facilitate their own internal processes. If you have questions regarding these deadlines we recommend reaching out to these individuals or organizations directly.

## Financial Information

### How much does it cost to be in a sorority?

It is important for students and parents to be informed of the costs associated with sorority membership. During recruitment PNM's are encouraged to ask sorority members about financial obligations and payment options as each sorority sets its own fees and housing costs as well as the payment schedules.

#### Required Fees

*\*The Fees below were collected in August 2021- please check the Panhellenic website throughout the summer for the most up to date information.*

Chapter dues fund chapter operations such as academic programs, sisterhood events, facility upkeep, philanthropy and service activities, alumni and parent events, and national dues. The ranges below reflect semester dues, room, and board information:

| Member Status/Semester   | Low Range  | High Range |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| New Member Fall Semester | \$1,547.50 | \$2,860.00 |

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| New Member Spring Semester                     | \$1,185.00 | \$2,790.00 |
| Active Member Living In-House per Semester*    | \$5,150.00 | \$7,178.00 |
| Active Member Living Out-of-House per Semester | \$1,023.00 | \$2,465.00 |

\*Includes room and board

#### Additional/Optional Fees

Additional costs throughout the semester may include parking at the chapter house\*, optional meal plans, pictures, gifts, social events, T-shirts, etc. \*\*Parking availability and cost will vary by chapter

Several chapters offer payment plans and scholarships for members who need financial assistance. It is important to understand that when you become a new member of a sorority you may still be held responsible for fees or payments required to fulfill your contract with the organization even if you decide to disaffiliate and end your membership.

## **About Sorority Life**

### **How long will it take to be initiated?**

The New Member period ranges from four to twelve weeks depending on the chapter. The new member period affords opportunities to meet other members, learn fraternity history and feel at home in the chapter. Each chapter follows a new member education program designed by their national organization. This is a great question to ask the active members as you meet them during recruitment.

### **What is hazing? Do sororities and fraternities haze?**

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental, or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of joining, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are primarily students.

Hazing is not tolerated at UT Austin and all students should feel safe joining and maintaining membership in an organization. However, hazing can occur in any student organization or team setting, including sororities and fraternities. If you know of someone being hazed or who has been hazed, it is your responsibility to help us shift the culture of hazing and report it to the Office of the Dean of Students. More information about the definition of hazing, hazing prevention initiatives, reporting hazing, and student organizations found in violation of hazing can be found at [hazing.utexas.edu](http://hazing.utexas.edu)

### **How much time does a sorority take?**

Being a member of a sorority is like taking another academic class. You can expect one chapter meeting each week, as well as other weekly programming such as study sessions, sisterhood activities, community service projects, and social events. As a new member you will also have new member education meetings. Taking on a leadership role, such as a committee chair or officer position entails more time commitments, but is extremely rewarding. Remember, the more you put into the sorority, the more you will get out of it!