

# Panhellenic Recruitment 2017

## 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)

### What is the Panhellenic Recruitment schedule?

Monday, August 21- Opening Convocation, 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.	Saturday, August 26—Sisterhood, 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 22 –Open House, 10:00 a.m.	Sunday, August 27—Preference 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 23 –Open House, 9:00 a.m.	Monday, August 28—Bid Day Convocation, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 24—Philanthropy, 12:00 p.m.	Tuesday, August 29—Day off
Friday, August 25—Philanthropy, 8:30 a.m.	Wednesday, August 30—Fall semester classes start

### Do I have to sign up at the college/university that I plan to attend and what is the procedure? What are the dates or deadlines to sign up with the college/university Panhellenic?

Every potential new member (PNM) planning on going through recruitment at The University of Texas at Austin must be registered with the University Panhellenic Council (UPC) and pay the registration fee. The link can be found online at [texasgreeks.com](http://texasgreeks.com) or [texaspanhellenic.com](http://texaspanhellenic.com) and will not be active until May 22nd. The deadline to register with UPC is August 3rd at 11:59pm.

### If I don't know where I am going to college, how do I sign up?

You can sign up with your local alumnae panhellenic group and ask alumnae to write recommendation letters when you are sure of the college you are attending. You may not register with the University Panhellenic Council, however, unless you are planning to attend UT Austin in the fall.

### Who participates in Panhellenic Formal Recruitment in the Fall?

UPC represents 14 NPC organizations. 13 will participate in Formal Recruitment for 2017. You are encouraged to still send recommendation letters for Sigma Delta Tau ( $\Sigma\Delta\tau$ ).

Alpha Chi Omega (AX $\Omega$ )	Chi Omega (X $\Omega$ )	Kappa Kappa Gamma (KK $\Gamma$ )
Alpha Delta Pi (A $\Delta$ PI)	Delta Delta Delta ( $\Delta\Delta\Delta$ )	Pi Beta Phi (PIB $\Phi$ )
Alpha Epsilon Phi (AE $\Phi$ )	Delta Gamma ( $\Delta\Gamma$ )	Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA)
Alpha Phi (A $\Phi$ )	Kappa Alpha Theta (KA $\Theta$ )	
Alpha Xi Delta (A $\Xi$ $\Delta$ )	Kappa Delta (K $\Delta$ )	

### Who is eligible for Recruitment?

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

- She is a regularly matriculated student at UT Austin. Any student who is enrolled and has been granted full-time status may participate, however each UPC organization has specific eligibility requirements.
- She must not be a new member or initiated member of any National Panhellenic Conference sorority

### A Note to PACE Students

Students participating in the Pathway to Admission through Co-Enrollment, also known as PACE, will have access to all of the benefits and privileges of a full time student at UT Austin. Participating in extracurricular activities, such as joining a sorority and fraternity, is encouraged and will enhance your experience in college.

- It is important to note that our sorority and fraternity partners each have individual membership requirements. 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 register for Recruitment? What are the deadlines for recruitment at your campus?**

The only group that you are required to register with for recruitment is The University of Texas University Panhellenic Council. Visit [www.texasgreeks.com](http://www.texasgreeks.com) and register online. Online Recruitment Registration will begin on May 22, 2017 and will conclude at 11:59pm on August 3, 2017. No paper applications will be accepted. Please do not register until you have a final high school GPA. You have all summer, so there is no rush and no advantages if you register early.

You will be asked to upload a photo as well as have the option to pay online, however it is acceptable to mail in your payment if you would rather not use the online payment option. In this case your check would follow the fee timeline listed below. Please make your check or money order payable to University Panhellenic Council and mail to:

The University Panhellenic Council  
Attn: Vice President Recruitment  
100 West Dean Keeton, A5800  
Austin, Texas 78712

#### Registration Fee Timeline:

\$125.00 if paid online by 11:59 p.m. or postmarked by July 17, 2017

\$150.00 if paid online or postmarked after July 17, 2017

### **How do I get invited to recruitment parties?**

During Formal Recruitment, you will be invited back based on your selection and the chapter's selection following each round. You will meet with your sorority recruitment counselor and they will distribute your schedule 1 hour prior to the rounds beginning each day and you will then know where you have received invitations for that round. Recruitment parties or any sorority gathering that occurs outside of the Formal Recruitment process in August, are strictly prohibited. You should not attend any kind of recruiting event that is not sanctioned by the University Panhellenic Council.

### **What is a legacy?**

A PNM is usually a legacy if a sister, mother, or grandmother has previously been an initiated member of a chapter. This can vary from chapter to chapter. For a complete listing, visit [texaspanhellenic.com](http://texaspanhellenic.com)

### **What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of being a legacy?**

The advantage of being a legacy is that you may know more about sorority life than someone who is not a legacy. At UT Austin, there are often times more legacies that participate than possible to take in a pledge class. Therefore, you need to understand that while it is a special connection you may have to a particular sorority, it will not guarantee you a place with the chapter. Keep an open mind and remember that you are meeting these women and this chapter for the first time. You are not obligated to go where you are a legacy.

### **What is a reference or recommendation letters?**

References and recommendation letters are written by sorority alumnae members and introduce a potential new member to the chapter and describe more about the potential new member's activities and interests.

A reference is most often a form that an alumnae member will find on their national website. Sometimes these are referred to as RIFs or MIS forms and are actually the chapter's responsibility to secure if they plan to pledge a woman. A recommendation letter, letter of support, or anything written and mailed to the chapter is supplemental to this process. Letters are helpful and appreciated similar to job recommendation letters. You may choose to have a reference or recommendation letters sent on your behalf to each sorority chapter and we encourage all potential new members to participate in this process.

## **Two ways to obtain a reference or recommendation**

- **Register with your local Alumnae Panhellenic** - This option provides an opportunity to get assistance with obtaining reference letters, possibly meet local area sorority alumnae and attend a recruitment information session. The registration form you complete for your local alumnae panhellenic will be very similar to the University Panhellenic Council form. Contact information for the local alumnae panhellenic representative nearest you is available online. 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, therefore you are advised to complete this part of the process as soon as possible.
- **You may seek out and obtain sorority alumnae to write letters on your behalf** - This option is completely acceptable and in some cases may allow you more control over the process. Many potential new members have been successful using their network in their town or city and while you may not have alumnae for every chapter in your area, do your best and realize that any information the chapter might gather about you in advance will help you stand out. You should initiate the request, however, the alumna writing the reference is solely responsible for obtaining the appropriate form from her national organization, completing the form and mailing it to the correct destination. You should not be involved in that process.

Once an alumna has offered or been asked to write a reference, she may request some information from you. The standard information to provide would be a resume of activities and interests, a picture of yourself that is clear and recognizable, and some may request your transcript.

Reference and recommendation letters **do not guarantee** a bid for membership, however they will help the chapters to know a little about you in advance. Many of our sororities require a reference from an alumna member of their sorority before a woman can join, however they are not essential for every sorority. Every year we have women participate in recruitment that did not have a reference or recommendation letter prior to the start of recruitment. If a chapter is interested in you becoming a member, they are well equipped to secure what they need to invite you to the next round or extend a bid to membership. All letters are mailed directly to the chapter house address.

## **Where do I get the forms the sorority alumnae will use for a reference?**

Usually the alumnae you go to for letters will have the appropriate forms ready to send to the chapter houses which she obtains from her own national organization. Often these forms are located on the national organization's website. It is the responsibility of the alumna reference writer to obtain the proper form.

## **What information should I provide to sorority alumnae who have offered to write a reference?**

The standard documents to provide would be a resume, a transcript, and 2 pictures (one head shot and one full body). Also, if you know that you will have many recommendation writers for one particular chapter, they do not need to receive your pictures in every letter...they will already have them. Please consider this when you are deciding who will send in your recommendation letters.

## **Can Panhellenic get references for me?**

The college panhellenic cannot get references for you. This is a process you must go through with your local alumnae panhellenic or by asking contacts you and your family have within your community. Last year, we had many women who posted on Facebook that they were in need of recommendation letters and were able to find family friends that they didn't realize were affiliated. You are always looking for people to recommend you that actually know you and can speak to your involvement and ability to be a compliment to the sorority.

## **Can college sorority members at your university write references for me? Can sorority members of my own family write a reference form for me?**

Collegiate members may write letters of support if they are so compelled, however, the chapter will not weigh them the same as an alumnae letter. You can, however, be recommended by your sorority family members and as long as they are alumnae members, they can fill out the reference form on your behalf.

### **Can I go through recruitment without a reference?**

You may go through the process without a reference from alumnae, but many houses require at least one letter from an alumna member of the chapter (this member needs to be an alumna member, but can be from any chapter in the country, not just the UT chapter).

### **Do I need a reference from every sorority on campus even if I am not interested in some of them?**

Since you are responsible for seeking out reference letters from alumnae, it is your prerogative to only get references for certain houses. However, this will only hinder your process and may limit your choices when it comes time to choose a chapter to join. We encourage everyone to try to get a letter for all chapters on campus. Attending UT Austin with an open mind about joining a sorority chapter is very important.

### **Where are the Panhellenic sororities located at The University of Texas at Austin? Where can I mail my recommendation form?**

There are 14 Panhellenic chapters represented on campus. The addresses below are located in Austin, TX 78705. Recommendation forms are mailed directly to the chapter house.

Alpha Chi Omega, 2420 Nueces	Chi Omega, 2711 Rio Grande	Kappa Kappa Gamma, 2001 University
Alpha Delta Pi, 2620 Rio Grande	Delta Delta Delta, 503 West 27th St.	Pi Beta Phi, 2300 San Antonio
Alpha Epsilon Phi, 2500 Rio Grande	Delta Gamma, 2419 Rio Grande	Sigma Delta Tau, 405 West 22 <sup>nd</sup> St.
Alpha Phi, 2005 University Avenue	Kappa Alpha Theta, 2401 Pearl	Zeta Tau Alpha, 2711 Nueces
Alpha Xi Delta, 2508 Rio Grande	Kappa Delta, 2315 Nueces	

### **What is the financial obligation for Sorority membership?**

It is important for students and parents to be as informed as possible regarding the costs associated with obtaining a college education. Understanding the financial obligations associated with sorority membership is just as important. During formal recruitment, a potential member should 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 *\*these numbers are being updated now – check website for accurate numbers later in the semester*

Chapter fees fund various activities of the organization such as academic programs, service activities, alumni and parent events, national dues and lifetime membership. The ranges below reflect semester dues, room, and board information:

<b>Member Status/Semester</b>	<b>Low Range</b>	<b>High Range</b>
New Member Fall Semester	\$1607.00	\$2846.00
New Member Spring Semester	\$1112.00	\$1948.00
Active Member Living In-House per Semester*	\$4700.00	\$6615.00
Active Member Living Out-of-House per Semester	\$1222.00	\$1846.00

\*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 at the University of Texas at Austin offer payment plans and scholarships for members who need financial assistance. Please note that when you become a new member of a sorority, you are affiliating with that organization. If at any time you decide to disaffiliate, you may still be held responsible for fees or payments required to fulfill your contract with the organization.

### **Should I visit your campus while still in high school and get acquainted with actives from one sorority?**

You should not visit the campus with the intention of meeting sorority women. We have a no contact policy that is in effect for most of the spring and all of the summer. It is helpful for you to assist your friends in this

process by not communicating on facebook or other social media outlets as well as not making plans to visit them. You should not be meeting affiliated members until the week of recruitment in August.

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

Yes! Orientation allows you to take placement tests, to earn college credit, pre-register for classes and become acquainted with the campus. It is wise to take placement tests in the summer, or you may have to take them during Recruitment Week and be unable to attend recruitment events. A session on Sorority and Fraternity Life will be presented as a program during Orientation. Please come to meet representatives of the community and to ask any questions you may have.

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

This is called summer recruitment and the UPC policy is that no chapter should engage in summer recruitment activities of any kind. Chapters that do not abide by this policy are breaking the rules and will be subject to sanctions by their national organization. It is wise to think twice about joining a chapter that would knowingly break the rules.

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

The UT Austin Panhellenic Community has a sophomore quota, which is a process that allows for an increased placement of sophomores in all chapters during formal recruitment. Over 211 sophomores received a bid to membership in 2016.

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

You will live where you plan to reside during the school year. You will need to contact your residence hall to find out what the move-in date is and to make the appropriate arrangements, as there may be a prorated cost associated with early move-in.

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

No. The chapter houses are within walking distance of the residence halls. The University Panhellenic Council encourages you to take safety precautions such as going in groups and crossing streets carefully. Because parking will be COMPLETELY UNAVAILABLE, potential new members cannot drive or be driven. Privately chartered buses will be provided by the University Panhellenic Council each day to help potential new members get between the furthest distances in a timely manner to or from any recruitment event or convocation.

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

There is a required meeting once a week where you will exchange information on chapter events and fraternity education. Weekly chapter study sessions are a programming option for all members, in addition to events like sisterhood activities, community service projects, and social events. Remember, the more you put into the sorority, the more you will get out of it.

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

Most chapters have moved to a period which ranges from four to twelve weeks. The new-member period affords opportunities to meet other members, learn fraternity history and feel at home in the chapter. Each chapter establishes its own new-member program and initiation dates. This is a great question to ask the active members as you meet them during recruitment.

### **What is Spring Recruitment?**

The University of Texas University Panhellenic Council does not sponsor or organize a formal spring recruitment. Some chapters continue to recruit and pledge women throughout the school year. Events are organized and scheduled at each chapter's convenience. If you want the opportunity to interact with all fourteen of our sororities before making your sorority choice, then you should participate in fall formal recruitment.