Culturally Based Greek-Letter Organization Membership Intake Guide

What is a Culturally Based Greek-Letter Organization (CBGLO)?
A sorority or fraternity that incorporates a specific culture(s) into its ritual, purpose, activities, and ceremonies. Some member organizations of Affiliate groups, as well as the Latino Pan-Hellenic, Multicultural Greek, National Pan-Hellenic, and Texas Asian Pan-Hellenic Councils are all culturally based. While many of these chapters represent a cultural interest, none of the organizations are exclusive to any single race, ethnicity, or nationality.

Why join a culturally-based sorority or fraternity?
Joining an organization gives students the opportunity to build strong relationships with each other through sisterhood and brotherhood. The sorority or fraternity is not only a support system, but it also provides students with similar lived experiences with opportunities to serve the community, develop leadership skills and strengthen academics. Each organization is committed to supporting and empowering the community as well as giving back.

Who is eligible for join?
Participants must be enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin full-time and cannot have been initiated into another single-sex, social sorority or fraternity. Each fraternity/sorority sets its own individual membership requirements in order to be eligible to join. Many, but not all, organizations require interested students to have completed a certain number of credit hours at UT Austin in order to be eligible.

What is a bid?
A bid is a formal invitation to join a fraternity/sorority. Bids may be given at any time both verbally and/or in writing, dependent on the traditions of each organization. Potential members may receive multiple bids from different fraternities/sororities, but may only accept one.

General Items to Know
1. Each organization does have a GPA, completed hours, and enrollment status requirements for membership. Some chapters accept first-term freshmen while others do not.
2. Some organizations host a “Rush Week,” where prospective members can learn more about the organizations to determine if they would like to pursue membership at the end of Rush Week.
3. If you are a first-term freshman interested in joining a Sorority or Fraternity but the organization(s) of interest do not accept first-term freshmen, and does not host a “Rush Week,” there are still important steps to take.
   a. **Earn the grades!** It is important that you have a great academic start at UT Austin. Focus on exceeding the minimum GPA requirement. Check out the Academic Success Center for more resources!
   b. **Get to know the members and the organizations!** Whether you are extremely familiar with sororities and fraternities, or know nothing at all, it is important that you get to know the members and the organizations AND for the members to get to know you. Use the semester to attend each chapters’ events and interest meetings to determine what the best fit is for you. You
can learn of events and meetings from the various campus event calendars, sign-up on the chapters email list, follow the chapter on social media, and look for flyers around campus. Just remember to be yourself.

c. **Learn more!** Take the opportunity during three-day weekends and breaks to learn more about the organizations by reading some suggested books:

d. **Service hours!** Giving back to the community is an important facet to culturally based fraternal organizations. Chapters volunteer weekly, monthly, and annually in areas of need in the community. Volunteer with the Student Activities Leadership and Service Center or on your own to earn service hours.

e. **Recommendations!** Many of the chapters require letters of recommendation as a requirement for membership. The recommendation letters can come from mentors, employers, professors, as well as members from the organization. Be sure to remain in contact with people you know and develop key relationships with faculty and staff on campus.

f. **Involvement & Leadership!** Another requirement, by some of the chapters, is your current involvement on campus and or in the community. Find an organization to join and be an active participant by serving on a committee or in a leadership role.

g. **Save up!** All organization require a new member fee. Depending on the organization, the fee can range from $250-$2,500. Begin saving money now so you are ready when the time comes. If you don’t join, at least you saved some money!

These organizations will notify interested students of their membership intake timelines when that information is available for distribution. Be patient. Take your time. Enjoy the journey