

GREEK LIFE TERMS

Active: a formal initiated member of a fraternity or sorority

Alumnae: a sorority member who has graduated from college

Alumnus: a fraternity member who has graduated from college

Badge(pin): the insignia that designates your Greek organization

Bid: a formal invitation to join a Greek organization

Brother: a term used when referring to other members of a Fraternity

Call/Chant: A vocal sound (sometimes high-pitched) used by members of cultural based greek organizations to acknowledge one another

Chapter: name for the local organization of a national fraternity/sorority

Crossed: The actual date of initiation into a cultural greek organization. The term is used to represent the symbolic "crossing of the burning sands"

Fraternity: a Greek organization for men

Greek: a member of a fraternity or sorority

Interfraternity Council (IFC): the representative body governing fraternities

Initiation: the traditional ritual, which brings the new member into full membership

Legacy: a prospective member who has a family member in the same fraternity or sorority

Line: The members of a cultural greek organization new member class

Minority Greek Council (MGC): representative body for historically minority Greek organizations

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC): the representative body of national sororities

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC): the representative body governing national historically black Greek organizations

Neophyte: A new member of a cultural greek organization

New Member/Associate: a member who has not been initiated

New Member Pin: a pin that designates a new member of a Greek organization

New Member Recruitment: the continual process of recruiting members for a Greek organization (usually IFC and NPC)

Philanthropy: the chapter's specific charitable organization(s) that they donate money and volunteer hours

Presidents' Council: the governing body encompassing all chapter presidents. Provides speakers for campus, organizes and coordinates Greek 101 and Greek Week.

Recruitment Guide (Rho Gamma): a disaffiliated member of an organization who assists potential members through the recruitment process.

Ritual: the traditional ceremonies of a chapter, which are usually secret

Potential: a term for men or women being recruited by a Greek organization

Sister: a term used when referring to other members of a sorority

Sorority: a Greek organization for women

Strict Silence: not discussing recruitment with non-sorority members outside of the recruitment events

Stroll: A line dance done by members of cultural greek organizations (usually at a party or step show)

Other Terms:

Sisterhood/Brotherhood: Intangible, yet the most cherished of assets among all Greek members, sisterhood and brotherhood are the foundations of sorority and fraternity life. Both are difficult to explain, but they can be basically characterized by their most common and identifiable element.

Scholarship: The Greek system at GVSU strives for high scholarship. A minimum grad point average is required by sororities and fraternities in order to become an initiated member. Each chapter has a scholarship program to provide incentives, coordinate study hours, and to encourage members to achieve their highest academic goals.

Leadership: Many leadership opportunities are available within the Greek community. Not only are officer positions available in each chapter, but also Greek affiliation opens doors to organizations all over campus.

Community Service: Philanthropies provide opportunities for Greeks to participate in community and national service projects. Not all donations are monetary. Many hours of time have been donated as well. All of these experiences are very rewarding and result in a great sense of accomplishment.

Alumni/Alumnae: Sorority and Fraternity membership is a lifetime association. After your graduation you will always have a group to return to for homecoming and alumni weekends. Alumni are the backbone of sororities and fraternities. They contribute experience to strengthen each chapter. They also can be contributing factors in your life and future endeavors.

Social: The Greek system at GVSU offers a well-rounded social life, and provides the opportunity for developing lifelong friendships. Many activities are organized not only to become closer to one's sisters and brothers, but to members of other chapters as well. Men and women get together for original theme parties, and informal or formal dances that provide many rewarding and fun memories.

Greek Week: A special week each year where all the Greeks come together. This week includes such events as Greek games, tug-of-war, and Greek Lip-sync. Greek Week at Grand Valley State University helps promote unity within the Greek system.

Greek 101: A retreat to educate the newly inducted members of the Greek System.

