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| **Active** | An initiated member of a fraternity or sorority; also known as an initiate. |
| **Alumnae(i)** | Initiated sorority women (fraternity men) who have completed their work at college. [Alumnus - singular male, Alumni - plural males, Alumna - singular female, Alumnae - plural females] |
| **Bid** | An official invitation to join a fraternity or sorority. |
| **Big** | Each new member receives a mentor in a ceremony before or closely after initiation that is usually chosen by the member themselves. This member serves as a committed guide and helping hand not only for four years of college but also through life. This mentor is called a “Big” (Big Brother/Sister) and the new member is referred to as a “Little”. |
| **Blue Card** | At Lynchburg College, this is a card prospective new members sign to allow the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor to check their grades and judicial record for eligibility requirements. |
| **Chapter** | A branch of a national fraternity or sorority. Also refers to a weekly meeting of an organization. |
| **Continuous Open Bidding/Recruitment** | Commonly referred to as COB/COR, fraternities or sororities can continue to hold open recruitment events during the fall or spring after the main recruitment weeks to recruit. |
| **Deferred Recruitment** | At some schools like Lynchburg College, Greek life holds Deferred Recruitment, which means that the more formal recruitment occurs in the spring semester and this is when freshmen can start to join. The primary reason for this is that it allows members of the freshman class to establish their academic priorities and the chance to gain leadership experience in other areas of campus life. |
| **Dry recruitment**  | The rule which forbids the use of alcohol during any Recruitment event for both fraternities and sororities.  |
| **Hazing** | The illegal practice of a person inflicting any type of abuse (mental or physical) to another person. Lynchburg College and the Commonwealth of Virginia have strict policies against hazing. |
| **Interfraternity Council** | Governing council for all North-American Interfraternity Conference fraternities. Known as IFC. |
| **Initiation** | A formal ceremony whereby a new member assumes full membership with lifetime benefits and responsibilities. |
| **Legacy** | A term for a prospective member whose grandfather/mother, father/mother, or brother/sister is a member of a Greek Organization. The family member’s membership in the organization makes his or her relative a legacy to that organization. |
| **New member** | A student who has accepted a bid and matriculates through the new member process prior to the initiation. **In Sigma Nu, this member is referred to as a Candidate.** |
| **Panhellenic Council** | Governing council for all National Panhellenic Sororities. Known as NPC/PC. |
| **Pan-Hellenic Council** | Governing council for all National Pan-Hellenic organizations. Known as NPHC/PHC. |
| **Prospective Member/Potential New Member** | Student who participates in the recruitment process. Commonly referred to as a PNM. |
| **Ritual** | Traditional ceremonies, shared by initiated members of the same fraternity or sorority. |
| **Recruitment**  | The formal or informal period during which fraternities and sororities invite prospective members learn more about chapter. |