



# A GUIDE TO CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING

## INFORMATION FOR CHAPTER LEADERS

We, the women of the Panhellenic Council at K-State, will work collaboratively to strive for unity, excellence and service to others by upholding our commitment to the fraternal values upon which our organizations were founded. We will live up to these standards by fostering opportunities for exceptional scholarship and leadership development, while building lifelong bonds of sisterhood.

### PANHELLENIC COUNCIL AT K-STATE MISSION STATEMENT

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# AN INTRODUCTION LETTER

Dear Potential New Member,

I'm thrilled to see your interest in sorority life and COB—our informal recruitment process.

COB allows chapters to fill spots until their group reaches the allowable size (total) or their new member class size (quota). COB begins immediately following the distribution of bids until the end of the academic semester. With COB, the chapters host recruitment events to get to know the potential new members (PNMs). Some past events include zoom calls, bowling, dinner at the chapter facility, coffee or ice cream dates, etc. Once a sorority recruitment interest form has been filled out, participating chapters will be provided with your contact information. Chapters will reach out to you to invite you to recruitment events. Each chapter will move at a different pace throughout the recruitment process, but you can expect the majority of recruiting to occur during the first half of the semester.

Throughout the COB process, you may be invited to events for more than one chapter. It is completely acceptable to attend events for multiple chapters throughout the decision process. If not interested in a chapter that reaches out to you, politely decline their invitation in a timely manner. If there is a chapter who you are particularly interested in feel free to reach out to them directly.

Any unaffiliated woman student is eligible for COB as long as she has not signed a MRABA in the last calendar year. Entering freshmen are recommended to have a 3.0 cumulative high school GPA, and upperclassmen are recommended to have a 2.75 cumulative GPA. Each potential member should be aware that individual chapters will be following grade requirement guidelines set forth by their national councils. As well as specific membership guidelines.

If you have any questions throughout the process, please reach out to me!

K-State Proud,  
Savannah Otto  
savannahotto@ksu.edu

# GETTING STARTED



**FALL CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING BEGINS THE  
FIRST TUESDAY OF THE TERM**  
**SPRING CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING BEGINS THE  
FIRST WEEK OF THE TERM**

## THE PROCESS

Whenever you are interested in beginning the COB process, the sorority recruitment interest form may be filled out on our website. This form will provide participating chapters with your contact information. We recommend filling out a complete profile to give chapters an accurate look at your extracurriculars, academics, and interests.

If you are interested in seeing which chapters are participating, please visit our website: [fslatksate.com](http://fslatksate.com) We will do our best to only list chapters who are actively participating in the process.

Chapters typically engage in the COB process during the first few weeks of the semester, as they hope to get you acclimated to the chapter and begin the new member education process. As such, we suggest you begin your process early in the semester as chapters may not recruit past October in the fall and March in the spring. You may be asked to grab coffee, attend a sisterhood event, visit the chapter facility, etc. as the women of the chapter get to know you and you get to know them. Use this time to ask questions, learn about the chapter and what their sisterhood experience and expectations are.

You can go through the process with multiple chapters at a time - you are not bound to only one chapter until you have been offered and accepted a bid from them. Some chapters may ask that you accept/decline a bid within a certain time frame. This is typical, but you also can ask them for more time if you need it in your decision-making process.

No matter the term, once a bid has been extended and accepted, a signed Membership Recruitment Acceptance Binding Agreement (MRABA) must be submitted to PHC within 24 hours of bid acceptance. A signed Membership Acceptance binds a potential member to the NPC chapter until the next primary recruitment (PHC at Kansas State has primary recruitment each fall semester). If you have any questions regarding the process, please reach out to our director of COB and retention, whose contact information is on the previous page. She will be happy to connect you to the necessary resources or provide further guidance.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **WHAT IS COB?**

Continuous Open Bidding is an option for women interested in joining the Fraternity & Sorority Life experience in a different manner than Primary Panhellenic Recruitment. Not all chapters participate in COB, so the options may vary each semester. When a chapter's membership total falls below the number of women allowed, they become eligible for COB. These chapters then recruit women to join their chapters to reach to total.

## **WHEN DOES COB OCCUR?**

COB begins in the fall on the last day following Primary Panhellenic Recruitment and continues through the last day of classes in the Spring Semester.

## **HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE?**

You are eligible to participate in COB if you are currently enrolled at K-State and have not accepted a bid from a Panhellenic chapter within the calendar year.

## **ARE THERE ANY CURRENT OPENINGS/CHAPTERS IN THE COB PROCESS?**

Chapters participating in COB are listed on the Fraternity and Sorority Life website. Chapters will vary depending on their space availability.

## **HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR COB?**

You can fill out a sorority recruitment interest form on the Fraternity and Sorority Life website. [www.fslatkstate.com](http://www.fslatkstate.com)

## **WHEN WILL THE CHAPTER CONTACT ME?**

Chapters will contact you on their own time basis. Please remember that these women conducting recruitment for their chapters are also college students, so every chapter's schedule is different.

## **CAN I REACH OUT TO A CHAPTER TO PERSONALLY EXPRESS INTEREST?**

Yes, contact information for each chapter's recruitment chair can be found on Fraternity and Sorority Life website. Or you can reach out through the chapters social media.

## **WHAT DO COB RECRUITMENT EVENTS LOOK LIKE?**

COB recruitment events are by invitation from participating chapters and are typically informal. They can range from being invited to a chapter's formal dinner to a coffee date or even a zoom call.



# PANHELLENIC RECRUITMENT VOCABULARY

## Alumna/alumnae (feminine)

A women's fraternity or sorority member/s who is/are no longer a member of a collegiate chapter.

## Bid

An invitation to join a sorority.

## Chapter

A membership unit of a national/international sorority.

## Fraternity

A values-based, social organization with a formed brotherhood and common principles.

## House director/housemother

A woman who lives in the sorority house, who serves as a "parent away from home" and cares for all of the women living in the sorority house. The house director may manage the house, supervise kitchen responsibilities and/or serve as the official hostess for chapter events.

## Interfraternity Council (IFC)

The collegiate governing body of the fraternities led by student members.

## Legacy

A relationship through a family member (mother, sister or grandmother). There is no standard policy regarding legacies and invitations for membership. Each chapter or national/international organization defines legacy differently. See the column to the right for legacy information.

## NPC

National Panhellenic Conference: A governing body composed of delegates from 26 women's national sororities, each autonomous as a social, Panhellenic letter society of college women, undergraduate and alumnae.

## New member

A woman who has accepted a bid but is not yet an initiated member.

## Panhellenic Council (PHC)

The collegiate governing body of the National Panhellenic Conference women's fraternities or sororities led by student members.

## Potential new member (PNM)

Any woman interested in becoming a sorority member who is matriculated and eligible according to Panhellenic requirements.

## Recruitment

The process of joining a sorority. The recruitment period is organized and implemented by the College Panhellenic Council. No longer referred to as rush.

## Total

Total is the allowable chapter size as determined by Panhellenic, and it includes both new members and initiated members. College Panhellenics are required to review total each academic term – within 72 hours of bid distribution for the term during which primary recruitment is held and within one week.

## LEGACY INFORMATION

A legacy is a potential new member who is the sister, daughter or granddaughter of a sorority alumna. Being a legacy does NOT guarantee membership into a sorority. Legacy status can be indicated when registering online. Please have the alumna member send a legacy introduction form and letter of recommendation directly to her sorority, as sororities will need to verify the information. Many legacy policies have been updated so talk to chapter.

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## Chapters at K-State

Alpha Chi Omega

Alpha Delta Pi

Alpha Gamma Delta

Alpha Xi Delta

Chi Omega

Delta Delta Delta

Gamma Phi Beta

Kappa Alpha Theta

Kappa Delta

Kappa Kappa Gamma

Pi Beta Phi

Sigma Kappa

Zeta Tau Alpha

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## Additional Resources

Follow @PHCatkstate on Instagram for updates on what is happening in the Panhellenic community on our campus

Follow @sororitysocialmedia on Instagram to get tips and information about all things sorority life