

UCA Sorority FAQ

Does it cost a lot to be a sorority member?

Joining a sorority does carry a financial commitment. Each chapter is self-supporting through dues paid by their members. When you join a Greek letter organization, you are also agreeing to pay dues and fees while in school to maintain membership. Each sorority has different dues for membership that cover such things as local and national dues, Panhellenic Council dues, social fee, chapter suite rent, and other miscellaneous costs.

Your first semester always tends to be the most expensive; one-time costs are assessed during the first semester such as an Initiation Fee, cost of the sorority badge, required shirts, etc. UCA sororities range from \$500-650 for the first semester. After you are initiated, semester costs range from \$250-\$350. There can also be *optional* costs added such as a themed mixer shirt or costs associated with attending the sorority's formal. Most chapters offer monthly payment plans or have other accommodations for special needs; it is important to discuss the financial obligation with your parent(s) before you decide to join.

Will being in a sorority affect my grades?

Greek letter organizations were founded on the principle of successful scholarship. This value is reflected in the sorority grade point consistently being above the university's GPA. In the Fall 2008 semester, the all sorority cumulative GPA was a 3.26 with the all female average at a 2.82. Academic success is in the student's favor when you factor in help from fellow sisters, study halls and sessions, study skills workshops, test taking strategies, time management, and class scheduling assistance. The Greek Life and Panhellenic community also provide a number of incentives and recognition to those Greeks who achieve academically.

Will I still be able to work while in a sorority?

In today's economy, very few students attend college without outside employment. The sororities recognize this and work with members to meet financial and attendance obligations. Many student find sorority membership an advantage in that networking with alumnae sometimes produces job possibilities and referrals.

What does "deferred recruitment" mean?

UCA practices "deferred recruitment" which means we *defer* our Formal Recruitment process to January rather than holding it before or immediately when school starts in the Fall. In order to participate in the recruitment process, the university requires that all students have completed a minimum of 12 college credit hours and a minimum 2.3 grade point average. Transitional courses and concurrent hours do not count towards the required hours for Greek membership.

The university does not round up to a 2.3 cumulative GPA. If you have a 2.29, it will stand at a 2.29 and will not round to a 2.3. In addition, if you are registered for but do not complete 12 hours, you will not be able to participate in the recruitment process. If you receive an incomplete in a class and it brings you below 12 hours, you will not be able to participate in recruitment. The Greek Life Office will begin to check grades the week after finals are concluded; you will be notified then if you do not meet the minimum requirements.

It is important to remember that the Panhellenic sororities have a higher minimum grade point average than the university requirements. You can see each chapter's membership requirements at the [chapter profiles page](#). While it is at the discretion of each individual sorority to consider a woman below a 2.5 but above a 2.3 GPA, the sororities cannot take a woman who does not meet the 2.3 GPA requirement.

What is a PNM?

The acronym PNM stands for Potential New Member. A PNM is a non-member who is eligible to participate in the recruitment process and visits Greek organizations with an interest in possibly affiliating with one organization.

What is a Pi Chi?

A Pi Chi is a disaffiliated sorority member who acts as your counselor or guide during Formal Recruitment. She is your go-to-girl during the recruitment process.

What is a legacy?

A legacy is a close relative of a member of a particular sorority (usually mothers, grandmothers, and sisters). Each sorority has a different policy on recruiting legacies. Talk to the woman that you are a legacy through about if there are steps you need to take to make the chapter aware that you are a legacy. When you register for Formal Recruitment, there will be a place to indicate if you are a legacy; be sure to indicate the individual's name, including maiden name, and the university they attended.

I am a legacy – am I guaranteed a bid?

Legacies are not guaranteed a bid – no PNM is guaranteed a bid. However, it is your personality, character, resume, and academic achievements that are the main determining factors. It is important for you to find a sorority that shares the same values as you and is where you feel comfortable.

How long will it take to be initiated?

Six to ten weeks. The new member period affords opportunities to meet other members, learn sorority history and feel at home. Each sorority establishes its own new member program and initiation dates. The university and all sororities have zero tolerance for hazing.

What is a recommendation? Do I have to have one?

A recommendation is a letter or form that is written or completed on your behalf that speaks of your character, accomplishments, grades, and activities from a woman who has already been in that particular sorority. A letter of recommendation can be helpful, but is not required by the sororities at UCA. You can begin this process by informing family friends, teachers, family members, neighbors, or older women you may know that you are participating in formal recruitment at UCA. The alumnae can either write a personal letter of recommendation or obtain a standard recommendation form from her chapter's national headquarters. Letters of recommendation must be sent directly to individual chapters at the addresses listed below.

Alpha Sigma Alpha
Attn: Recruitment Director
201 Donaghey
UCA PO Box 2028
Conway, AR 72035

Alpha Sigma Tau
Attn: Recruitment Director
201 Donaghey
UCA PO Box 2029
Conway, AR 72035

Delta Zeta
Attn: Recruitment Director
201 Donaghey
UCA PO Box 2031
Conway, AR 72035

Sigma Kappa
Attn: Recruitment Director
201 Donaghey
UCA PO Box 2039
Conway, AR 72035

Sigma Sigma Sigma
Attn: Recruitment Director
201 Donaghey
UCA PO Box 2042
Conway, AR 72035

How do I know if a chapter received by recommendation?

You will not. You have to trust the alumna who you have contacted to complete the recommendation on her own. If you send her a thank you note, it helps to remind her.

How does an alumna find a recommendation form for her sorority?

A recommendation form and procedure should be available to the alumnae through her national organization's website and/or magazine.

Facebook/My Space Suggestions

Be mindful that although Facebook and My Space are great ways to communicate and share information, you will want to be selective of information and pictures you place on your profiles. Inappropriate behavior portrayed could send the wrong message to people who do not know you. Remember that these accounts are public.

If you have any other questions about Sorority Recruitment, contact the Panhellenic Council at ucapanhellenic@hotmail.com and we will be happy to answer them!