

Glossary

Sorority

A group of women banded together for social and educational purposes.

Alpha Chi Omega

The first musical fraternity founded on October 15, 1885 by seven students in the school of music at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Alpha Chi Omega promotes an appreciation of the fine arts and its motto is "Together let us seek the heights."

Sister

A term used within a women's fraternity when referring to other initiated members.

Bid

A formal invitation to join a sorority.

Badge

A golden lyre with pearls and/or diamonds worn by initiated members of Alpha Chi Omega who are in good standing.

Lyre

The instrument of the Greek gods, the symbol and badge of Alpha Chi Omega

Chapter

The local group of a national sorority.

Ritual

The traditional, sacred ceremonies of a chapter, which are usually secret.

Initiation

The ceremony in which a new member becomes a full active member.

Legacy

A potential member who has a mother, grandmother or sister that is a member of a sorority.

Hera

Greek goddess and patron goddess of Alpha Chi Omega

Hera Day

March 1, a day recognized by Alpha Chi Omegas to give personal service for the happiness and well-being of others.

Philanthropy

Community service and fundraising efforts to promote human welfare. Alpha Chi Omega's national altruism is domestic violence awareness.

Mystagogue

An initiated member assigned to a new member to be her guide and counselor in all matters pertaining to the sorority.

MacDowell Month

A month to celebrate the fine arts in honor of the MacDowell Colony which was Alpha Chi Omega's first altruistic project, an artist's colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Hazing

Persecuting or harassing with humiliating tasks, words or actions. Hazing is strictly prohibited by Alpha Chi Omega, as well as all national fraternities and sororities.

Dues

Fees for a sorority membership.

New Member

The title given to a potential member from the time she accepts a bid until the time she is actually initiated.

New Member Education

A period of time spent learning about sorority life prior to initiation.

Membership Standards

These standards are the foundation upon which membership in Alpha Chi Omega is based. Academic interest, character, financial responsibility, leadership ability and personal development.

Membership Status

One's standing with the sorority.

National Panhellenic Conference

The governing body for women's sororities.