

Continuous Open Bidding (COB) Recruitment Rules
National Panhellenic Council (NPC) Chapter Recruitment
University of California, Merced
Fall 2017

It is the understanding that these are the rules to be followed for National Panhellenic Council (NPC) Sorority Recruitment at UC Merced. Organizations are responsible for educating individual members on all recruitment rules and procedures. All Continuous Open Bidding rules laid out in the NPC of Manual of Information as seen on Page 105, shall be followed; any moderations to the NPC rules are clarified below policy:

Each NPC sorority chapter has the right to COB to reach quota or its total allowable chapter size during the regular school year as defined by the school calendar.

To accommodate the colonization of a chapter or to allow a chapter to build its membership, the College Panhellenic may vote to suspend continuous open bidding (COB) for a period not to exceed three weeks.

COB is not intended to precede or take the place of the primary membership recruitment period, nor should there be a COB process prior to the start of fall primary membership recruitment.

The purpose of COB is to enable those chapters that did not pledge to quota or pledged quota but did not reach total, to pledge additional new members immediately following the primary membership recruitment period. The intent of COB is to provide maximum opportunities for membership to the greatest number of chapters possible.

On campuses with deferred (second term) membership recruitment, any COB prior to the scheduled membership recruitment period should be limited to upper-class and transfer women. Freshmen women should not attend these recruitment functions. COB would not be open to freshmen until after the primary membership recruitment period, as provided for in the Unanimous Agreement III. The Panhellenic Compact.

1) Potential New Member

a) Definition

- i) A potential new member (PNM) is defined as any full-time undergraduate student who is not a member of a social fraternity or sorority until the student receives a bid/invitation to membership.

b) Eligibility

- i) Students must be registered for recruitment online through Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) in order to join a NPC sorority chapter 48 hours before bids are distributed. This registration will be coordinated through the UC Merced Qualtrics.

- ii) The PNM can attend chapter recruitment events prior to registration.
- iii) The PMN must be a full-time, undergraduate student with a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.5, based on at least 12 earned college or university credit hours and be in good standing with the University to be eligible for membership.
 - (1) The GPA and credit hours can be from any college or university, but must be earned post high school graduation.
 - (2) Proficiency or examination credits do not qualify.
 - (a) Students must not currently be affiliated with any social sorority or have been previously initiated by any social sorority in order to be eligible to join.

2) Events

- a) No recruitment events may occur outside of the COB recruitment period as defined by the FSC and FSL.
- b) Any event sponsored or co-sponsored by a sorority that takes place between the first day of Fall 2017 COB recruitment and Bid Day where PNMs are present may be considered a recruitment event.
- c) Fall Continuous Open Bidding (COB) Recruitment Events will be defined by the chapters' national headquarters and will comply with dates set by the FSL.

3) COB Recruitment Period

- a) Dry period will begin during the "Go FSL Week" period on the first day of Fall instruction and will end at 11:59pm on Bid Day. All active members shall refrain from consuming alcohol or being present where alcohol is being served. Resources for addiction will be sent out to the community prior to the beginning of the Dry Period.
- b) COB recruitment can only take place during the fall recruitment period, set by FSC, in the beginning of the fall semester.

4) COB Recruitment

- a) Only active members, chapter advisors and staff, and PNMs may attend any event. Outside entertainment are not permitted to attend any event. All events are single-sex events.
- b) Only non-alcoholic beverages may be served at events. No alcohol is ever permitted at a recruitment event. Prepackaged light snacks may be served only by organizations that have completed the Food Handling Training. No food may be cooked or prepared by the organization or brought from home.
- c) Sororities are not permitted to provide potential new members with gifts or party favors. Any new item with which a potential new member exits an event will be considered a gift.

5) COB Event Logistics

- a) Rooms
 - i) Organizations that damage rooms or requires additional cleaning will be responsible for paying fines to the University office that manages that facility.
- b) Bids/Invitation Distribution

- i) A formal bid is an official invitation to join a sorority, which is distinguished by the offer of a formal letter (bid card) delivered by the FSL Advisor or EVP of Panhellenic on behalf of the NPC sorority.
- ii) A student must be registered for recruitment in order to receive a bid.
- iii) Bid Day shall be the only day during Fall COB Recruitment that bids are to be handed out.
- iv) The FSC and Fraternity and Sorority Life coordinate this day and reserve the right to approve bid cards and Bid Day events hosted by the chapters after bids have been extended.
- v) The maximum number of bids distributed from the chapter should bring chapters up to the NPC chapter total.

6) Sanctions

- a) Any person involved in recruitment including members, Rho Alphas, and potential new members are honor bound to report any violation of the rules described in this document in writing to the EVP of Panhellenic, the FSC President, or the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life utilizing the supplementary documents and procedure.
- b) Fines may only be assessed for measurable violations as described in this document under Section H. All fine money may only be used to cover recruitment expenses as approved by the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life in collaboration with the FSC Vice President Administration.
- c) The Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life will hear either by mediation or by formal hearing all violations to the rules.
- d) Individual(s) or chapter(s) filing a grievance(s) should submit that to the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- e) Chapters will be allowed to continue in the recruitment process while a trial is pending.
- f) Sanctions may not restrict a chapter from recruiting new members, nor affect quota, and should aim to fit the violation committed and be educational in nature when possible.
- g) Judicial consequences will be referred to the Fraternity and Sorority Life Coordinator and the Administrative Review Process.
- h) No penalty may exceed the duration of one calendar year.
- i) Most sanction practices are defined in the NPC Manual of Information.

7) Finances

- a) Registration Fees
 - i) There will be no registration fees for students to participate in the recruitment process.
- b) Recruitment Funding
 - i) Sororities are expected to fund their own recruitment expenses including facilities, food and soft drinks, decorations, etc.