

MIT Panhellenic Fall 2020 Recruitment

Potential New Member FAQs

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About Our Community

What is a sorority?

Sororities are values-based social organizations that were originally founded to provide women a space to gather and share common interests, often in times when women were excluded from other campus organizations. Today's sororities are built on a foundation of friendship that provides a unique community of support. By encouraging civic engagement and providing academic support, sororities are a proven launch pad for leaders. Members, through their shared experience, enjoy a sense of belonging, empowerment, and personal development.

At MIT, sororities are organizations composed of women-identifying and non-binary members. They are supportive: members turn to one another if they're having a bad day, if they need homework help, or if they need life advice. They are empowering: members appreciate the opportunities granted to them via sorority networking. They support the community: each chapter has at least one cause that they support through education and fundraising. They are fun: members enjoy the different retreats, formals, athletic competitions, and talent shows their communities put on.

What is a chapter?

A sorority chapter is a group from a specific sorority at a specific school. Each national sorority has individual chapters of their organization at different colleges and universities. You can [find MIT's chapters here](#).

What is Panhel?

Panhel, short for the Panhellenic Association, is the name of the largest community for women and non-binary people at MIT. Our members share commitments to philanthropy, sisterhood, and scholarship. Panhel is a supportive community, composed of 7 different sororities all united under the values of sisterhood, scholarship, service, leadership, integrity, and growth.

What are the benefits of sorority?

Our members join for the sisterhood, the leadership, the service, the scholarship, the shared community, and the shared values. Here's a list of just some of the things you can expect to gain through sorority membership:

1. Sisterhood: A safe and supportive space away from home

A huge portion of membership is the sense of belonging and friendships gained.

This is what encourages many individuals to join a sorority. For many students, college is their first experience being away from the support system they have known. Finding a supportive space on a new campus can be difficult. Sororities offer them this safe and supportive space and introduce you to lifelong friends who empower you and encourage you to be yourself.

2. Leadership: How to communicate effectively and work on a team

Leadership is a huge portion of sorority membership in developing skills that employers will want to see in collegiate graduates. Members learn how to communicate effectively with others and handle conflict resolution. They also learn how to work on a team and manage their time wisely. These are just a few of the marketable skills members gain throughout their sorority experience.

3. Service: Opportunities to get involved in philanthropy and community service

Participating as active citizens to improve their communities is a value sorority members possess. Organizations work to instill the understanding that good citizenship is important to care for others. Improving the community and volunteering teaches individuals of all ages compassion and understanding.

4. Scholarship: Academic accountability, support, and mentorship

Collegiate sorority members are still developing who they are in the world.

Having a group of supportive people keep you accountable is huge. This accountability includes a wide range of things in a young person's life, including academics. Organizations have a chapter member who is specifically charged with motivating members academically.

What is philanthropy?

Philanthropy refers to charitable fundraising conducted by the Panhellenic community. Each chapter champions a few causes and plans events throughout the year to fundraise and educate people on the topic. These philanthropic causes are very important to our members, so be sure to ask about them during recruitment! Last year, the community collectively raised over \$30k.

Are there leadership opportunities?

Absolutely! Each chapter has a different leadership structure, but all of them offer different leadership positions within your first year of joining. These can range from minimal time commitments to more engaging time commitments. Leadership opportunities range from anything such as leading a diversity and inclusion committee to planning the chapter's fall retreat.

Here is what one of our members had to say about their leadership position:

"My leadership position allowed me to develop new skills by giving me a chance to try something I hadn't before. And when I failed, I did so in a supportive environment that empowered me to become a better leader."

Will sorority help me after college?

At the most fundamental level, sororities support your personal growth and empower you to be the best version of yourself. These experiences will benefit you for your entire life. Additionally, you become a member of one of the largest womxn's communities at MIT and in the world. You can network with alumni from your chapter, from other MIT sororities, from your national sorority, and from Greek Life as a whole. This means that there are millions of individuals with whom you can utilize this common connection to gain job and mentorship opportunities. Moreover, being part of a sorority in college can help you with time management and leadership skills (and you can put your leadership positions on your resume!).

How much do sororities cost?

When you join a sorority, there is a financial obligation that comes along with membership. This financial commitment is often referred to as "dues." The cost of dues will look different for each chapter and varies from semester to semester. These dues go toward chapter expenses and activities such as social events, fundraising events, and sisterhood activities. They also cover fees to the inter/national organization to ensure they can provide educational and helpful resources to chapters.

Recruitment is the perfect place to have your questions answered. Ask about what your financial responsibility would be. You can also ask about financial assistance a sorority provides. Currently, the MIT Panhellenic Association provides scholarships on a semester basis. Please email panhel-exec@mit.edu if you would like more information on financial obligations.

What is housing like?

There is no one-size-fits-all description of "sorority housing." Six of the seven sororities on MIT's campus have a chapter facility. Each house at MIT offers different facility options, whether it be a brownstone on the Boston side of the Charles River or a house on dorm row. Chapters have different policies that may require members to live in the chapter facility for a certain period of time during their membership. These specific guidelines will be laid out during recruitment, so be sure to ask the people you meet about their chapter's facility!

Are sorority stereotypes true?

The short answer to this question is absolutely not! You might have an idea of what sororities are like from the media: news headlines, movies, TV, you name it. At MIT, sororities pride themselves on being a supportive group of innovative womxn, accepting and celebrating you for

being yourself. Sororities are a support system, a networking and career opportunity, a celebration of the shared womxn's experience at MIT, and so much more. Our members are athletes, researchers, artists, performers, scholars, philanthropists, ROTC members, EMTs, and more! Each chapter is home to a wide range of womxn and celebrates that diversity.

What about hazing and alcohol?

Every sorority at MIT expects its members to obey all local, state, and federal laws and to abide by the organization's policies, guidelines, and standards. Each group allocates resources for alcohol and substance abuse education. The illegal use of alcohol and controlled substances is not tolerated by any of MIT's sororities, and alcohol is not allowed in any of the chapter houses. Hazing is against the law, and all inter/national organizations have policies prohibiting hazing in all forms.

MIT sororities provide extensive guidelines for hosting social events, and chapters are expected to provide a safe environment for their members. If an incident occurs where policies are violated, the organization intervenes with disciplinary measures and further education to achieve a heightened level of safety at events.

Will I have time for a sorority?

Absolutely! Most of our members are involved in some combination of research, athletics, performance groups, ROTC, activism, clubs, or other community groups on campus. Additionally, many of our members cite the academic support system of their chapter as a key factor to their academic success. Our community GPA is a 4.6 (on a 5.0 scale), while the campus average is a 4.2.

Here is what one of our members said about balancing academics and sorority:

"Everyone in my chapter is super supportive, and that extends to academics. No matter what time of day it is, I can send a message out to our whole chapter group chat, and somebody is willing to help me with homework or with studying for a test. This was especially helpful when I was a first-year."

About Recruitment

How do I join a sorority?

To sign up for Primary Recruitment, [fill out the recruitment registration form](#)! Within a week of your completion of the form, a recruitment counselor will reach out to help guide you through the recruitment process. Follow our Instagram ([@mitpanhel](#)) and check the website to stay up-to-date on our recruitment opportunities!

We encourage all students considering joining a sorority at MIT to check out recruitment! Six of MIT's seven chapters participate in Primary Recruitment, including Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Phi, Delta Phi Epsilon, Kappa Alpha Theta, Sigma Kappa, and Pi Beta Phi. To maintain its smaller size, the Alpha Epsilon Phi chapter at MIT chooses not to participate in the full Primary Recruitment process and offers membership through Continuous Open Recruitment; they will be available to meet during the first round of Primary Recruitment, and your recruitment counselor will have more information.

To participate in Continuous Open Recruitment, keep an eye on MIT Panhellenic's social media and [check out individual chapter websites here](#). Some chapters will have additional opportunities for new members to join the sorority community and will host a variety of events throughout the semester.

What is recruitment?

Recruitment is the process that individuals interested in joining a sorority participate in before being extended an invitation for membership. It provides an opportunity to meet the sorority community, learn about each chapter, and ask about things you value. At MIT, we provide options for both Primary Recruitment and Continuous Open Recruitment (COR).

What is Primary Recruitment?

Primary Recruitment will occur on weekends between September 5th and September 20th. You will be introduced to all chapters during the Primary Recruitment process, guided by your recruitment counselor. Your recruitment counselor will plan your schedule with you based on your time zone and availability.

What is Continuous Open Recruitment (COR)?

Continuous Open Recruitment (COR) begins after Primary Recruitment and is slightly different for each chapter that participates. It may include some combination of coffee chats and events for you to get to know the chapter and for the chapter to get to know you. [Check out individual chapter websites](#) and keep an eye on MIT Panhellenic's social media to learn about COR recruitment opportunities.

What is a recruitment counselor?

Once you fill out the [recruitment registration form](#), your Panhellenic Recruitment Counselor (PRC) will reach out to you! Your PRC is an undergraduate member of MIT Panhellenic, and they will guide you through the Primary Recruitment process. They are your support system and your first point of contact for any questions you might have.

Who is eligible to join a sorority?

The MIT Panhellenic Association is dedicated to the advancement of womanhood and is inclusive of all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, age, ability, sexual orientation, marital status, religious affiliation, and socioeconomic status.

To be eligible, you must satisfy two requirements:

- You are an enrolled undergraduate student at MIT, in any year.
- You identify as a woman (cis or trans) or non-binary person.

We encourage, accept, and support anyone who desires to go through recruitment and meets these requirements. You may read our [inclusivity statement here](#). If you have questions about eligibility, please email panhel-exec@mit.edu.

Are there requirements for recruitment?

Here is a list of things you need to go through recruitment:

- A way to communicate with members virtually.
 - Recommended: a laptop with a video camera
 - Accepted: a laptop without a video camera
 - Accepted: a phone that can make calls
- Clothing that makes you feel good.
 - This can be your favorite sweatpants and hoodie
 - This can be your favorite graphic tee
 - This can be your favorite scarf and sweater combo
 - This can be your favorite formal wear

- This can be whatever clothes you want to wear

Here is a list of things you do NOT need to go through recruitment:

- Money for a registration fee
- A specific uniform
- Recommendation letters
- To know someone in a sorority

How much does recruitment cost?

MIT Panhellenic is committed to fostering an inclusive environment and lowering barriers to access. As a result, there is no cost associated with recruitment.

What is virtual recruitment like?

Primary Recruitment is a two-and-a-half-week process this year, starting on September 5th. The bulk of time commitment occurs during three consecutive weekends. During Primary Recruitment, you will get a chance to meet each of our chapters over Zoom.

A Primary Recruitment event, which we often call a "party" (since they're so fun!) will likely be a Zoom call with breakout rooms, presentations, or videos. Each chapter is unique, and each Zoom call will be, too! At minimum, you can expect to log into a specific Zoom link that will be given to you by your recruitment counselor ahead of your scheduled time.

Both Primary and Continuous Open Recruitment (COR) are conversation-based experiences where you get to meet current members of our sorority chapters! We focus on having conversations that allow you to share your passions, values, and interests. While we won't be in person this year, we will apply this same spirit virtually!

Will I have time for recruitment and classes?

Yes! MIT Panhellenic community has designed Primary Recruitment this year to be a minimal time commitment spread across multiple weekends to accommodate most schedules and situations. You have the agency to create a schedule that works for you, and your recruitment counselor will help you do that. Feel free to reach out to them to talk at any time; they will help you and make this process the best possible experience.

That being said, for both Primary and Continuous Open Recruitment (COR), healthy time management habits are always helpful and encouraged! Plan out your weeks and weekends ahead of time to get the best recruitment experience!

How should I prepare for recruitment?

To participate in Primary Recruitment, make sure you are registered by filling out the [registration form](#). Within a week, a recruitment counselor will email you to guide you through the logistics of the recruitment process. It is very important you reply to your recruitment counselor when they reach out, as they are your main point of contact and guide throughout this process.

Other than that, there is very little you need to do to prepare for both Primary and Continuous Open Recruitment events. We are excited to meet the authentic you! Recruitment is an opportunity for members to meet you and for you to meet members. There is no preparation necessary other than to come on time, be engaged, and be ready to be yourself! Have some water nearby, bring a snack, make sure your device is charged (or have a charger handy), and find a comfortable spot to chat from.

What should I do during recruitment?

1. Keep an open mind

When you participate in recruitment, you will have the chance to meet with the entire sorority community. That can be overwhelming, and you will have a lot of things running through your head. Keep in mind that every sorority provides great experiences to their members. Going into recruitment knowing that can take a huge weight off your shoulders. The decisions you make during recruitment should focus on your opinions. Did the organization's values align with yours? Do they have what you were looking for in a sorority experience? Maybe you wanted to make a lot of friends. Do they provide those opportunities? Maybe you wanted to be a leader. What opportunities do they offer? Let your choices be based on your own opinion and not others around you. Each person will be different and have different experiences, trust in what you believe.

2. Ask questions

When you go through recruitment, it is easy to fall into the routine of letting the sorority members you talk to lead the conversation. They want to get to know you because you could become a member of their organization. But doesn't that mean you probably want to know more about them, too? If in a few days you could be their sorority sister, now might be the perfect time to learn about them. Sorority women want to answer your questions. They live the sorority experience day in and day out. Ask them about it. What events do they have? How much are dues? What is the time commitment? They know all of it, and they are hoping you'll ask them. Knowing what you are getting yourself into will help you make a more informed decision later on.

3. Be yourself

Recruitment can be stressful, no one denies that. You talk to people you don't know all day long. You answer the same questions. You might think sorority members want to see a specific

type of person come through recruitment. A little insider secret: we just want you. As you are. We want to know what makes you who you are. What are your hobbies? What do you love? What are your goals? Be open and ready to talk about the amazing individual you are, and you will find the sorority that is right for you.

What is a legacy?

A legacy refers to someone whose mother, grandmother, and in some cases, aunt was in a sorority represented on MIT's campus. If that's the case for you, please email panhel-exec@mit.edu so we can be sure to direct you to the appropriate resources. That said, you do not need to be a legacy to go through recruitment! Only about 1% of the MIT Panhellenic community is a legacy.

Do sororities haze?

Hazing is illegal and violates Massachusetts, MIT, and Panhellenic guidelines. Every sorority at MIT expects its members to obey all local, state, and federal laws and to abide by the organization's policies, guidelines, and standards.

Here's what one of our members had to say about hazing:

"I know these facts aren't helpful for you to determine whether hazing is something to be concerned about. What I will tell you is that I have been a member of the Panhellenic community for almost 4 years. I have held leadership positions on numerous fronts. Never, ever in my Panhellenic experience have I been hazed, contributed to hazing someone, or heard of any instances of hazing, from any chapter or any individual member. Hazing is not tolerated in our community."

How do I decide which sorority to join?

Welcome to recruitment! This is what the process is all about. It's designed for you to get to know each chapter better by developing real connections with other MIT students.

Recruitment is structured so that you find your "home under the dome." In Primary Recruitment, your recruitment counselors will facilitate conversations with you to help reflect on your values and the chapters' values. All sororities participating in Continuous Open Recruitment will be promoted on our socials (Instagram [@mitpanhel](https://www.instagram.com/mitpanhel); Facebook [@MITpanhellenic](https://www.facebook.com/MITpanhellenic)) and [each chapter's website](#).

Recruitment is all about meeting new friends and finding a smaller community within greater MIT. Even over Zoom, sisterhood has been what keeps our community together. We are excited to welcome new members into our community this year!

Additional Questions

To learn more about sorority recruitment, chapter membership, and overall benefits, visit [The Sorority Life website](#), hosted by the National Panhellenic Conference. Feel free to email panhel-exec@mit.edu for more information.