

Resolved to Educate

Bid Promising

Bid Promising Policy (2026) – POLICY

Any action or communication (oral or written) by a sorority member that directly or indirectly indicates to a PNM an invitation to join a certain sorority prior to that PNM receiving a bid is prohibited.

Why This Policy Matters

Bid promising undermines the integrity of the recruitment process and creates an inequitable experience for potential new members (PNMs).

When bid promising occurs:

- PNMs develop unrealistic expectations about recruitment outcomes
- PNMs may withdraw from the process prematurely
- Trust in the recruitment process is diminished
- Chapters and the broader Panhellenic community experience inconsistency and unfairness

Eliminating bid promising ensures that recruitment remains values-based, transparent and focused on authentic connection rather than perceived outcomes.

What This Looks Like in Practice

Member behavior during recruitment should reflect:

- Speaking positively about the sorority experience without implying membership outcomes
- Encouraging PNMs to remain engaged and explore all sorority options
- Answering questions honestly while reinforcing that membership decisions occur through each member organization's formal process
- Using language that reflects connection without signaling guaranteed membership
- Focusing conversations on values, benefits and experiences

Implementation and Accountability

The College Panhellenic Association is responsible for implementing and upholding the Bid Promising Policy. College Panhellenics should:

- Provide direct education on what bid promising is and how it occurs
- Use real examples to demonstrate violations
- Incorporate scenario-based examples into recruitment preparation and training
- Address violations through the established peer accountability process
- Reinforce that preventing bid promising is a shared responsibility across the community

Frequently Asked Questions

What is considered bid promising?

Any statement or action that leads a PNM to believe she will receive an invitation or bid to a specific sorority before bid distribution.

Is indirect language considered bid promising?

Yes. Subtle or implied comments can create false expectations in PNMs and are prohibited.

Does social media interaction count as bid promising?

Any communication on platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok or text that implies membership or selection is prohibited.

Can members follow or message PNMs during recruitment?

Chapter member contact with PNMs must follow the Promotion of the Sorority Experience and Strict Silence policies. Any outreach that implies a specific outcome, such as guaranteeing membership, is prohibited.

When does strict silence begin and end?

Strict silence begins at the start of preference events and ends when Panhellenic distributes bids.

Key Reminders

- Language and tone matter
- No chapter member should promise or imply membership
- Recruitment must remain fair, transparent and unbiased
- College Panhellenics must actively educate
- Preventing bid promising protects the integrity of the recruitment process

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