



Resolved to Educate

Educational support for: Setting and adjusting total

Total is the allowable chapter size as determined by the College Panhellenic. The goal of every College Panhellenic should be to allow for the opportunity for all member organizations to achieve parity and to provide growth opportunities for chapters that need to pledge additional women to achieve parity. Parity is when all NPC sororities on a campus are the same size; it is how NPC defines a fair and equal Panhellenic community.

Total allows for the maximum number of women interested in sorority membership to participate in the experience. It is the “goal size” for each chapter in your Panhellenic. If a chapter has met total, it is no longer eligible to invite new members to join until 1) the chapter is below total, 2) it is the primary membership recruitment period or 3) the chapter has not yet matched/pledged to quota from the primary recruitment period. If a chapter is below total, it is eligible to recruit new members until it meets that number.

How is total determined?

Policy (2013, 2015, 2016), To allow chapters to achieve parity as quickly as possible, total will be automatically adjusted every regular academic term. This is to be done no later than 72 hours following bid distribution in the academic term that primary recruitment is held and within one week (no more than seven days) from the start of the academic term(s) in which primary recruitment is not held. The adjustment will be to median chapter size unless the College Panhellenic adopts an acceptable alternative formula according to the Manual of Information. For campuses on a trimester or quarter system, the College Panhellenic will automatically reset total during the primary recruitment term and in one additional term as approved by a vote of the College Panhellenic and placed in its governing documents.

Policy (2009, 2015), College Panhellenics can use one of the following methods to determine total:

1. Median chapter size (e.g., the size of the fifth-largest chapter in a community with nine NPC chapters.)
2. Average chapter size (rounded down to the nearest whole number.)
3. Largest chapter size (recommended for College Panhellenics with three or fewer chapters.)

The Panhellenic does not need to vote on the new or adjusted total number, because automatically adjusting total is an NPC policy. The new total should be calculated, communicated to all chapters, stated at the next Panhellenic meeting for the minutes and then added to the recruitment rules.

Who counts on a chapter’s roster regarding total?

- Every undergraduate woman who is a new or initiated chapter member and is regularly enrolled at the campus
- A member who is granted inactive, alumnae or associate status but is gone from campus for only one term of the academic year

Chapters cannot create additional spaces in total by granting early alumnae status to graduating members.

Who doesn’t count on a chapter’s roster regarding total?

Any member who is away from campus for the entire academic year does not count on a chapter’s roster when determining total.

What if a sorority member transfers from another campus and wants to affiliate with a chapter that is already over total?

Assuming that the woman is an initiated member and meets the inter/national guidelines for affiliation, the chapter can add her to the roster even if it is over total.

Educational support for: Setting and adjusting total

Why must a campus review total each academic term?

College Panhellenics are required to review total each academic term to ensure that total reflects current campus conditions and the Panhellenic goal of parity. This review will allow maximum opportunity for all chapters to grow to achieve parity.

When total is too low:

- The Panhellenic community is unable to grow because of the lack of sufficient spaces to accommodate women interested in sorority membership.
- The smaller chapters are unable to close the size disparity with the larger chapters in the community.

When total is too high:

- Potential new members have incentives to withdraw from the recruitment process and join chapters during the continuous open bidding (COB) process when they do not receive an invitation to return to the chapter of their choice.
- Larger chapters participate in COB interfering with the effectiveness of smaller chapters' recruitment.

Adjusting total immediately following the primary recruitment period allows chapters to assimilate women pledged through the COB process into the existing new member education program and reduces the need for additional new member education programs. The COB process is a right granted through the NPC Unanimous Agreements to every chapter during the academic year to help achieve and maintain total.

Adjusting total during an academic term when primary recruitment is not held allows the maximum opportunity for chapters to achieve parity and gives chapters in need of growth opportunities the ability to pledge up to the new total.

Where should information about total be stated?

Bylaws: Under the article for The Panhellenic Council, should be a section titled "Authority" and that section it should state: "Biannually review the parameters as adopted in the recruitment rules for the automatic adjustment of total."

Recruitment rules: In the College Panhellenic recruitment rules there should be a section titled "Statement of Automatic Reset of Total" that states the method used to set total.

Panhellenic Council minutes: Each term following the automatic reset of total, the actual number for the new total is stated in the minutes and communicated to all chapters.

Myths and facts about adjusting total

Myth: Raising total makes our chapters/community larger.

Fact: Chapter size is a function of quota, not total. Quota is what adds to a chapter's size — the more women who go through recruitment and sign membership recruitment acceptance binding agreements (MRABAs), the larger the quota and the larger chapters become. Raising total only allows those chapters that are smaller than the others to have the opportunity to achieve the Panhellenic goal of parity.

Myth: Total should never be changed.

Fact: NPC policy states that total is automatically reset each regular academic term and for campuses on a trimester or quarter system, it's reset during the primary recruitment term and one additional term. It should reflect the current sizes of chapters on campus — that means total may be raised or lowered — but by reviewing it each regular academic term and automatically adjusting it, total should be an accurate reflection of the community's size.

Myth: Total is too hard to change because it is listed in our bylaws.

Fact: Total should never be stated in the Panhellenic bylaws. Instead, state in the bylaws that total will be reviewed biannually as adopted in the recruitment rules. The recruitment rules will state the adjustment to median or other approved alternative, not the actual number. For campuses on a trimester or quarter system the recruitment rules will also state the second term outside of the one where primary recruitment is held when total will be adjusted.