Coastal Carolina University Panhellenic Council

Frequently Asked Questions

Coastal Carolina University Panhellenic has made the difficult but necessary choice to move the Fall 2020 Panhellenic Recruitment to a virtual setting. It is our priority to keep the CCU community safe; the lives of our fellow Chanticleers will always take precedence. Although there will be many changes to the recruitment setting, we are excited about the opportunity to share our sisterhood, implement new ideas, and continue to provide an outlet for women on our campus to enhance their leadership, social, and academic skills. We believe that sorority is so much more than meets the eye. It is an opportunity for deep and meaningful connection and fulfillment, which is more important now than ever.

As we work through the many moving parts of planning a fully virtual recruitment process, we know you’ll have a ton of questions! We will be updating this FAQ and providing information on our social media as we iron out logistics and plans.

WE ARE EXCITED! We hope that you’ll open your heart to all of the new possibilities, experiences, and ways that being a part of the Panhellenic community can impact your life!

Thank you,

2020 Panhellenic Executive Board

If I’m not moving in until September, can I still participate?

Absolutely! We recommend that you move try to schedule your move-in for September 3, 2020 or early on September 4, 2020. You will have evening commitments for recruitment on both of those days!

Can I talk to current sorority members on social media before recruitment starts?

Absolutely! We want you to get to know our community before you arrive on campus. Please know that sorority women have rules to follow regarding contact with potential members. They are to provide general information about how being in a Panhellenic chapter has positively impacted their CCU experience. They will speak in generalities because we want you to have an opportunity to meet all of our chapters and keep an open mind during the formal recruitment process. If you happen to talk to a current member and you feel uncomfortable for any reason, please do not hesitate to let us know at ccupanhellenic@gmail.com.
What do all these acronyms mean?

PNM: Potential New Member, that’s you!

Pi Chi: Recruitment Counselor: a current CPC woman responsible for leading a group of PNMs through recruitment. She is disaffiliated from her own chapter during recruitment to remain an unbiased, confidential resource for you during the entire process.

NPC: National Panhellenic Conference: the umbrella group for all 26 sororities. This Conference has representatives from each organization, and they help unify all of our chapters on a national level.

CPC: Collegiate Panhellenic Council: the unifying body for our chapters here on campus. CPC focuses on programming, events, and operations to enhance the overall sorority experience at CCU.

OFSL: Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Which platform will be used for virtual recruitment? Do I need to learn something new?

We will be using Zoom to facilitate conversations between PNMs and active chapter members. All students at CCU have access to Zoom. Your Pi Chi’s will provide plenty of guidance and have pre-recruitment meetings on how to use this platform, so don’t worry if you haven’t used it yet! This is a great opportunity to learn a new skill that may come in handy for your classes too!

How do I sign up?

You will sign up for recruitment at ccupanhellenic.mycampusdirector2.com.

Are there any steps I need to be prepared for?

- You’ll need a credit card handy. The cost of recruitment is $35 (and we’ll provide you some cool swag!)
- You’ll be asked a few questions about your leadership, volunteer, and academic experience. Definitely take time to fully fill out those questions because chapters will use that information to get to know you before recruitment!
- You’ll also be filming a short video of yourself (3 minutes max) so the chapters can get to know you better. You will upload a link to your video. We recommend uploading to Youtube as a private video
- You definitely want to fill out the iValu bracket. It helps you to narrow down your personal values to see what organizations you might best align with. It also helps our chapters do the same! You’ll be using iValu in your Pi Chi group too to get to know the other potential members.

Oh no, I already signed up and didn’t do all of the steps!

That’s ok! You can log back into your Campus Director account at any time. If you forgot your password, just send an email to greek@coastal.edu and they’ll reset it for you in the OFSL!
I’m stressed about this video, what does it need to look like, what do I need to say, etc.?

PLEASE don’t stress. Recruitment is FUN! This video is meant to be a quick and easy way to let chapters get to know you. You can record on your phone or laptop or similar device, and don’t worry about having professional video equipment or lighting. We definitely aren’t assuming anyone is a professional videographer. Feel free to show your personality! The prompt examples include: What do you do in your free time? Why Coastal? What makes you excited/happy? Why are you interested in joining a sorority? Feel free to give any information about yourself that you want people to know!

Who will be able to see my video? Will it stay private?

Your videos will be shared with each of our chapters, and their members will be able to view them. CPC will maintain ownership of them and delete them after recruitment is over.

When will I meet my Pi Chis?

You might have already! Pi Chi’s will begin reaching out as you sign up. They might text you or DM you on social media. They’ll most likely add you to a groupme by mid-August so keep your eyes peeled. They’ll be adding people as they sign up so don’t worry if you haven’t heard from them just yet!

How does this impact the recruitment schedule?

We are keeping the traditional structure, however we are adding time to the parties. We know that virtual meetings can sometimes be awkward at first so we wanted to add more time for you to get to know chapters. Round 1 will be held over two days and you’ll have 30 minutes with all of our chapters. Round 2 will be 50 minutes long and Round 3 will be one hour. Hopefully these adjustments will allow plenty of time for you to get to know the chapters that you are interested in!

The full schedule will be released very soon, but you should be prepared for the dates of September 3-8, 2020!

There will only be one mandatory PNM Orientation, and it will be held via Zoom on September 3, 2020 at 5:30pm. If you cannot make it to this for whatever reason, please let your Recruitment Counselor know when she reaches out to you.

Do I need to buy cute clothes or create a fun virtual background?

No, absolutely not! We are hoping to make this experience as authentic as possible, come as you are! Make sure you feel your best, whatever that means for you.
What if I don’t have access to a computer?

If you do not have access to your own computer, you will be able to rent a laptop from the CCU library. There is wireless internet available across the entire campus. If you are having issues accessing a computer or wifi off campus, contact us and we can help!

How can I make sure these chapters really get to know me if we can’t meet in person?

Your Recruitment Counselors will help you figure out how to ask meaningful questions that dig into your personal values and chapter values. You will hear more from them in late July, and will learn more about our values-based recruitment process at PNM Orientation. Definitely start by completing the iValu bracket and then considering doing some reflection about what you are looking for out of a sorority, who you want to be at CCU, and what you need to know about the sorority experience.

If recruitment is virtual, what will the sorority experience look like after recruitment? Why should I join a sorority this semester?

CCU has asked all student organizations to move their events, programs, and meetings to a virtual setting while the university is in Phase 1 of the Coastal Comeback Plan. You can expect that you will still have new member meetings, get to know your sisters, and virtual sisterhood events. This is also a great opportunity to learn time management and adjust to the academic demands of college and the social opportunities.

That said, your chapters are going to do their best to keep the integrity of sorority life intact. Sorority is not just meeting in a building or tabling on Prince Lawn. It is an opportunity to grow in your leadership, to connect with new people, to care for the local community and national philanthropic partners. Sisterhood is a feeling and a personal connection to be shared. That can be done whenever, wherever and that is why it is a lifelong commitment, not just your time at CCU.

Do I need letters of recommendation?

You absolutely do not need letters of recommendation. They are not a requirement for entry for any of our chapters. However, if you know an alumna who wants to write you one, they should do so through their national organization’s website.

Why was the decision made to have a virtual recruitment as opposed to an in-person recruitment?

You may have heard that Horry County was designated as a “hot spot.” The cases in South Carolina continue to grow. It is imperative that we do our part to slow the spread. Additionally, the university has asked that all student organizations conduct business virtually while in Phase 1. We must be good examples for the rest of the campus community.
What if my roommate and I are both participating in recruitment? How can I have some privacy during my calls?

Please keep in mind that you and your roommate will likely have different schedules, so it’s possible you won’t be in Zoom calls at the same time. If you are, we suggest using headphones so you can have a more private conversation, physical distancing in a building on campus, or even taking the call in a dorm lounge or in one of our campuses' many greenspaces. South Carolina heat in August is no joke, so if you choose to take these calls outside, find some shade and bring water! Chapter members will understand that there may be background noise, and that’s completely fine!

Is there any way I can join a sorority through a different process than this one?

We recommend our primary recruitment process to get the best chance at joining any of our NPC chapters, but we realize this isn’t for everyone! Our continuous open bidding (COB) process allows you to meet NPC chapter members in a more informal way. The only downside to our COB process is that it starts after primary recruitment, so if chapters have already filled with new members, they won’t participate in COB, or chapters will only recruit a few members through this process.

Who can I contact in the meantime with specific questions before I know who my Recruitment Counselor is?

You can reach out to our Panhellenic Recruitment Team. Stephanie is the VP of Recruitment for Panhellenic and Kelsey is the Panhellenic president. They both can be reached at ccupanhellenic@gmail.com.