



FSL Missouri State University

The Opportunity to Explore: COB

Continuous Open Bidding 2021

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What is Continuous Open Bidding (COB)?

Continuous Open Bidding (COB) is an informal recruitment process that Panhellenic sororities use to recruit new members outside of the designated primary recruitment period to reach quota and/or Panhellenic Total (median chapter size). For example, if Alpha Alpha Alpha sorority has 250 members for the spring semester and Chapter Total 255, then Alpha Alpha Alpha can offer 5 COBs if they are interested.

Who is Eligible for COB?

All female Missouri State students are eligible to participate in COB provided that: (1) they are enrolled as a full-time student, (2) they have never been initiated into one of the 26 National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) sororities at Missouri State or on another campus, and (3) they have not received a bid during the most recent primary membership recruitment and declined the bid or have broken their pledge.

Is there a minimum GPA to participate?

Although Panhellenic does not require a specific grade point average (GPA) to participate in primary recruitment or COB, each sorority has a minimum grade requirement to be eligible for membership. Every sorority strives to maintain a high chapter grade point average (GPA), therefore, each must consider a woman's ability to adhere to the chapter's scholastic standards. With the large number of women that participate in the formal recruitment process, GPA tends to be an easy way for the chapters to begin to manage the numbers.

How does COB Work?

Unlike primary recruitment, COB is very casual and unstructured. Each chapter does COB differently, so the College Panhellenic Association does not set dates for informal recruitment events or offering of bids.

Chapters individually contact a potential new member and invite her to an informal recruitment event or chapter activities to get to get to know her better.

If a woman receives a COB, what are her options?

- If a woman receives a COB from a chapter that she is **not** interested in joining, she may decline the bid.
- If a woman receives a COB from a chapter, she is interested in joining, she can accept the bid. Those accepting bids through the COB process will be required to sign a COB MRABA acceptance binding agreement. Link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5DDYyk9VYUO65chlIz-3f-8v_RVhZJ5Gmz5Xg6QcIUJURDczWENWTzc2VlhUNjJGQkFQNEI0MVc3Qi4u
- If a woman receives a COB from a chapter and is unsure about accepting at that time, she may ask to wait to accept or decline the bid. Each chapter is responsible for determining when an answer must be given by (normally 24-48 hours from time a bid is issued).

Which sororities are able to participate in COB?

Any Panhellenic sorority that has an overall chapter membership below Chapter Total can but is not required by Panhellenic to pledge additional new members up to Total. Participation in COB is ultimately up to the discretion of the chapter, so there is not a set number of chapters and/or a guarantee that specific chapters will participate.



How many women will receive bids through COB?

This number varies semester to semester. Given that COB is not mandatory and that chapters have the option to recruit up to Chapter Total, we cannot speculate the overall number of bids that will be issued and/or number of women that will receive bids.

Is there a cost associated with COB?

No. There is not a cost to participate in Continuous Opening Bidding.



How long will chapters COB?

Chapters are allowed by the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) to extend bids or offers of membership to unaffiliated women during the regular school year (as defined by the academic calendar). During the fall, COB begins after the formal structured recruitment process has concluded up to finals week. During the spring, COB begins the first day of classes and concludes prior to finals week.

Chapter COB Check Sheet

- ☒ Check to ensure that your chapter membership is below Panhellenic Campus total
- ☒ Outline your preparations for COB parties
- ☒ Submit your request for grade verification for PNM's. If you want to see the grades of any potential new member, have them **sign and turn in** the Grade Verification form into the Office of Student Engagement.
- ☒ Grade verification form:
<https://www.missouristate.edu/StudentEngagement/FSL/policies-forms.htm>
The Grade Verification form can be found on the FSL website. Please click the following: Fraternity and Sorority Life/Policies & Forms/Roster/Potential New Member Grade Verification.
- ☒ Upon issuing a bid to a potential new member, please make sure that each PMN signs the Continuous Opening Bidding MRABA PRIOR to accepting a bid. This is imperative to the recruitment process!
Link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5DDYyk9VYUO65chlIz-3f-8v_RVhZJ5Gmz5Xg6QcIUJURDczWENWTzc2VlhUNjJGQkFQNEI0MVc3Qi4u
- ☒ After you are assured that each PNM has signed the COB MRABA, signed the bid day card, you will need to turn in ONLY the bid day cards and a New Member Roster into the Office of Student Engagement. These two forms are due by the 15th of every month.