



The Opportunity to explore the possibilities: COB

What is Continuous Opening 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 (I.e. 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 Grade Point Average to Participate in COB?

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 amount 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 a 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 in an effort 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.
- 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 to 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, is allowed to, but 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 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 recruitment 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 Finals Week. During the spring, COB begins the first day of classes and concludes prior to Finals Week.

Chapter Continuous Opening Binding Check Sheet

I know you may not know it yet, but COB is fun and easy! Let's get you started...

_____ Check to ensure that your chapter membership is below Panhellenic Total.

_____ Outline your preparations for COB parties.

_____ If you want to see the grades of any potential new member, have them sign the **Grade Verification form** that is part of this packet. Potential New member will complete the Grades Verification form online and forward you her email confirmation.

Link https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5DDYk9VYUO65chIz-3f-8v_RVhZJ5Gmz5Xg6QcIUJUNFVHMkFOUUFDM1o1SDJDVjFaOEswRThOMi4u

_____ Make sure potential new member signs the **Continuous Opening Bidding MRABA** prior to accepting a bid.



Link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5DDYyk9VYUO65chllz-3f-8v_RVhZJ5Gmz5Xg6QcIUJURDczWENWTzc2VlhUNjJGQkFQNEI0MVc3Qi4u

_____ Turn in signed **COB Bid Acceptance forms**, 24 hours after you issue bids. There should be one for each new member.

Link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5DDYyk9VYUO65chllz-3f-8v_RVhZJ5Gmz5Xg6QcIUJUQlc3TVhWWUhGUVRKWERFR08wWUJKREFEOC4u

_____ After all the three forms are filled out from new members, please submit your new member roster form to our Office Support Specialist, Mrs. Diane.