

ALPHA CHI OMEGA

Accreditation Report

2014-2015

Intellectual Development

- Alpha Chi Omega was ranked second out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2014 semester with a GPA of 3.4475, a decrease of .01306 from the spring 2014 semester. The 3.4475 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Chi Omega was ranked first out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the spring 2015 semester with a GPA of 3.48402, an increase of .03652 from the fall 2014 semester. The 3.48402 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Chi Omega's spring 2015 new member class GPA was 3.383, ranking first out of nine Panhellenic Sororities.
- Alpha Chi Omega had 46.6% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2014 semester and 28.2% on the Dean's List in the spring 2015 semester.
- Alpha Chi Omega requires a minimum 2.6 GPA for membership. This standard is higher than the Inter/National Headquarters and University requirements.
- Alpha Chi Omega fosters an environment for strong academic performance. The chapter provides in-house tutoring, peer mentoring, and regular study hours. The chapter also connects members to the Center for Academic Success, the Writing and Math Center, and other on-campus resources.
- Alpha Chi Omega maintains a designated study space frequently used by members as well as tutors, teaching assistants, and professors leading study sessions. This space is complete with a study buddy desk fully stocked with office and study supplies.
- Alpha Chi Omega's academic plan—incorporating individualization and positive incentives—is consistently recognized as a best practice. The Committee commends the chapter for consulting with two organizations to share this best practice resource.
- The chapter encourages members to attend guest lectures, programs, and workshops offered across campus and routinely debriefs as a group. The chapter partnered with Phi Sigma Kappa to reflect upon Michelle Alexander's keynote speech during the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and the Committee considers these efforts best practices.
- Alpha Chi Omega hosted a New Jersey State Assemblywoman to discuss sexual assault on the college campus. The chapter also enlisted a wealth management specialist to facilitate a personal finance workshop. The Committee commends the chapter for leveraging its parent and family connections to resourcefully offer relevant educational programming.
- Alpha Chi Omega hosted Apple Pi with Alpha Chi and co-hosted its annual faculty and staff barbeque with Sigma Chi. The chapter also recognizes a Faculty Member of the Week, delivering a certificate and small token of appreciation to chosen faculty and staff. The Committee is particularly impressed by the chapter's efforts to strengthen relationships with faculty and considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Chi Omega boasts heavy study abroad participation and the chapter organizes a panel discussion where study abroad veterans shared their experiences and

recommendations with others preparing to study abroad. The Committee considers this a best practice.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Chi Omega apply the bLUeprint learning cycle to further strengthen well-established practices within Intellectual Development?**

In the area of **Intellectual Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Leadership Development

- Alpha Chi Omega members serve in leadership capacities within the Panhellenic Council, the larger Greek community, and across campus clubs and organizations. The Committee commends the chapter on its commitment to leadership, and encourages members to continually seek out these opportunities.
- The Committee commends Alpha Chi Omega's delegates and liaisons for their ability to effectively share information with the chapter so that all are informed regarding activities from the Panhellenic Council, Student Senate, Women's Center, and more.
- Alpha Chi Omega incorporates an in-depth approach to transitioning new chapter leadership. This includes a two-day transition workshop complete with goal setting, calendar planning, advisor mentoring, and ropes course teambuilding. The Committee commends the chapter for its efforts to prepare incoming officers and believes this extensive transition has aided in new officers' initial successes.
- Alpha Chi Omega utilizes committees to involve membership in goal-setting, decision-making, and action-planning. The chapter also utilizes mini positions to cultivate leadership within the first-year and sophomore classes and more than 90% of the sophomore class holds a position.
- Alpha Chi Omega incorporates surveys and focus groups to generate feedback and chapter discussion. The Committee considers this a best practice that could be expanded.
- Alpha Chi Omega participated in several Inter/National Headquarters-sponsored programs, including convention, officer training, and recruitment training. These experiences have helped to strengthen relationships with the Inter/National Headquarters while also generating new ideas to enhance chapter operations.
- Alpha Chi Omega places emphasis on its membership criteria—leadership, academics, character, personal development, and financial responsibility—as evidenced by the My Journey member development program alongside a number of other events and programs.
- Alpha Chi Omega provides each new member with a copy of the new member education plan during their first meeting. The plan is reviewed so that all understand expectations.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How are Alpha Chi Omega members using leadership skills gained through their chapter experiences to engage with and better the Lehigh community?**

In the area of **Leadership Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Community Development

- Alpha Chi Omega co-sponsored Mountain Hunk with Alpha Omicron Pi and an annual dodgeball tournament with Theta Chi. The chapter also consistently supports Adopt-a-Family, Relay for Life, Dance Marathon, Spring Fling, and other on-campus service and philanthropic experiences.
- The chapter volunteers throughout the local community. Notable partnerships include those with the Girl Scouts, Gracedale Nursing Home, Concordia Food Bank, and Lincoln Elementary School.
- Alpha Chi Omega sponsored Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Week and participated in Healthy Relationships Week to educate the campus community on the organization's philanthropy. The Committee is impressed by the chapter's ability to raise awareness for its philanthropy while also providing relevant educational programming to the campus community.
- Alpha Chi Omega has strategically strengthened its relationship with Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley. Several chapter members are participating in an intensive training and certification in order to work more closely with and assist victims of domestic violence. The Committee commends the chapter for this concentrated effort.
- Alpha Chi Omega has partnered with a number of pop-up shops to raise a substantial amount of funds for its philanthropy.
- Alpha Chi Omega maintains relationships with young alumnae, but lacks strong relationships with its larger alumnae base. In an effort to garner more alumnae support, the chapter includes an Alumnae of the Month in its monthly newsletter distributed to members, alumnae, and parents.
- The chapter engages with its numerous constituents through social media platforms, including Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr.
- Alpha Chi Omega has a high-functioning and effective standards board. The chapter organized a mock standards board meeting to demonstrate the board's purpose, procedures, and practices as well as to increase transparency. The Committee commends the chapter for this internal public relations effort and considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Chi Omega participated in its Inter/National Headquarters-endorsed alcohol skills training program in addition to TIPS training.
- Alpha Chi Omega has supported the launch of Greek Allies and one member participated in Safe Zone Training offered by the organization.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Chi Omega affect change with regards to the social culture at Lehigh?**

In the area of **Community Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Organizational Development

- Alpha Chi Omega incorporated McCreary's and Schutts' framework regarding sisterhood to ground their approach to Accreditation. The Committee is impressed by this higher order application and encourages the chapter to explore further opportunities to incorporate this framework.
- The chapter has strengthened connections with its advisory board through weekly communication and updates.
- Alpha Chi Omega enlisted the assistance of Jenna Paradiso to serve as the chapter's new faculty advisor. This newfound relationship has proved successful in navigating Accreditation.
- Alpha Chi Omega gives careful consideration when deciding to enter into a partnership. The Committee is impressed by the thoughtfulness behind these strategic and mutually-beneficial partnerships and commends the chapter for its efforts.
- The chapter executes PACE—Promoting Alpha Chi Everyday—programming exceptionally well and incorporates weekly hashtags.
- The chapter has worked to increase ritual proficiency by participating in National Ritual Celebration Week as well as celebrating Hera Day and International Badge Day. The Vice President of Ritual awards a weekly Symphony Sister and also hosts ritual workshops.
- Alpha Chi Omega's executive board holds opening meetings and office hours to promote transparency and engage all members in the goal-setting, decision-making, and action-planning activities of the chapter.
- Alpha Chi Omega effectively manages chapter finances and promotes fiscal transparency. The chapter's Vice President for Finance provides members and parents with a detailed breakdown and explanation of dues prior to receiving a billing statement. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Chi Omega has enjoyed continual upward momentum and is consistently recognized as a high-functioning and influential organization. The Committee recommends that the chapter take a leading role to affect positive change and move the larger fraternity and sorority community forward.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Chi Omega continue to grow and develop their partnerships to affect positive change within the chapter and the larger fraternity and sorority community?**

In the area of **Organizational Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Facilities Management

- Alpha Chi Omega had no common damages in 2014-15.
- The chapter had many individuals billed for damages to walls for using nails and screws to hang things. Members must abide by Residential Services protocols regarding wall damages.

- Alpha Chi Omega boasted strong numbers with regards to occupancy and met the standard in the fall and spring semesters. The chapter also manages over-occupancy well and communicates with members in advance to address concerns.
- Alpha Chi Omega managed openings and closings with no issues. The chapter does need to be more proactive with moving out furniture at openings.
- Alpha Chi Omega passed life safety inspections and fire drills with zero violations.
- Alpha Chi Omega maintains a designated study space that is frequently used by members as well as tutors, teaching assistants, and professors leading study sessions.
- Alpha Chi Omega hosted an open house allowing parents and family to become familiar with their students' living spaces for the upcoming year. The Committee commends the chapter for this effort and considers it a best practice.
- The chapter recently completed major organization and cleaning projects across the facility. It is evident that members take great pride in the facility.
- The chapter makes concentrated efforts to reduce waste and implement green initiatives. Additionally, the chapter is in the process of securing a plot in the campus community garden to further enhance sustainable development.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Chi Omega leadership better work with the chapter to understanding all Residential Services protocols?**

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the Committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Alpha Chi Omega has been rated a Gold chapter by the 2014-2015 Accreditation Committee.

Alpha Chi Omega continues to perform as a model fraternal organization within the larger fraternity and sorority community. The chapter is strategic in establishing partnerships and intentional in utilizing resources to develop best practices across multiple areas. The Committee commends Alpha Chi Omega for its ability to cultivate a meaningful membership experience while also remaining dedicated to strengthening the campus and greater Bethlehem communities. Furthermore, the Committee believes that Alpha Chi Omega can make a significant difference within the fraternity and sorority community provided the chapter takes risks, grows initiatives, and continually challenges the status quo.

The Accreditation committee assigns Alpha Chi Omega an overall rating of Gold, which is considered an exceptional level of achievement in the Accreditation process, with all the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating. Congratulations!

Chapter Development Questions

- How can Alpha Chi Omega apply the bLUeprint learning cycle to further strengthen well-established practices within Intellectual Development?
- How are Alpha Chi Omega members using leadership skills gained through their chapter experiences to engage with and better the Lehigh community?

- How can Alpha Chi Omega affect change with regards to the social culture at Lehigh?
- How can Alpha Chi Omega continue to grow and develop their partnerships to affect positive change within the chapter and the larger fraternity and sorority community?
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Best Practices

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