Accreditation 2016-17

Overview

The Accreditation process is designed to review and assess all facets of chapter operations and is a key process in the development and maintenance of chapter standards. Accreditation evaluates the contributions that each chapter makes to the campus and local communities. The process assesses chapters individually and is not designed to be competitive amongst organizations. _Chapters are measured against themselves each year_ and are encouraged to demonstrate growth and development in each metric.

The Accreditation metrics include a guiding rubric that all chapters are encouraged to use. The areas of focus are Leadership & Member Development, Organizational Operations, Community & Civic Engagement, Academic & Intellectual Advancement and Facilities Management (as applicable). There is also an overall rating that considers additional performance indicators.

Metrics

Leadership & Member Development

This metric focuses on the development of individual members through the fraternity or sorority experience. Chapters are evaluated on cultivating leadership within their organization, promoting positive contributions from each active brother/sister, participation in programming through the national organization and building a strong sense of belonging.

Criteria in this metric include but are not limited to: new and continuing member development programs, Ritual, brotherhood/sisterhood activities, leadership development programs, participation at conferences (regional or national) and campus leadership roles.

Organizational Operations

This metric focuses on the efficiency and effectiveness of the chapter. Chapters are evaluated on goal-setting and follow-through, self-governance, day-to-day functions, financial management, internal accountability practices and use of external resources (i.e. national organization support, campus experts and alumni networks).

Criteria in this metric include but are not limited to: use and revision of chapter by-laws, fiscal responsibility, active standards/conduct processes, implementation of standard operating procedures, member engagement in governance, risk management practices, organizational planning and feedback activities, compliance with University requirements/mandates and recruitment.

Community Service & Engagement

This metric focuses on the contributions that the chapter makes to the Greek, Lehigh and greater Bethlehem communities. Chapters are evaluated on service and philanthropic activities, conduct record, promotion of inclusiveness, relationship with key partners and campus involvement.

Criteria in this metric include but are not limited to: community partnerships, service engagement, conduct record, collaboration with Greek and other student organizations, participation in campus organizations and events, efforts to promote a culture of inclusion and communication with alumni advisor and/or networks.

Academic & Intellectual Advancement

This metric focuses on the holistic intellectual development of the chapter. Chapters are evaluated on academic performance, the promotion of academic success and building a culture of intellectual curiosity.

Criteria in this metric include but are not limited to: chapter and new member GPAs, Dean's List, academic trends within the chapter, academic support resources (i.e. scholarship plan, recognition for achievement),

activities that promote intellectual growth and stimulation, use of campus resources, exploration of post-graduate opportunities, professional/career development activities, articulation of how fraternity/sorority membership connects to opportunities and vice versa (i.e. study abroad) and relationship with faculty/staff advisor.

Facilities Management (as applicable)
This metric focuses on the maintenance, safety and operations of a residential facility. Chapters are evaluated on the day-to-day processes running their facility, collaboration with appropriate campus partners, facilities-related conduct violations and use of physical space to promote community values (i.e. academic excellence, inclusion and brotherhood/sisterhood).
Criteria in this metric include but are not limited to: management of openings/closings, communication with constituents involved in facility management (i.e. chef, custodial staff, Residential Services), accountability within the facility, common damages, life safety violations, house project management, occupancy, furniture maintenance, sustainability initiatives and use of physical space to promote community values.

Overall Rating
This rating focuses on the overall performance of the chapter throughout the year. This is not an average of the ratings received in previous metrics. While this considers the ratings from each previous metric, it is a separate evaluation that factors in additional performance indicators. This rating evaluates innovation and creativity, maintenance of best practices across metrics, growth and improvement year to year, integrative reflection and demonstration of values congruence.

Report Guidelines
- Reports should not exceed 50 pages total. The recommend length is between 25-35 pages.
- Appendices should be limited and used only if absolutely necessary as supporting documentation
- Reports are to be submitted approximately two weeks before your scheduled presentation (specific deadlines will be communicated in advance)
- Reports are to be submitted as one document in PDF format titled "Organization Name_2017 Accreditation" in the following way:
    o Shared as a google files with inaccred@lehigh.edu
- Chapters are encouraged to highlight their year in the report, not to summarize everything that occurred in the past 12 months
- Reports should showcase action and results and not focus on future plans

Presentation Guidelines
- Presentations are to be no longer than 40 minutes. Remaining time will be used for panelists questions (up to 60 minutes total)
- There is no limit on the number of members who may present. Please note that the entire chapter membership *is not required to attend the presentation*.
- The presentation is open to alumni and advisors
- Chapters are encouraged to use multi-media (PowerPoint, Prezi, Google slides)
- Chapters are responsible for setting up any technology needed at least 5 minutes before the start time
    o Computer, projector and screen are provided

The most successful reports and presentations tell the story or journey of the chapter and demonstrate learning and growth.