

LAMBDA SIGMA UPSILON

Accreditation Report

2014-2015

Intellectual Development

- Lambda Sigma Upsilon was ranked third out of three Multicultural Greek Council fraternity chapters in the fall 2014 semester with a GPA of 2.21, an increase of .305 from the spring 2014 semester. The 2.21 GPA placed the chapter below the All Fraternity and All Greek average.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon was ranked third out of three Multicultural Greek Council fraternity chapters in the spring 2015 semester with a GPA of 1.73, a decrease of .048 from the fall 2014 semester. The 1.73 GPA placed the chapter below the All Fraternity and All Greek average.
- The Committee commends Lambda Sigma Upsilon members for their authentic transparency and honesty when reflecting on academic challenges. The Committee cannot stress enough how imperative it is that all members continually take advantage of resources in order to succeed academically and graduate.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon prepared an academic plan in an effort to hold members accountable to academic achievement. Plan components include logging study hours and tracking progress. The Committee believes this is an initial first start and recommends that Lambda Sigma Upsilon partner with the Center for Academic Success, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs to review the academic plan and ensure it is realistic, attainable, and sustainable.
- The Committee is pleased with the Chapter's efforts to relinquish other priorities and refocus on academics; however, there is little indication that progress is being made. With this in mind, the Committee is concerned by members' intentions to take on more organizational responsibilities, including intake, and how these commitments will be balanced with academic priorities.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How does Lambda Sigma Upsilon work to make a continual assessment of academic balance their number one priority for 2015-16?**

In the area of **Intellectual Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Sigma Upsilon to be a **Poor Chapter**.

Leadership Development

- The Committee commends Lambda Sigma Upsilon for scaling back on previous commitments and focusing only on members' passionate areas of interests. The Committee recommends the Chapter continually apply this mindset in order to balance academic work with extracurricular activities.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon invested significant effort into HIV/AIDS Awareness Week, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Dancefest Six and members also held various leadership positions, including Chair and Financial Chair of Dancefest.

- Lambda Sigma Upsilon members have maintained heavily involvement with the regional board for the Inter/National organization.
- The Chapter effectively utilizes staff, alumni, and other advisory resources to make informed decisions while keeping in mind the organization's future direction. The Committee commends the Chapter on creating strong relationships with a variety of invested stakeholders and considers such consulting to be a successful organizational practice.
- The Committee recommends that the Chapter reflect upon leadership lessons gained through the fraternity experience and share such reflections with staff, alumni, and other advisory resources. This is an impactful way to incorporate self-reflection without adding more work or additional meetings.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How are Lambda Sigma Upsilon members using leadership skills they have gained through their experiences in the chapter to engage with and better the Lehigh community?**

In the area of **Leadership Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Sigma Upsilon to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Community Development

- Lambda Sigma Upsilon recognizes the value of cosponsorships with other organizations in increasing manpower, financial resources, and marketing efforts as well as attracting larger audiences. The Committee feels that the cosponsorships are a natural fit for Lambda Sigma Upsilon to see through its vision despite challenges in size.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon members consistently serve as role models to members of the Lehigh and South Bethlehem communities. The Committee is impressed by the Chapter's commitment to strengthen partnerships with the Diversity Achievers program and Broughal Middle School while also serving as group leaders and hosts for prospective students attending Diversity Life Weekend.
- The Chapter raised more than \$1000 for the HIV/AIDS Live Safe campaign and research by hosting the Take the Throne III Step Show. This event attracted strong participation from the Greek community, especially from Panhellenic sororities.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon hosted Condom Bingo during HIV/AIDS Awareness Week and raised \$300. The Chapter also held a variety of workshops and educational sessions. The Committee commends the Chapter on their work to make this awareness week happen.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon received the Branch Out Award at the Community Service Office's Volunteer Recognition Banquet. The award recognized the Chapter's volunteer efforts with Bethlehem school children.
- The Chapter has taken a more active role to hold their members accountable, especially regards academic standards, and members failing to meet minimum GPA requirements are placed on inactive status. The Committee recognizes the difficulty to stand firm on this decision and commends the Chapter for being proactive.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How does Lambda Sigma Upsilon continue to make an impact on the Lehigh and South Bethlehem communities while maintaining a realistic and achievable schedule?**

In the area of **Community Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Sigma Upsilon to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Organizational Development

- Lambda Sigma Upsilon works closely with its Chapter Advisor and Regional Board to provide updates on the Chapter's progress across the year. This includes participating in monthly conference calls, completing monthly reports, and attending regional leadership retreats to learn new and innovative ways to further success.
- The Chapter also maintains a very close relationship with the bulk of its alumni. The Committee believes there exists an important opportunity for alumni to assist the chapter in understanding work/life balance.
- The Chapter should constantly update its materials to ensure accuracy. The Committee noticed some discrepancies, which could confuse new members and prevent them from effectively transitioning into the organization.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon must focus on intake and transition processes as the current members are closely approaching graduation and organizational sustainability is of utmost importance. The Committee cannot stress enough the importance of future new members understanding how best to carry on chapter operations once current members graduate and transition to alumni status.
- Lambda Sigma Upsilon had a trying year and the Committee commends the members for their hard work and perseverance. The Committee believes the Chapter is at a critical crossroads and must determine how best to balance being a successful organization with being a role model to the surrounding community. The Chapter should continue working with advisors to make sure they are on track for success.
- The Chapter created a Dropbox account to effectively transition organizational history, resources, and procedures to future members.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Lambda Sigma Upsilon create a simple strategic plan that allows the chapter to remain balanced and focused for the entire year?**

In the area of **Organizational Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Sigma Upsilon to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Lambda Sigma Upsilon has been rated a Bronze chapter by the 2014-2015 Accreditation Committee.

The impact Lambda Sigma Upsilon is having on the Lehigh community is undeniable. The men in the organization are passionate and care deeply about the values of the organization, as well as the Greek community as a whole. The Committee is concerned by how this

passion is balanced with the need for the men to be students first. Lambda Sigma Upsilon must take a hard look at organizational practices around scholarship and personal balance. The need for this balance to be at the forefront of the support the Chapter receives is imperative for the continued success of the organization.

The Accreditation committee assigns Lambda Sigma Upsilon an overall rating of Bronze, which is considered a solid level of achievement in the Accreditation process, with all the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating.

Chapter Development Questions

- How does Lambda Sigma Upsilon work to make a continual assessment of academic balance their number one priority for 2015-16?
- How are Lambda Sigma Upsilon members using leadership skills they have gained through their experiences in the chapter to engage with and better the Lehigh community?
- How does Lambda Sigma Upsilon continue to make an impact on the Lehigh and South Bethlehem communities while maintaining a realistic and achievable schedule?
- How can Lambda Sigma Upsilon create a simple strategic plan that allows the chapter to remain balanced and focused for the entire year?