

MU SIGMA UPSILON

Accreditation Report

2014-2015

Intellectual Development

- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked first out of two Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the fall 2014 semester with a GPA of 3.21, an increase of .05 from the spring 2014 semester. The 3.21 GPA placed the chapter below the All Greek and All Undergraduate average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked second out of two Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the spring 2015 semester with a GPA of 2.79, a decrease of .42 from the fall 2014 semester. The 3.458 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority, All Women, All Greek and All Undergraduate average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon had 12.8% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2014 semester and 19.3% on the Dean's List in the spring 2015 semester.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon worked to develop an academic plan for undergraduate members, outlined GPA requirements of active and probationary statuses, and set forth requirements for those failing to meet minimum standards. The Committee commends the chapter for their effort in developing this plan.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon hosted study sessions for members and other women from the campus community to promote academic success.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon continues to educate, cultivate, and embrace its organizational history as the first multicultural sorority. This is evidenced by a number of programs and initiatives and the Committee commends the chapter for its effort.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon again partnered with Disability Support Services to host Dining in the Dark and raise awareness for visual impairment. The Committee commends the chapter for exploring ability as an identity and considers both the program and partnership best practices.
- Mu Sigma Epsilon partnered with the Pride Center and Spectrum to host 50 Shades of Sex and Relationships to create an environment promoting healthy conversation surrounding sex and relationships.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's chapter president worked with the Office of Academic Diversity to support events promoting the STEM field.
- Chapter members continue to reflect upon chosen line names and their relevance to the organization's growth and progression. The Committee commends the chapter for fostering a sense of creative curiosity and reflection with regards to line names.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's undergraduate member participated in Safe Zone Training to better acquaint herself with concepts of LGBT awareness and allyship.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can the chapter utilize the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon the membership development experience?**

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

Leadership Development

- Mu Sigma Upsilon encourages all members to seek outside leadership development opportunities and cultivate leadership skills. This is evident from the membership's heavy involvement across the campus community. The Committee commends the chapter for its commitment and encourages the chapter to continue to seek out these opportunities.
- The chapter president attended a number of leadership conferences, including the Northeast Greek Leadership Conference and the Multicultural Greek Leadership Conference. The Committee commends the chapter president for sharing ideas and resources gathered at these experiences with fellow organizations from the fraternity and sorority community.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's chapter president is a graduate of Lehigh's inaugural Leadershape cohort. The Committee believes this experience was instrumental in shaping her approach to leadership over the course of the academic year.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's chapter president serves on several University committees, including a CORE Committee and the Black History Month Planning Committee.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's chapter president is consistently tapped to serve in leadership capacities by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. She has served as a PreLUpsilon Quest Guide, an Accreditation panelist, and more.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's undergraduate member has played an integral role in the launch of Greek Allies and serves on the executive board.
- The chapter's undergraduate member leverages her experiences and involvement across campus to reflect positively upon and increase the organization's visibility. The Committee believes there is further opportunity here to attract additional interests to the organization.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon involves all members, undergraduate and alumnae, in chapter decision-making processes.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can the chapter utilize the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon leadership development while avoiding burnout?**

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

Community Development

- The Committee commends the chapter for its ability to recognize the roles of privilege and responsibility with regards to Greek membership.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon focused on establishing new campus connections and cited a number of strong partnerships with student organizations and campus entities, including the Pride Center, Spectrum, Disability Support Services, and the Women's Center. The Committee believes the chapter recognizes the value and importance of meaningful partnerships to execute successful initiatives.

- Mu Sigma Upsilon partnered with the Women's Center to host a discussion on the Girl Effect and conversation focus on how best to assist girls living in poverty—near and far—while also promoting education.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon co-sponsored Condom Bingo with Lambda Sigma Upsilon and Helping Hands for Preemies with Alpha Phi Alpha.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon supports national and local philanthropy projects. The chapter fundraised for both the Girl Effect and March of Dimes for Babies as a result.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon maintains involvement within the local community. Members volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club and Strive while also participating in a food drive for a local church.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's alumnae membership maintains significant involvement and is consistently available to support undergraduate members in meeting organizational goals. The Committee recommends that the chapter further explore concepts of mentorship with alumnae.
- The Committee commends Mu Sigma Upsilon's alumnae advisor Christina Okoye for her dedication in supporting the chapter while concurrently completing graduate coursework.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon participated in the Greek Alumni Council meeting held in the fall semester.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon communicates with alumnae via bi-weekly emails as well as through the application GroupMe.
- The chapter maintains strong relationships with other chapters from the district and surrounding areas to exchange ideas, foster organizational unity, and showcase involvement.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can the chapter further explore concepts of privilege and responsibility with regards to Greek membership to effect change?**

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

Organizational Development

- Mu Sigma Upsilon organized a summer retreat to account for the transition of chapter leadership from several to one undergraduate member. The Committee commends the chapter for anticipating this challenge and navigating it as smoothly as possible.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon has made significant strides in understanding the importance of organizational development, specifically that of advanced planning and effective execution. This is evidenced by a number of successful chapter events and initiatives, despite membership consisting of one undergraduate member.
- The chapter president manages the organization with professionalism, poise, and composure while maintaining a certain level of adaptability. The Committee commends her for this approach and finds her maturity extending beyond her years.

- The Committee commends the chapter president's approach to Accreditation and the distinction between individual growth versus chapter growth.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon utilizes its Inter/National Headquarters' Stride Toward Attainable Results (STAR) Development Program to hold itself accountable to all chapter and district responsibilities while also setting goals for improvement. The chapter scored a 102/100 in the fall 2014 semester.
- The chapter utilizes a number of digital platforms to communicate across membership and retain organizational documents. Platforms including Google Drive, Google Calendar, and Drop Box among others.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon utilizes Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to advertise events, provide information, and maintain relationships with other organizations and members of the larger community. Additionally, the chapter utilizes social media outlets to facilitate conversation online; an idea that was implemented after attendance at a national conference.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon celebrated its third anniversary in April 2015. The Committee commends that chapter for its initial successes in its brief tenure on campus, yet urges the chapter to further explore opportunities with urgency to grow membership to ensure a sustainable future.
- The chapter hosted a number of Ladies Nights and is reconsidering its approach to recruitment in an effort to remain relevant in the current campus environment.
- The Committee cautions that balance should remain a continued priority to ensure membership burnout does not become an issue.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How does the chapter navigate decision-making processes regarding attendance at versus involvement in events, programs, and initiatives?**

Organizational Development, the Committee rated Mu Sigma Upsilon to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Overall Rating

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

In Mu Sigma Upsilon's three years at Lehigh University they have established many meaningful partnerships with Lehigh offices, organizations, alumnae, and the Bethlehem community. The Committee commends the chapter for utilizing these partnerships to educate members in a holistic manner, develop heavily involved leaders, and promote diversity and inclusion. The Committee hopes to see Mu Sigma Upsilon sustain these initiatives while being intentional to prevent burnout among their members.

The Accreditation committee assigns Mu Sigma Upsilon 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 the chapter utilize the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon the membership development experience?
- How can the chapter utilize the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon leadership development while avoiding burnout?
- How can the chapter further explore concepts of privilege and responsibility with regards to Greek membership to effect change?
- How does the chapter navigate decision-making processes regarding attendance at versus involvement in events, programs, and initiatives?

Best Practices

- Mu Sigma Upsilon again partnered with Disability Support Services to host Dining in the Dark and raise awareness for visual impairment. The Committee commends the chapter for exploring ability as an identity and considers both the program and partnership best practices.