

ALPHA CHI OMEGA

Accreditation Report

2015-2016

Intellectual Development

- Alpha Chi Omega was ranked first out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2015 semester with a GPA of 3.51237, an increase of .2835 from the spring 2015 semester. The 3.51237 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 2016 semester with a GPA of 3.47457, a decrease of .0378 from the fall 2015 semester. The 3.47457 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Chi Omega's spring 2016 new member class GPA was 3.376 ranking first out of nine Panhellenic Sororities.
- Alpha Chi Omega had 48.1% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2015 semester and 36.9% on the Dean's List in the spring 2016 semester.
- The chapter maintains a study room in their facility which is equipped with tools and resources to support sisters academically. Tips regarding time management, healthy eating, stress management, and available campus resources are available. Additionally, daily quiet hours are respected.
- The chapter did not have any members that fell below the required 2.6 GPA; thus zero sisters were placed on academic probation. The Committee applauds Alpha Chi Omega for emphasizing academic success.
- The chapter utilizes several positive incentives to reward and recognize achievement in the classroom: study bags, gift cards, dean's list dinners and public display of high accomplishment.
- The Committee commends the chapter on their "Faculty Member of the Week" recognition program. A certificate is presented to a different professor each week for inspiring members of the chapter.
- Alpha Chi Omega continues to host "Apple Pie with Alpha Chi" as a faculty and staff engagement event at the chapter house.
- Alpha Chi Omega members attended the play "Of Mothers and Men" which explored the relationships of a diverse group of women. The event was hosted by the Women's Center and co-sponsored by the chapter.
- Alpha Chi Omega sisters actively participate in study abroad programs. Each spring semester, the chapter hosts an information session where past participants offer insights and recommendations.
- The Committee believes that the chapter has opportunities to further connect bLUeprint to their intellectual experiences and hopes to see more integration in the future.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Alpha Chi Omega extend current Intellectual Development activities to include and/or serve as a model for other chapters in the Greek community?**

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

Leadership Development

- The chapter is active across the Lehigh community serving as Orientation Leaders, Rho Gammas, Tour Guides, Greek Emerging Leaders mentees, and TRAC fellows. The Committee commends Alpha Chi Omega for their involvement.
- Alpha Chi Omega had two women serve on the 2015-16 Panhellenic Council Executive board as the Vice President of Recruitment-External and the Vice President of Marketing & Communications.
- The chapter reevaluated and revised its New Member Education program using resources from across the community. This included training series and one-on-one meetings. The Committee is impressed with the thoughtfulness in which curriculum is created and considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Chi Omega supports leadership development across the membership and provides mentorship opportunities for executive board positions via “mini positions.” These positions are less time intensive and allow members to explore the responsibilities and duties of serving in an official role.
- The chapter leadership actively seeks feedback throughout the year via the committee system and sisterhood events. Beginning in 2015-16, the chapter also used an online tool for open-ended responses.
- Alpha Chi Omega promotes dialogue amongst members at weekly chapter meetings via the guest speaker portion of the agenda. Topics included the Safe Campus Act which directly connects to their national philanthropy, domestic violence prevention and awareness.
- The Committee recognizes that the women in Alpha Chi Omega are leaders across the Lehigh community making measurable contributions. The Committee hopes to see the chapter use its influence positively with other groups on campus to assist in their development.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Alpha Chi Omega be a leader within the Greek community in creating a more diverse and inclusive Lehigh environment?**

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

Community Development

- The chapter supports their national philanthropy, domestic violence awareness and prevention, year-round hosting Mountain Hunk, Dodging Domestic Violence, Denim Day, and Healthy Relationships Week.
- Alpha Chi Omega hosted its first chapter-wide community service day which provided opportunities for hands-on work outside of individual member's involvement. Sisters volunteer at the Hispanic Center, Turning Point, Prison Project, and Best Buddies.

- The chapter continues to have a strong alumnae advisory board, actively recruiting recent alumnae to serve post-graduation.
- Alpha Chi Omega held a mock standards board meeting to address the negative stigma surrounding judicial issues. Not only did it educate members on the process, but increased transparency between the leadership and general membership. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Chi Omega was found responsible for violations of the Code of Conduct when a new member was found highly intoxicated and the chapter did not seek medical attention. The chapter was extremely responsive in the aftermath of the incident, taking swift action to complete an investigation and fulfill sanctions quickly.
- The Committee commends the chapter for their collaboration with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Expectations, Panhellenic, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs in addressing the issue and educating members on positive social behavior.
- The chapter is uniquely positioned to lead cultural change within the Panhellenic and Greek communities, particularly in regards to social norms around alcohol and party culture. The Committee sees the potential and urges the chapter to take a stand.
- The Committee recommends that the chapter continue to use the lessons from the 2015-16 year to have discussions around safety, care for one another, and needed changes within the sisterhood.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Alpha Chi Omega affect change in regards to social responsibility within the chapter and community?**

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

Organizational Development

- Alpha Chi Omega continues to use and articulate the benefits from MyJourney, the national member development program. Exploring wisdom, devotion, and achievement through multiple conversations among member classes has built strong connections within the organization. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter used a program from their headquarters called "Backstops" which addresses risk management. The program provides a few basic questions for members to consider in any situation, particularly those with alcohol or other drugs.
- The Committee commends the chapter for its promotion of 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.
- Alpha Chi Omega spent time strengthening its proficiency around ritual which reinforced the shared values of the organization. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter adopted MyChapterRoom in an effort to increase the use of technology in operations. The portal will permit members to view calendars and events; participate in forums; and monitor attendance.

- The chapter lost its faculty/staff advisor due to professional departure. Finding a replacement needs to be a priority for the fall 2016 semester.
- The Committee commends the chapter for hosting a new member family brunch. The event is a positive way to engage with parents and friends and educate them about the Alpha Chi Omega experience at Lehigh.
- Alpha Chi Omega participated in the pilot art program offered by Residential Services. The facility now houses a piece by Wayne Theibaud.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can the chapter identify a community issue and utilize their social capital to build capacity in addressing the issue?**

In the area of **Organizational Development**, 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 2015-2016 Accreditation Committee.

The chapter's focus on connections over the 2015-16 year was evident in every aspect of operations and programming. Alpha Chi Omega continues to be an outstanding organization that can help other chapters and influence the community in productive and positive ways. It is clear that the chapter learned from its mistakes in the spring semester and has already committed to avoiding future risk management issues. Alpha Chi Omega holds its members to high standards in every area and is not willing to let challenges hinder progress. The Committee continues to encourage the chapter to use its community role to lead change.

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 extend current intellectual development activities to include and/or serve as a model for other chapters in the Greek community?
- How are Alpha Chi Omega be a leader within the Greek community in creating a more diverse and inclusive Lehigh environment?
- How can Alpha Chi Omega affect change in regards to social responsibility within the chapter and community?
- How can the chapter identify a community issue and utilize their social capital to build capacity in addressing the issue?

Best Practices

- The chapter reevaluated and revised their New Member Education program using resources across the community including a training series and one-on-one meetings. The Committee is impressed with the thoughtfulness in which curriculum is created and considers this a best practice.

- Alpha Chi Omega held a mock standards board meeting to address the negative stigma surrounding judicial issues. Not only did it educate members on the process, but increased transparency between the leadership and general membership. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Chi Omega continues to use and articulate the benefits from MyJourney, the national member development program. Exploring wisdom, devotion, and achievement through multiple conversations among member classes has built strong connections within the organization. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Chi Omega spent time strengthening their proficiency around ritual which reinforced the shared values of the organization. The Committee considers this a best practice.