

ALPHA OMICRON PI

Accreditation Report

2015-2016

Intellectual Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi was ranked fifth out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2015 semester with a GPA of 3.39904, an increase of .04287 from the spring 2015 semester. The 3.39904 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Omicron Pi was ranked seventh out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the spring 2016 semester with a GPA of 3.29467, a decrease of .10437 from the fall 2015 semester. The 3.29467 GPA placed the chapter above the All Greek average.
- Alpha Omicron Pi's spring 2016 new member class GPA was 3.067 ranking seventh out of nine Panhellenic Sororities.
- Alpha Omicron Pi had 41.7% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2015 semester and 28.7% on the Dean's List in the spring 2016 semester.
- Alpha Omicron Pi's academic plan is built upon the premise of encouraging and rewarding high academic achievement, and providing the resources necessary to achieve these pursuits.
- Alpha Omicron Pi holds members to higher expectations than the minimum GPA required to join a sorority, which is a 2.35. All general members and those holding positions on the Cabinet must maintain a 2.5 GPA, while members who desire an executive role on the Leadership Council must obtain a 2.75 GPA.
- Alpha Omicron Pi implemented an Academic Mentor Program, which matched new members with older, active members of similar or identical majors to serve as an additional resource and coach to provide support during times of academic stress. The Committee would like to see the chapter develop their Mentor program further, perhaps by providing training to mentors to ensure they are prepared to provide appropriate advice and support for new member's academic struggles.
- The Committee would additionally like to see the chapter further develop their academic plan beyond study hours and probationary status. Examples of initiatives might include requiring tutoring, helping members create individual academic improvement plans, partnering with support and resource offices on campus, etc.
- Alpha Omicron Pi partnered with Alpha Tau Omega for their third collaborative Faculty Appreciation Barbeque. The Barbeque is held at the ATO facility, and is well-attended by faculty and staff invited as supporters of the members of these two chapters. This provides an outlet for members to network and build relationships with faculty members outside the classroom.
- Alpha Omicron Pi sustained several programs to acknowledge and celebrate individual academic success, including a "No Skippy Jar" and their "AOPi Refrigerator" initiative.
- The Committee would like to see the chapter create opportunities to expose members to opportunities for general intellectual development, beyond the classroom. Though academic success is important, intellectual development encompasses much more than grade point averages.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi revamp its academic support program to best meet the needs of all members on an ongoing basis?**

In the area of **Intellectual Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Leadership Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi sent 2 executive officers to attend their international Leadership Academy, and additionally sent 4 members to attend the organization's International Convention last summer. This year, members brought back learning about values-based recruitment and improving chapter communication and operations through advancing technological and digital platforms.
- Alpha Omicron Pi encourages campus involvement as a viable leadership development opportunity for its members. The chapter not only has members represent them as Brown & White editors, TRAC Fellows, Peer Health Advisors, and Gryphons, but also has many members who have taken initiative to begin their own student organizations. Both the Flora Foundation and the Gender Equity in Leadership Club were founded by chapter members.
- Alpha Omicron Pi revised their New Member Education plan, with a focus on being more transparent about expectations and improving communication with new members. The chapter has zero tolerance for hazing, and after being involved in several hazing-related investigations, the chapter is determined to continually ensure all new members feel self, supported, and comfortable in the chapter.
- Alpha Omicron Pi regularly plans bonding events to promote sisterhood throughout the chapter. This includes a sisterhood retreat within the new member education period, in addition to weekly television show watching (like The Bachelor), apple-picking in the fall, holiday dinners, etc.
- Alpha Omicron Pi revamped their housing points system to ensure it held expectations for members of all class years, thus encouraging and expecting involvement and leadership from upper-class students. The new system goes beyond room assignments and has become more of a standards points system. The Committee commends the chapter for this revamp effort.
- The Committee commends the current leadership for leading by example, in an effort to alleviate the culture and assumptions that members can "do their time" as first-years and sophomores and then check out by their junior and senior year. The Committee encourages the chapter to continue this practice until the culture has completely shifted.
- Alpha Omicron Pi is actively involved as leaders of the Panhellenic Council and is taking opportunities to grow their leadership skills through outlets available to them on campus and within their international organization. The Committee recommends the chapter extend these efforts and encourage members to become involved in national programs such as UIFI, LeaderShape, etc.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi further discover what leadership means to the chapter, and then seek opportunities and take advantage of more resources to develop all members within these areas?**

In the area of **Leadership Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Community Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi continued their partnership with Sigma Chi to co-sponsor the annual 50 Hour See-Saw Marathon event this past fall. This year the chapter's teamed up to support one philanthropic benefactor due to an issue that was exceptionally close to Sigma Chi, the Wilson's Disease Association. This year the organizations raised over \$11,000, which is more than double previous years, and additionally garnered media interest and were highlighted on the local news for their efforts. The Committee commends the chapter for this effort.
- The Committee commends the chapter for supporting a philanthropic cause they felt so close to, and for their additional efforts to make a difference in an individual's life who was directly impacted through this (i.e. "Flowers for Megan"). The Committee hopes the chapter will continue to tap into areas of passion for all future service and philanthropic efforts as it is clear how much more success comes from efforts that are so important to the chapter.
- Alpha Omicron Pi continued their partnerships and built new partnerships with multiple Greek organizations, across all three governing councils. Events included Mountain Hunk, Seiple Farms, and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.
- Alpha Omicron Pi also supported community events including Spooktacular, Dance Marathon, Thank-A-Teacher, and Relay for Life. The chapter saw an increase in senior member support and attendance at these events, as a result of their new points system. The Committee commends the chapter on these efforts, which has clearly had broad-sweeping benefits for the organization.
- Alpha Omicron Pi won the Greek Cup by raising over \$9,000 for Relay for Life, with one member being awarded a Pillar of Excellence for Commitment to Service based upon her individual efforts to raise nearly \$6,000 on her own for the event.
- Alpha Omicron Pi partnered with Lambda Theta Alpha for a week-long series of events which all benefitted LTA's chosen philanthropic causes. The Committee is impressed with the chapter's efforts to join forces early on and truly partner together in the creation and implementation of these events, rather than just tagging on at the end and simply attending the events. The Committee considers this to be a best practice.
- Alpha Omicron Pi hosted a Sunday brunch for new member's parents to visit the chapter facility and get to know better the sisterhood with which their daughters were joining.
- Alpha Omicron Pi hosted an Alumni tailgate brunch in the fall semester, and offered house tours for returning alumni from previous decades who may be unfamiliar with the facility or with recent renovations. The chapter received very good feedback this year about the positive experience the alumnae had at the event.
- The Committee commends the chapter for responding to their recommendations and suggestions from last year, especially regarding building new partnerships and

seeking ways to develop learning through events. The Committee hopes the chapter will continue these efforts, building long-standing relationships with groups for whom there is mutual benefit in the partnership and possibility of learning from different perspectives.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi expand their service efforts to impact the local community of Bethlehem?**

In the area of **Community Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Organizational Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi focused on the “3 C’s” this year: Community, Campus, and Chapter. All efforts were strategically determined so long as they fit into the vision of improving the chapter in one of these three areas.
- Alpha Omicron Pi again made adjustments to the way the Leadership Council functions, this year shifting the focus on meeting times to be productive and filled with quality discussion rather than simple position updates.
- Alpha Omicron Pi has a balanced spread of members who serve as leaders on the Leadership Council and Cabinet. The Committee commends the chapter for responding to their concerns on this matter last year, and improving their efforts to spread out leadership within the chapter and through formal officer positions.
- Alpha Omicron Pi utilizes its Standards Board as necessary, with the support of their Alumnae advisors, to respond to issues within the membership. The sanctions the Board delivers are intended to be educational in nature, rather than punitive. This year there was a great deal of improvement in overall Standards fulfillment from its members, due in large part to the improved points system. Again, the Committee commends the chapter on this effort.
- Alpha Omicron Pi’s treasurer worked closely with the chapter’s Financial Advisor to bring practices up to speed and make efforts more streamlined than in the past. The chapter has seen improvements both in timely payments, and in membership morale regarding financial obligations.
- Alpha Omicron Pi was involved in two hazing-related investigations this past spring, and the Committee commends the chapter for their effective responses through these processes. The chapter worked as true partners with the OFSA, Office of Student Conduct and Community Expectations, and their international organization. Though nothing formal came out of these processes, it is evident that a great deal of learning and positive shifts in organizational management have resulted from these experiences.
- Alpha Omicron Pi had no life safety or common area violations and no common damages for the year.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi learn from its efforts in areas such as service and partnership (i.e. the meaningful intent behind relationship with LTA and the**

passion behind See-Saw event) and utilize this passion, purpose, and values in all aspects of organizational development?

In the area of **Organizational Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Alpha Omicron Pi has been rated a Silver chapter by the 2015-2016 Accreditation Committee.

Alpha Omicron Pi has had a year filled with improvements and plenty of opportunities to showcase these improvements to stakeholders. With two investigations, and the weight of last year's Committee feedback on the members' minds, these challenges were appropriately-timed tests to the chapter's new intentions and organizational practices. The Committee is impressed with the chapter's commitment to improving, and notes the strong sense of transparency that has replaced years of guardedness from the chapter. It is additionally evident that there is a much stronger sense of true sisterhood amongst the chapter, and it is plausible both these affects are related to each other. The Committee commends the chapter on all their efforts to focus on general improvement to operations and sisterhood this year, and hopes the chapter continues moving forward in its current direction.

The Accreditation committee assigns Alpha Omicron Pi an overall rating of Silver, which is considered a high level of achievement in the Accreditation process, with all the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating.

Chapter Development Questions

- How can Alpha Omicron Pi revamp its academic support program to best meet the needs of all members on an ongoing basis?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi further discover what leadership means to the chapter, and then seek opportunities and take advantage of more resources to develop all members within these areas?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi expand their service efforts to impact the local community of Bethlehem?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi learn from its efforts in areas such as service and partnership (i.e. the meaningful intent behind relationship with LTA and the passion behind See-Saw event) and utilize this passion, purpose, and values in all aspects of organizational development?

Best Practices

- Alpha Omicron Pi partnered with Lambda Theta Alpha for a week-long series of events which all benefitted LTA's chosen philanthropic causes. The Committee is impressed with the chapter's efforts to join forces early on and truly partner together in the creation and implementation of these events, rather than just tagging on at the end and simply attending the events. The Committee considers this to be a best practice.