

LAMBDA THETA ALPHA

Accreditation Report

2015-2016

Intellectual Development

- Lambda Theta Alpha was ranked second out of three Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the fall 2015 semester with a GPA of 2.84, a decrease of .32909 from the spring 2015 semester. The 2.84 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Lambda Theta Alpha was ranked first out of three Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the spring 2016 semester with a GPA of 3.118 an increase of .278 from the fall 2015 semester. The 3.118 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Lambda Theta Alpha had 14.3% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2015 semester and 40% on the Dean's List in the spring 2016 semester.
- The chapter requires each member to meet with professors regularly to monitor academic progress. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter utilizes an academic contract for each member which outlines expectations for academic performance and serves as a measure of accountability.
- The chapter requires an action plan for members that fall below a 2.6GPA. This includes regular meetings with the Academic Chair and decreased involvement in chapter activities.
- The chapter hosts weekly open study hours for the Lehigh community, particularly interested women, in Linderman library to promote academic achievement and scholastic accountability. The Committee considers "Study with the Lambda Ladies" a best practice.
- The chapter collaborated with Pi Beta Phi to host a faculty dinner, and members were recognized for high academic achievement.
- The chapter participated in several programs and events that explored what it means to be a universal woman. This included discussions regarding women of color and pay equity in partnership with the Women's Center; a woman in education panel discussion; and a workshop for interested ladies.
- The chapter partnered with organizations across campus to promote dialogue about issues that members are passionate about. This included a dialogue on domestic violence with Alpha Omicron Pi; a discussion on "code switching" with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and a Mix and Mingle Dinner with faculty of color and multicultural organizations on campus. The Committee recommends that the chapter evaluates the potential in these collaborations in broadening the impact of Lambda Theta Alpha at Lehigh.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can the chapter continue to offer programs that promote discussion and learning and share the value of these conversations with the larger Lehigh community?**

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

Leadership Development

- The chapter continues to hold a retreat each semester. During these retreats, the members calendar plan, address any organization problems, create goals, and revisit the chapter values. Alumni are also included and facilitate different topics.
- The chapter had one sister attend the Northeast Greek Leadership Association annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA in February 2016.
- The chapter sent one sister to Memphis in July 2015 to attend the National Convention.
- Lambda Theta Alpha sister Priya Chokshi was awarded a Tradition of Excellence award for peer mentorship at the Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Awards ceremony.
- The chapter had two sisters serve on the Multicultural Greek Council executive board as Social Media Chair and Vice President of Scholarship.
- The chapter hosted monthly discussions regarding Unity, Love, and Respect and how this is demonstrated by one another. This connects with another initiative, self-care nights, in which sisters focus on destressing and supporting each other.
- Lambda Theta Alpha events are coordinated by different sisters allowing members to learn processes and lead the chapter. The distribution of responsibilities and delegation of duties permits each sister to find her leadership style. The Committee considers a best practice.
- The Committee recommends that the chapter consider intentional leadership development among interests and newer members.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Lambda Theta Alpha increase efficiency in chapter operations by utilizing university resources?**

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

Community Development

- Lambda Theta Alpha hosted "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," a men's march to end gender violence, with Alpha Omicron Pi. This event is held biannually in support of the organization's national philanthropy sexual violence awareness.
- The chapter hosted "Mr. Burgundy and Grey" in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Affairs. It was the chapter's largest event and raised \$550 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.
- The chapter has been active within the Multicultural Greek Council by serving on the executive board, participating in the Yard Show, and leading discussions on issues facing the council.

- The chapter volunteered at The Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley during Hispanic Latino Heritage month. Members played with children while their parents attended employment workshops.
- Lambda Theta Alpha participated in the following events: Southside Bethlehem clean-up with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Holiday Hope Chest, and LatinoPalooza.
- The chapter recognizes that while the organization was first established for Latina women, sisters of all backgrounds are welcome. Members articulate a deep understanding of diversity, particularly as it connects to their values and how it translates to the Lehigh community.
- The Committee commends the chapter for utilizing connections with other organizations without solely carrying the onus of event planning and execution.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can the chapter serve as a model to other organizations in respect to making positive contributions to the Greek and Lehigh community?**

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

Organizational Development

- Lambda Theta Alpha uses “work meetings” to encourage equal participation of members to accomplish big tasks. These meetings are open to alumni and assist sisters with self-care and personal balance.
- The chapter continues to use a funding proposal packet. This has been helpful in seeking funding from Lehigh departments and offices to support chapter programming.
- The chapter is active within the Pennsylvania Area One subgroup and attended all PAA1 meetings during the year, including participating in the St. Jude Walk at the Philadelphia Zoo.
- The chapter held three informationals during 2015-16, but ultimately decided not to conduct Orientation in the spring 2016 semester. The chapter continues to cultivate relationships with interested ladies and plans to take new members in the fall 2016 semester.
- The chapter invested time and resources into interested women this year by providing academic support, discussions defining the “universal woman,” and resources for first generation college students.
- Lambda Theta Alpha was recognized with a Tradition of Excellence award for community development. The chapter focuses on self-care so that each member can be their individual best. The Committee commends the chapter for these efforts.
- The Committee recommends that the chapter reevaluates the current transition process for officers. Transition is an important aspect to develop as membership status changes and issues can often be avoided with proactive planning.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can the chapter ensure the sustainability of the organization and the stability of its membership?**

In the area of **Organizational Development**, the Committee rated Lambda Theta Alpha to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Lambda Theta Alpha has been rated a Gold chapter by the 2015-2016 Accreditation Committee.

Lambda Theta Alpha continued to be a successful chapter this year, capitalizing on the strengths of individual members as well as increased chapter membership. The sustained focus on providing academic support for sisters to be successful in the classroom combined with ongoing leadership opportunities allows the organization to flourish. The chapter consistently hosts programs that educate and positively contribute to the greater Lehigh community, often collaborating with Greek and non-greek organizations. The Committee is pleased with the performance of the chapter and supports the theme of self-care as a sustained model.

The Accreditation committee assigns Lambda Theta Alpha 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 continue to offer programs that promote discussion and learning and share the value of these conversations with the larger Lehigh community?
- How can Lambda Theta Alpha increase efficiency in chapter operations by utilizing university resources?
- How can the chapter serve as a model to other organizations in respect to making positive contributions to the Greek and Lehigh community?
- How can the chapter ensure the sustainability of the organization and the stability of its membership?

Best Practices

- The chapter requires each member to meet with professors regularly to monitor academic progress. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter hosts weekly open study hours for the Lehigh community, particularly interested women, in Linderman library to promote academic achievement and scholastic accountability. The Committee considers "Study with the Lambda Ladies" a best practice.
- Lambda Theta Alpha events are coordinated by different sisters allowing members to learn processes and lead the chapter. The distribution of responsibilities and delegation of duties permits each sister to find her leadership style. The Committee considers a best practice.