

MU SIGMA UPSILON

Accreditation Report

2015-2016

Intellectual Development

- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked third out of three Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the fall 2015 semester with a GPA of 2.74. The 2.74 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked third out of three Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapters in the spring 2016 semester with a GPA of 2.57333, a decrease of .16667 from the fall 2015 semester. The 2.57333 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's fall 2015 new member class GPA was 2.475 and was the only Multicultural Greek Council Sorority chapter to conduct new member education.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon emphasizes the importance of not compromising academics in the name of chapter involvement. The chapter's academic plan outlines minimum requirements, and members must earn a 2.8+ GPA in order to remain active. Those earning between a 2.5-2.7 GPA are placed on academic probation and must attend all classes; meet with professors or teaching assistants; and take advantage of available tutoring sessions. The Committee recommends that the chapter continue to implement the academic plan and maintain honest and frequent communication with each other regarding academic performance.
- The chapter hosts or attends a program, workshop, or session that's academically focused once per month. The Committee believes it is important to acknowledge the individual experiences of those with different commitments, learning styles, and academic focus.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon hosted "Study with the Mus" study sessions for members and other women from the campus community to promote academic success. Additionally, prospective members are encouraged to attend library study hours between 9AM-5PM as permitted by class and work schedules. The Committee commends the chapter for these efforts.
- 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 Upsilon members celebrated International Women's Day and engaged in a number of professional development opportunities surrounding womanhood. This included attendance at the Women's Empowerment Summit and the Girl Conference.
- The chapter's new member orientation process centers around learning the history and traditions of the organization as well as what it means to be a member. Participants also learn how to organize chapter meetings; host recruitment events; and fulfill duties of positions.
- 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 and proudly welcomes the Ibeji line to the chapter.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can Mu Sigma Upsilon incorporate the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon the membership development experience and members' learnings?**

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

Leadership Development

- Mu Sigma Upsilon members are involved in a number of clubs and organizations, including Varsity Track and Field, Latino Student Alliance, Residence Hall Council, Indian Student Association, and much more. Additionally, members serve in leadership roles across the campus community as Orientation Leaders, Diversity Life Group Leaders, and Admissions Ambassadors. The Committee commends the chapter on its commitment to leadership, and encourages members to continually seek out these opportunities.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's Angie Bernal attended the Northeast Greek Leadership Association (NGLA) Annual Conference and Leadershape, and Gladys Castellon served as a facilitator for the North American Interfraternity Conference's Futures Quest program. The Committee commends members for incorporating ideas and resources gathered at such experiences at the chapter, council, and community levels.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's Gladys Castellon concurrently served Multicultural Greek Council President and chapter president. Additionally, she is heavily involved with Greek Allies, Greek Emerging Leaders, and the OFSA as a student intern. For her significant contribution and leadership, she received a number of awards and recognition including the NGLA Greek Leader of Distinction Award, Contribution to Student Life Award, and Ujima Award.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's Djenne Dickens was named Emerging Leader of the Year and Gladys Castellon was named Greek Leader of the Year at the annual Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Awards.
- The Committee cautions that balance should remain a continued priority to ensure membership burnout does not become an issue.
- The Committee finds it evident that chapter members leverages their experiences and involvement 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 with such efforts.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's orientation process incorporates mentoring, and new members are assigned big sisters that offer support and guidance across the process. Big sisters are recruited from other chapters. This helps to foster unity among all sisters belonging to the organization as well as promotes ideas sharing across the district.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon involves all members, undergraduate and alumnae, in chapter decision-making processes. The chapter also hosts winter and summer retreats to review past performance, develop chapter goals, plan for events, and bond with one another.

- The Committee commends members for recognizing and championing organizational values, including academic excellence, unity among all women, and serving the university and community. Members role model these values daily and intentionally engage in programmatic opportunities that further promote them.
- The chapter did not incorporate bLUeprint concepts as previously recommended, but has plans to do so in the coming year. The Committee looks forward to the chapter reflecting upon the chapter's identity, role within the larger campus community, and future direction as the chapter enters its fifth year on campus.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How can the chapter incorporate the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon leadership development, capitalize on fresh ideas and new energy, and avoid burnout?**

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

Community Development

- The chapter participates in a number of philanthropic opportunities, including the March of Dimes Walk, Autism Speaks Walk, and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. The chapter also supported Gamma Phi Beta's Crescent Classic volleyball Tournament, Kappa Alpha Theta's Candyland for Case, and more.
- 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, Reading Rocks, Veg Fest, and Strive while also participating in a clothing drive for a local church.
- 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, Disability Support Services, and the Women's Center. Additionally, the chapter is working to take advantage of natural connections (e.g. athletics) rather than trying to reinvent the wheel. The Committee believes the chapter recognizes the value and importance of meaningful partnerships to execute successful initiatives, and commends the chapter for its efforts.
- 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 chapter maintains strong relationships with other chapters from the district and surrounding areas to exchange ideas, foster organizational unity, and showcase involvement.
- The Committee commends the chapter for its ability to recognize the roles of privilege and responsibility with regards to Greek membership. The Committee recommends that the chapter further explore these concepts to effect change.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **What opportunities exist for Mu Sigma Upsilon to contribute to the development of newly established organizations?**

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

Organizational Development

- Mu Sigma Upsilon utilizes its 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 routinely scores high marks.
- The chapter utilizes a number of digital platforms to communicate across the membership and retain organizational documents. Platforms include Google Drive, Google Calendar, Drop Box, and OrgSync 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.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon hosts Ladies Nights informational sessions, and hopes to welcome additional members to the chapter in coming semesters. There exists a number of interested women, and current members are fostering relationships, providing academic assistance, and mentoring these women so that they can meet requirements for membership.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon welcomed two new members to the chapter in the fall semester, and subsequently tripled its membership. While the chapter is currently navigating the transition associated with such growth, the Committee commends the chapter for tapping into each other's strengths and weaknesses to take advantage of talents and passions to further the organization's success.
- The Committee recommends that Mu Sigma Upsilon try on and apply some organizational frameworks or models as the chapter thinks through next steps. For example, the Committee finds that members' current working relationships and practices align with the feminist leadership model. Perhaps there exists an opportunity for the chapter to further explore this with the Director of the Women's Center.
- The Committee would like to note that the report included dated misinformation. The Committee recommends that the chapter work to ensure the report is current and addresses the Accreditation metrics to its fullest extent.

Chapter Development Question for 2016-17:

- **How is the chapter going to set up the upcoming year to continue current momentum in a way that is planful and intentional?**

In the area of **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 2015-2016 Accreditation Committee.

Mu Sigma Upsilon celebrated its fourth anniversary in April 2016, and the Committee commends the chapter for its initial successes in its brief tenure on campus. The chapter has established many meaningful partnerships with departments and organizations across campus as well as within the Bethlehem and surrounding communities. The Committee commends the chapter for utilizing these partnerships to educate members in a holistic manner, foster the development of strong leaders, and promote inclusion to better the campus climate. Now that the chapter has welcomed new members and tripled the undergraduate membership, the Committee looks forward to the boundless and vibrant presence the chapter will continue to have on our campus for years to come.

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 Mu Sigma Upsilon incorporate the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon the membership development experience and members' learnings?
- How can the chapter incorporate the bLUeprint learning cycle to reflect upon leadership development, capitalize on fresh ideas and new energy, and avoid burnout?
- What opportunities exist for Mu Sigma Upsilon to contribute to the development of newly established organizations?
- How is the chapter going to set up the upcoming year to continue current momentum in a way that is planful and intentional?

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.