

ALPHA GAMMA DELTA

Accreditation Report

2017-2018

Leadership & Member Development

- Alpha Gamma Delta fosters continuous member development through the unique programming of the Alpha, Gamma, and Delta experiences. The chapter incorporated the theme of “being there for another” throughout the year and connected learnings to the Lehigh social climate. The committee commends the chapter on addressing wellness issues and considers this a best practice.
- The chapter was selected by their headquarters to pilot a revised new member education program. The five week program featured online modules coupled with in-person activities led by the Alpha experience coordinators. The committee commends the chapter on being chosen to pilot an important aspect of sorority membership in addition to the well thought-out implementation.
- Alpha Gamma Delta is active in both national sorority programming as well as Lehigh leadership opportunities. The chapter sent three members to The Leadership Conference and one to the Chapter Presidents Academy in addition to one LeaderShape participant. Members have been purposeful in sharing lessons to benefit the chapter.
- The chapter hosted Tina Vansteenbergen at Lehigh as a result of hearing her program at The Leadership Conference. Her talk focused on building genuine connections with women across the Panhellenic community to foster a culture of support and camaraderie.
- The chapter had one member serve as the Vice President of Judicial on the 2017-2018 Panhellenic executive board. Additionally, one member will serve as the Vice President of Campus Relations for the 2018-2019 board.
- The committee cautions the chapter to be mindful of the “pledge class” or “PC” identity that exists within Alpha Gamma Delta. While building strong bonds within member classes is important, the committee recommends that the chapter work on an overarching “Alpha Gam” identity that is shared among all sisters.
- The chapter keeps sisterhood alive around the globe as they send packages and notes to all members studying abroad. This is done in both the fall and spring semester and receives overwhelmingly positive feedback from those away from Lehigh.
- Alpha Gamma Delta continues to provide meaningful and beneficial programming for all members. The involvement fair allows new members to explore potential roles within the chapter while the career services workshop addresses the professional development of sisters.

Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:

- **How can Alpha Gamma Delta continue to explore the concept of wellness within the chapter in the context of the Greek and Lehigh experience?**

In the area of **Leadership & Member Development**, the committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Organizational Operations

- Alpha Gamma Delta continues to be a model chapter in terms of transparency between officers and members. The chapter implemented several new practices this year to increase communication and openness. These included holding open officer board meetings to allow all members to have a voice in chapter discussions and activities and sending out agendas from Executive Council meetings. The committee considers these best practices.
- The chapter also collects and utilizes feedback throughout the year. Members can easily share comments and concerns with the Executive Council by using an open response form that can be filled out at any point and anonymously. The Executive Council then identifies themes from the survey for discussion. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter doubled the number of alumni advisors adding two new women to the board. The new advisors will take on specialized roles in the future in addition to supporting the current advisors with property management and officer specific coaching. The committee commends the chapter for continuously recruiting alumni involvement.
- Alpha Gamma Delta changed the officer structure nationally for undergraduate chapters. The Zeta Beta chapter is one of the last chapters to elect into the new structure. Over the past months, the chapter has benefited from observing other chapter's implementation and ultimately strengthened the officer transition program.
- The committee recognizes that the new officer structure does not include a risk manager thus making it a shared responsibility among all members. The committee encourages continuous education around loss prevention and individual member's obligations.
- Alpha Gamma Delta pairs new members with an alumna, creating the "Alum Chums" program. The actives and alumnae correspond over email and enjoy mentoring relationships. Several of the alumnae that participate as "chums" attended initiation and the Feast of Roses. The committee commends the chapter on this innovative idea.
- The chapter began implementation of the GINsystem which is an online platform used by Headquarters. The chapter used the calendar feature of the app to track members' activities and corresponding points as well as promote upcoming events.
- The chapter formed a committee to reevaluate and revise the activity point system. Ultimately, the committee created a new house points system that better reflects members' contributions to Alpha Gamma Delta and integrated this with a rewards-based incentive system.
- Alpha Gamma Delta has embraced the concept of values-based recruitment and continues to refine how sisters interact with potential new members. The chapter did encounter some challenges in regards to a text message about recruitment that ultimately led to a mediation with the Panhellenic Judicial officer. The chapter participated in an ethical recruitment presentation as a sanction.

Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:

- **As Alpha Gamma Delta transitions into a new leadership structure, how can the chapter remain nimble in anticipating and addressing associated challenges?**

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Community Service & Engagement

- Alpha Gamma Delta nationally changed their philanthropic focus to fighting hunger last year. The chapter wholeheartedly adopted this by directly linking the cause with their community service activities in South Bethlehem. These include Cooking Club at Broughal Middle School, volunteering at the Hispanic Center food pantry, and providing Homework Club dinners. The committee commends the chapter on connecting the national initiative to make a local impact.
- The chapter supports Feeding America and Meals on Wheels as their primary fundraising recipients. As these are new organizations to Alpha Gamma Delta, the chapter viewed this as an opportunity to experiment with new events. The chapter hosted a Chipotle fundraiser, Holiday Candy Grams, and Grilled Cheese with AGDs.
- The committee recommends that the chapter continues to explore issues related to fighting hunger to further their understanding. Participating in a poverty simulation, researching food insecurity, and educating the community on food waste are all ways to enhance member awareness.
- The chapter is in its third year of using Zeta Beta groups, which attend and participate in campus events. This year groups focused on building a stronger connection with Cultural Greek Council organizations. Members attended Lambda Theta Alpha's Latin Carnival, Kappa Alpha Psi's Shimmy Like a Kappa, and Mu Sigma Upsilon's Dining in the Dark. The committee commends this effort to build bridges within the Greek community.
- The committee commends the chapter on members' campus involvement. Sisters participate in a large number of activities including sports teams, service clubs, and academic societies with several women holding leadership positions within the organizations.
- Alpha Gamma Delta was found responsible for two violations of the code of conduct in the fall 2017 semester: irresponsible distribution of alcohol and encouraging others. The chapter was forced to reconsider what cohosting an event means and how to mitigate risk in social situations moving forward.
- The chapter used the Medical Amnesty policy twice in the spring 2018 semester, calling for assistance when a member needed medical attention. The committee commends the chapter for prioritizing the welfare of individuals.
- The committee recommends that the chapter incorporate reflection and dialogue into their service and philanthropic efforts. Providing members the opportunity to dissect and debrief their experiences within the community is the next step in a comprehensive service plan.

Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:

- **How can Alpha Gamma Delta be a leader in evaluating and adjusting traditions in the changing campus climate?**

In the area of **Community Service & Engagement**, the committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Academic & Intellectual Advancement

- Alpha Gamma Delta was ranked second out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2017 semester with a GPA of 3.47, an increase of 0.07 from the spring 2017 semester. The 3.47 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.

- Alpha Gamma Delta was ranked first out of eight Panhellenic Sororities in the spring 2018 semester with a GPA of 3.51, an increase of 0.04 from the fall 2017 semester. The 3.51 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Gamma Delta's spring 2018 new member class GPA was 3.45 ranking second out of eight Panhellenic Sororities.
- Alpha Gamma Delta had 46.6% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2017 semester and 38% on the Dean's List in the spring 2018 semester.
- The chapter hosted a staff member from the Center for Career and Professional Development to discuss resumes. The workshop was part of the Alpha experience, but open to all members in preparation for the career fair. In addition to building a resume, members also created "elevator pitches" about their professional background and goals.
- The chapter boasts an impressive 12 members that are recipients of merit-based scholarships from Lehigh. Additionally, one sister was awarded a scholarship from the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation based on her demonstrated academic success, emulation of the Alpha Gamma Delta values, and leadership role within the chapter.
- Alpha Gamma Delta continues to use an academic improvement plan that is personalized for each member. Any sister below a 2.5 creates an individualized plan with the Vice President Scholarship. Incentives are also used to promote class attendance and academic achievement.
- Alpha Gamma Delta had many members, primarily new, attend the 2018 Kenner lecture featuring Mary Robinson. Her discussion on climate change resonated with attendees that acting locally can have a global impact.
- The chapter engages with faculty members at their annual Academic Awards Banquet, co-hosted by Phi Delta Theta. The dinner is in its fourth year and focused on student accomplishments beyond the classroom, such as research projects. The committee commends the chapter on the sustained partnership and involvement with faculty.
- The committee recommends that the chapter explore opportunities to use the GINsystem to promote and track academic success.

Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:

- **How can the chapter share successful strategies and programs that support academic achievement with other organizations?**

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**, the committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Facilities Management

- Alpha Gamma Delta had no common damages for 2017-2018.
- Alpha Gamma Delta managed openings and closings with no issues.
- Alpha Gamma Delta passed life safety inspections and fire drills with zero violations.
- The chapter successfully met occupancy for both the fall and spring semesters.
- The chapter utilized feedback via several surveys distributed by the Chef and Steward. The goal of collecting feedback was to reduce food waste by understanding members' dietary likes and dislikes.

- The chapter is exploring connections to the new national philanthropy, fighting hunger, through one member's participation in the Food Recovery Network, a student movement to reduce food waste on college campuses while providing education on hunger in our society.
- The chapter supported green initiatives by hosting a "No Power Hour Yoga" and recycling relay race. The chapter also has four members that participate in the Eco-Reps program.
- Alpha Gamma Delta maintains positive relationships with local partners such as Residential Services and their national Fraternity Housing Corporation. Frequent and proactive communication have served the chapter well, particularly when purchasing new furniture for the facility.

Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:

- **How can the chapter share best practices regarding food waste with the Greek community?**

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Alpha Gamma Delta has been rated an Accredited with Excellence chapter by the 2017-2018 Accreditation committee.

Alpha Gamma Delta is a leader within the Greek community not only using, but creating new best practices across chapter functional areas. Members articulate a meaningful and values driven experience within the chapter and connect their sorority activities with other involvement, both academic and extracurricular. The chapter consistently seeks areas to improve and experiments with new programs and initiatives. Individuality, accountability, and inclusiveness are hallmarks of the Alpha Gamma Delta sisterhood. The committee is impressed year after year with the high expectations and performance of the chapter.

The Accreditation committee assigns Alpha Gamma Delta an overall rating of Accredited with Excellence, which exceeds expectations set forth by Lehigh University. The chapter excels in multiple metrics, making valuable contributions to the Greek and Lehigh communities. Congratulations!

Chapter Development Questions

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- As Alpha Gamma Delta transitions into a new leadership structure, how can the chapter remain nimble in anticipating and addressing associated challenges?
- How can Alpha Gamma Delta be a leader in evaluating and adjusting traditions in the changing campus climate?
- How can the chapter share successful strategies and programs that support academic achievement with other organizations?
- How can the chapter share best practices regarding food waste with the Greek community?

Best Practices

- Alpha Gamma Delta fosters continuous member development through the unique programming of the Alpha, Gamma, and Delta experiences. The chapter incorporated the theme of “being there for another” throughout the year and connected learnings to the Lehigh social climate. The committee commends the chapter on addressing wellness issues and considers this a best practice.
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