

MU SIGMA UPSILON

Accreditation Report
2018-2019

Leadership & Member Development

- Mu Sigma Upsilon demonstrates comprehensive involvement across campus. They take an active approach to building leadership skills and contribute significantly to Lehigh's Cultural Greek Council.
- The chapter developed a revised recruitment plan to expand reach. They demonstrate thoughtfulness towards future efforts, focusing on areas to improve their recruitment efforts. Additionally, the chapter strives to be a resource even for members who do not join Mu Sigma Upsilon.
- The chapter demonstrated a focus on member development. Programs and strategies around temperament, body positivity, teamwork, effective communication and mental health occurred over the past year.
- The chapter encourages new members to participate in leadership activities, like Greek Emerging Leaders.
- The committee notes the chapter's participation in the Undergraduate Interfraternal Institute.
- The chapter strives for connection across all three councils, and identifies intersections between shared concerns with other councils through participation in the Greek Emerging Leaders program.
- The committee commends the chapter's connection with and value for alumnae. The chapter extends support to alumnae by participating in events that support causes important to them.
- The committee commends the chapter's use of reflection to improve practices. The chapter's words and actions appear to mesh surrounding their purpose and programming offered.
- Chapter members participate in leadership roles on campus and bring leadership learnings back to the chapter.
- The chapter was honored with the Collaboration Award at the Office of Multicultural Affairs awards ceremony.
- The chapter received five star grades on their annual report from Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority Inc. headquarters.
- The committee encourages the chapter to continue to focus on how time is invested. The committee encourages continued focus on member development within the organization. Consider the balance between visibility and internal development, as it is a constant act of prioritization. Strategically planning time for sisterhood development will be important.
- The committee encourages the chapter's focus for next year on planning events in advance, sharing responsibility, and clear communication about expectations and time restraints. All of this will be particularly important entering the 2019-2020 academic year with three members.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **How do you strike a balance between visibility and internal member development?**

In the area of **Leadership & Member Development**, the committee rated Mu Sigma Upsilon to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Organizational Operations

- The chapter acknowledges the importance of asking for help, and the committee encourages continued focus in this area.
- The chapter holds retreats twice a year for review and future planning. The chapter reflects on how to best use time because every action is so critical with such a small chapter. Reflection is built into the structure of the year.
- The chapter values the organization around connections with alumnae, as well as continued infusion of organizational identity in driving practices.
- The committee notes the chapter's restructuring to use time efficiently as a best practice. The chapter strives for 100% attendance at events.
- The chapter shared information about work and communication styles, as well as communications effectively about the time restraints, to boost their work effectiveness.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon engages efforts to boost transition planning, like shadowing their email chains and one-on-one meetings to familiarize newer members with organizational roles.
- The committee sees flexibility and adaptability as areas of development for the chapter. With three active members, the chapter will have to try new things and use available resources to adapt to changing needs.
- The committee reiterates the importance of recruitment for sustainability of the organization. It is critical to share what this organization has to offer to recruit effectively. This is an outstanding organization, and telling that story effectively sets the stage for increased membership.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **How can Mu Sigma Upsilon use their strengths in collaboration, their strong performance as an organization and organization values to garner interest among existing friend groups?**

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the committee rated Mu Sigma Upsilon to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Community Service & Engagement

- Mu Sigma Upsilon uses social media as a tool to engage with the community.
- The chapter used its network to increase access to funding, and sought alignment with other organizations with similar interests.
- The chapter's engagement with service is extensive, and they have several programs that are well-recognized on campus, including Dining in the Dark, March for Babies, and To Write Love on Her Arms.
- The committee commends the chapter's collaboration with other organizations.
- The committee commends the chapter's use of alumnae as a resource for career development.

- The chapter demonstrates an impressive understanding of shared responsibility for various communities surrounding their experience, including the Greek, Lehigh and Bethlehem communities.
- The committee recommends that the chapter focus on balancing programmatic efforts with self-care, as well as focusing on programs about which they're most passionate. Continuously innovate programming so the chapter is maximizing impact and well-being of members.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **One of your goals is asking for more help. In what spaces can you make progress on this goal as related to community service and engagement?**

In the area of **Community Service & Engagement**, the committee rated Mu Sigma Upsilon to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Academic & Intellectual Advancement

- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked second out of two Cultural Greek Council sorority chapters in the fall 2018 semester with a GPA of 3.33, an increase of 0.33 from the spring 2018 semester. The 3.33 placed the chapter above the All Greek average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked first out of two Cultural Greek Council sorority chapters in the spring 2019 semester with a GPA of 3.33, consistent with their average from the fall 2018 semester. The 3.33 placed the chapter above the All Greek average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon had 25% of the chapter on the Dean's List for the spring 2019 semester.
- All chapter members are STEM majors, and they support each other academically. The chapter strives to keep members above a 2.5 GPA and to find a balance between school and chapter work. There is an evident focus on empowering sisters to achieve in majors in male dominated career paths.
- The committee appreciates chapter members' articulated decision to ask questions to forge connections and provide presence and voice for the Cultural Greek Council organizations.
- The chapter demonstrates outstanding academic and professional accomplishments. This illuminates that the chapter is providing strong support and encouragement to members.
- The committee encourages the chapter to consider participating in activities collectively for intellectual enrichment. There are a wealth of opportunities on campus that can spark intellectual engagement. These efforts can further cultivate a shared community of intellectual advancement.
- The committee recommends that Mu Sigma Upsilon consider ways to more formally recognize achievements of sisters.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **How can Mu Sigma Upsilon articulate academic strategies to others? It is clear that you are supporting one another, but this should be packaged in a way that can be messaged well.**

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**, the committee rated Mu Sigma Upsilon to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Mu Sigma Upsilon has been rated an Accredited with Excellence chapter by the 2018-2019 Accreditation committee.

Mu Sigma Upsilon has made outstanding progress in each category, and the sisterhood within the chapter is clearly strengthened by the members' concerted efforts. The committee's only concerns stem from the chapter's operations in the next year with fewer members, as we wish to see the chapter continue in such a strong fashion. The balance of self-care, organizational progress and recruitment will be essential in the year ahead.

The Accreditation committee assigns Mu Sigma Upsilon 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

- How do you articulate your academic strategies to others – we know that you are supporting one another, but this should be packaged in a way that can be messaged well?
- How can you cultivate a shared community of intellectual advancement?
- How do you strike a balance between visibility and internal member development?
- One of your goals is asking for more help; in what spaces can you make progress on this goal as related to community service and engagement?
- How can you use your strengths in collaboration, your strong performance as an organization, and organizational values to garner interest among existing friend groups?

Best Practices

- The chapter strives for connection across all three councils, and identifies intersections between shared concerns with other councils through participation in the Greek Emerging Mentors program.
- The committee notes the chapter's restructuring to use time efficiently as a best practice.