

## **Sigma Phi Epsilon**

Accreditation Report

2021-2022

### **Leadership & Member Development**

- Sigma Phi Epsilon has an effective and structured New Member Education program that is in alignment with the mission and values of the organization. Sigma Phi Epsilon leads through values-based recruiting.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon utilizes the “Balanced Man Program” app to chart and create a framework of what members should attend, utilize, or support as a member of the organization.
- The chapter did a great job at utilizing campus resources when it came to their Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) programming and workshops.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon developed methods to create and maintain a connection with alumni and membership after the undergraduate experience.

#### **Chapter Development Questions for 2022-2023:**

- How can the chapter better utilize campus resources to formalize DEI work and education?

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

### **Organizational Operations**

- Sigma Phi Epsilon has a transitionary period with their newly elected board members with mentorship from former executive board members per position.
- The chapter has increased transparency with the e-board and the membership as they meet regularly.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has increased the utilization of its standards board and created a mental health chair in partnership with University Counseling & Psychological Services (UCPS) and other campus resources to meet the needs of its members.
- The chapter’s bylaws are reviewed on an annual basis, during which they review any recommended changes that can be made.
- The chapter has increased its financial transparency with its members by showing where their money is going.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon created and set up a payment plan option for members who needed assistance.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon ended a subscription service for their newsletter in order to better utilize chapter funds. Members were able to create their own newsletter template to continue meeting their communication goals.

#### **Chapter Development Questions for 2022-2023:**

- How can the chapter maintain strong exec board/chair position transitions?

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the committee rated Sigma Phi Epsilon to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

### **Community Service & Engagement**

- The chapter wants to be involved with community events, Sigma Phi Epsilon's overall community service philosophy is supporting organizations that need help and time, and partnering with the community service office to develop and produce opportunities.
- The chapter utilized technology for fundraising to maximize reach and scope. Sigma Phi Epsilon ran multiple campaigns raising more than \$4,000 to support their work with breast cancer awareness and suicide prevention.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon separated community service from philanthropy showing that they understand the difference between the two. This also indicates a great awareness of the types of initiatives they took on as a chapter.
- The Balanced Man scholarship program saw the chapter give nine individuals who were interested in joining Greek life, three of whom joined Sigma Phi Epsilon, a total of \$1,250.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon partnered with the Community Service Office (CSO) on service opportunities with Broughal Middle School, The Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem, and Victory House, providing students with snack bags, tutoring, and mentorship.

#### **Chapter Development Questions for 2022-2023:**

- How does the chapter plan to ensure and maintain relationships with your philanthropy partners?
- How is the chapter going to maintain relationships with the current philanthropies or change from year to year since organizations are not related to Sigma Phi Epsilon nationals?

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

#### **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**

- Sigma Phi Epsilon was ranked ninth out of 12 Interfraternity Council chapters in the fall 2021 semester with a GPA of 3.15, a decrease of 0.07 from the spring 2021 semester. The 3.15 GPA placed the chapter below All Greek, All Fraternity and All IFC averages.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon was ranked sixth out of 12 Interfraternity Council chapters in the spring 2022 semester with a GPA of 3.24, an increase of 0.09 from the fall 2021 semester. The 3.24 GPA placed the chapter above All Fraternity and All IFC, but below All Greek averages.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon's fall 2021 new member class ranked third out of six Interfraternity Council chapters. Sigma Phi Epsilon only had one new member and grades are not reported for only one member or one new member per FERPA.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon's spring 2022 new member class GPA was 3.16 ranking seventh out of 12 Interfraternity Council chapters.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon had 24.0% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2021 semester and 33.3% on the Dean's List in the spring 2022 semester.
- The chapter introduced the Vice President of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Learning Community, which is a newly created position due to the chapter's status nationally amongst other Sigma Phi Epsilon chapters. The position was enacted to make sure the members adhere to the academic standards needed to maintain this new distinction.
- The chapter implemented house renovations and purchased new tables/chairs/printer/etc. to promote studying and better academic habits.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon coordinated with all members to implement group chats by major, set up tutoring, and connect with a faculty advisor for mentoring.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon is currently looking for more academic advisors to bolster the academic environment.

### **Chapter Development Questions for 2022-2023:**

- What additional programs can you provide chapter members to raise member GPAs?

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Development**, the committee rated Sigma Phi Epsilon to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

### **Facilities Management**

- Sigma Phi Epsilon had not common damages for 2021-2022.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon managed openings and closings with no issues.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon passed life safety inspections and fire drills with zero violations.
- The House manager did a great job, making sure the members followed the directions by housing and creating an atmosphere to assist in the acclimation of the members back into a physical chapter facility.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon introduced housing improvements by the way of new furniture, and reorganization of the communal space to promote an academic environment.
- A sustainability chair was created to promote the use of reusable dinner and silverware, a system of sustainability in the use of cardboard boxes for moving and storage.

### **Chapter Development Questions for 2022-2023:**

- How will the chapter continue this level of excellence with facilities management after a great first year back after Covid?

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the committee rated Sigma Phi Epsilon to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

### **Overall Rating**

**Overall, Sigma Phi Epsilon has been rated an Accredited with Excellence chapter by the 2021-2022 Accreditation committee.**

Sigma Phi Epsilon did a great job keeping up with the standards they have set for themselves as a chapter and has set a standard on how an organization within the Greek community. The chapter has set itself apart by implementing strategies for success academically through various learning opportunities and the utilization of its faculty advisor. They are a standout chapter in leadership and member development as they lead with technology and a national member standard that all members should adhere to. Sigma Phi Epsilon has displayed that the chapter recruits with a purpose and leads through its values. A strong understanding of the difference between philanthropy and service and creating partnerships in diverse areas to support both initiatives is great to see. Sigma Phi Epsilon has set an example for its peers to follow.

**The Accreditation committee assigns Sigma Phi Epsilon 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 can the chapter better utilize campus resources to formalize DEI work and education?
- How can the chapter maintain strong exec board/chair position transitions?

- How does the chapter plan to ensure and maintain relationships with your philanthropy partners?
- Is the chapter going to maintain relationships with the current philanthropies or change from year to year since organizations are not related to Sigma Phi Epsilon nationals?
- What additional programs can you provide chapter members to raise member GPAs?
- How will the chapter continue this level of excellence with facilities management after a great first year back after Covid?

### **Best Practices**

- Mentorship program and Balanced Man Program.
- Green initiatives through their Eco-Rep and their sustainability.
- Attempting to work with additional faculty advisors
- Separating community service from philanthropy because they are different.
- Financial transparency with the members.
- Creation of executive board positions on mental health and DEI.