

Mu Sigma Upsilon

Accreditation Report

2022-2023

Leadership & Member Development

- The Yemaya Chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Inc. focuses on developing leadership skills and personal growth among its members. They collaborate with district and national headquarters to ensure a well-structured New Member Education plan that provides prospective members with a clear path for development.
- The Chapter's recruitment process includes informational sessions called "Ladies Nights," where prospective members learn about the organization's history, values, and traditions. The Ladies' Nights progress from surface-level information to deeper insights about the chapter name's founders, traditions, and significance. Attendees are encouraged to reflect on the incorporation of the organization's core values into their daily lives.
- After joining the sorority, members are encouraged to attend national, district, and university workshops to enhance their leadership skills. These workshops cover various topics, including recruitment methods, event planning, communication, and philanthropy. The Chapter also holds democratic elections for executive board positions, ensuring a smooth transition through detailed transition documents and a shadowing process.
- The Yemaya Chapter members hold executive positions in 28 clubs at Lehigh University. They participate in university events and programs to develop leadership skills and form relationships with diverse students.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Inc. is the first multicultural sorority in the US. The Yemaya Chapter promotes diversity and inclusivity through activities like saluting in different languages and participating in DEI discussions and workshops. They support campus initiatives that promote diversity.
- New members attend workshops on cultural awareness, implicit bias, and courageous conversations. They learn about the NAACP, campus resources, and DEI efforts. The goal is to empower advocates for inclusivity on campus. The Chapter prioritizes inclusive event planning and collaboration for diverse programming.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- What strategies can improve member engagement and involvement in chapter activities and events?
- How can the Chapter strengthen its leadership development programs to ensure continuous growth and succession planning for future officers?

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

Organizational Operations

- The Yemaya Chapter holds weekly meetings to discuss upcoming events and officer requirements. Additionally, separate committees for events meet regularly to coordinate. They kick off each semester with retreats for planning and bonding. To stay organized and receive reminders, they use Google Suite tools.
- The Chapter maintains three financial accounts and tracks balances in weekly meeting minutes. Committees submit budgets for approval, and collaborations are sought for larger events. Fines are established for violations, and a judicial board ensures accountability.
- The Chapter educates its members about financial aid resources available in universities and organizations. Mu Sigma Upsilon has scholarships and grants for academic excellence, cultural experiences, and study-abroad opportunities. Interested students can find clear information about the costs and support options available.
- The Chapter exceeds requirements set by national and district headquarters, including hosting various events and attending district meetings. Regular communication and updates are maintained with district and national officers. The Chapter also meets university requirements and meets with OFSA and the Alumni Advisor regularly.

- Professional communication occurs through communication applications. Social media is used to promote events and engage with the campus community. Alumnae members stay connected through dedicated group chats.
- The Yemaya chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority moved into Greek housing on Lehigh's campus in the Cultural Greek Council (CGC) house for the first time in the 2022-2023 academic year, with four members residing there.
- The Chapter takes pride in maintaining the common areas of the CGC house, including the living room and study room, which are used for social events and kept neat. They prioritize sustainability by recycling and actively conserving energy by turning off lights and electronics when not in use.
- The Yemaya chapter had the highest occupancy in the house during the Fall 2022 semester, and they anticipate accommodating two new incoming members for the Fall 2023 semester, aiming to meet occupancy requirements as their Chapter continues to grow.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How can Mu Sigma Upsilon improve attendance and active participation in chapter meetings and events?
- What steps can be taken to improve financial management and boost fundraising results?
- How can Mu Sigma Upsilon enhance communication and engagement among chapter members, alumnae, and the wider community?
- What strategies can improve communication and collaboration among chapter members living in shared housing, ensuring a positive and efficient living experience?
- How can Mu Sigma Upsilon further promote sustainability and environmental consciousness within the Chapter, and what initiatives can be implemented to reduce our carbon footprint and increase eco-friendly practices?

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

Community Service & Engagement

- The Yemaya chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Inc. conducted 180 service hours during the Fall 2022 semester.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon led a "Wear Purple" campaign during the fall semester to raise awareness for World Prematurity Day as part of the Chapter's involvement with the March of Dimes.
- The Chapter has been successfully organizing an enlightening event called "Dining in the Dark" for over five years. The event's primary objective is to create awareness among the participants about the challenges faced by people with visual impairments. Through this unique dining experience, the attendees understand the daily struggles of visually impaired individuals and learn how to navigate the world without relying on sight. The Chapter's efforts in organizing such an event are commendable and highly appreciated by the community.
- Marvine Elementary School recently held its annual Black History Month Family Night, which included an empowering and inspiring Natural Hair Empowerment activity in partnership with the Men of Color Alliance. The main objective of this activity was to uplift and celebrate students of color while also challenging the negative stereotypes and stigma often associated with natural hair. This initiative was an excellent opportunity for students and families to come together and celebrate diversity, culture, and community.
- The "Debunking College Myths" presentation at Raub Middle School aimed to inspire seventh-grade girls who may be at risk to strive for academic success and contemplate college attendance.
- Collaboration with Lehigh After Dark resulted in events such as CGC Yardshow, Wingo, Trivia: Throwback Song Association edition, "Are you Smarter than a MU?," and Condom Bingo.
- Alumnae engagement is facilitated through social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, and communication apps for communication between alumnae and current chapter members.
- The Yemaya chapter has recorded no violations of the Code of Conduct or federal/state laws.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How can the chapter enhance its community service efforts to make an even more significant impact on the Bethlehem community?
- How can the chapter further promote and raise awareness about its national philanthropy, the NAACP, and the March of Dimes on campus?
- What strategies can the chapter implement to strengthen alumni engagement and foster closer relationships between current members and alumni?

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 2nd out of three CGC sororities in the fall 2022 semester with a GPA of 3.12, an increase of 0.11 from the spring 2022 semester. The 3.12 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek averages and above the All CGC average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked 3 out of 3 of the sororities on the Cultural Greek Council in the spring 2023 semester with a GPA of 3.10, a decrease of .02 from the fall 2022 semester. The 3.10 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority, All Greek, and All CGC averages.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon's spring 2023 new member class GPA was 3.27 ranking 1 out of 2 sororities conducting intake on the Cultural Greek council.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon had 21.4% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2022 semester and 11.8% on the Dean's List in the spring 2023 semester.
- The chapter hosts events like "Study with the MUs" to promote effective study methods and provide a supportive environment for students to complete their work.
- Collaboration with Sigma Phi Delta has allowed panel discussions and networking opportunities with professionals in various fields.
- Efforts are being made to improve academic performance by setting boundaries between academic commitments and campus involvements, including conversations with the alum advisor and implementing a FLAME Program to support members with lower GPAs.
- Six chapter members studied abroad, gaining valuable cultural and academic experiences in Uganda, Asia, and the Dominican Republic.
- Seniors utilize the Center for Career and Professional Development for resume and cover letter assistance, while other undergraduates are preparing for summer internships in their respective fields.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- What steps can Mu Sigma Upsilon take to help its members balance their academic responsibilities with their involvement in campus activities to promote academic success?
- How can Mu Sigma Upsilon improve its scholarship plan and boost academic performance within the Chapter through specific actions?
- How can Mu Sigma Upsilon extend and improve its educational offerings outside of the classroom to encourage its members' intellectual advancement and growth?

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

Overall Rating

Overall, Mu Sigma Upsilon has been rated an Accredited with Excellence chapter by the 2022-2023 Accreditation committee.

The Yemaya Chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon is an organization that places immense value on the development of its members in various key areas. These include leadership development, community service, academic advancement, facilities management, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. The Chapter prioritizes these areas to ensure its members experience optimal growth, efficient operations, impactful community service, academic excellence, and an inclusive environment.

To further enhance the leadership development of its members, Mu Sigma Upsilon can provide them with additional training workshops, mentorship opportunities, and resources specifically tailored to leadership skills development, succession planning, and officer development.

The Yemaya Chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon has been performing exceptionally well in various areas. By prioritizing these key areas, they can improve their chapter's overall performance and create an even greater impact.

The Accreditation committee assigns Mu Sigma Upsilon an overall rating of Accredited with Excellence, the chapter 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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Best Practices

- Prioritizing academic achievement, celebrating accomplishments, promoting study techniques, and providing support through programs and mentorship.
- Encouraging members to gain global perspectives through study abroad programs, applying diverse insights to coursework and personal growth.
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through events and discussions, fostering an inclusive chapter environment.
- Collaborating with other organizations to create inclusive events, embracing diverse perspectives and experiences.

- Implementing programs like the FLAME Program to provide guidance and support for academic and career success.
- Employing DEI-focused recruitment strategies, prioritizing diversity, and creating an inclusive membership environment.