

Sigma Gamma Rho

Accreditation Report
2022-2023

Leadership & Member Development

- Sigma Gamma Rho's mission and values are at the core of each program and leadership development opportunity offered.
- Sigma Gamma Rho held their Centennial Founders Day Gala. This gala brought together alumnae of the chapter and provided networking opportunities for members. This gala consisted of months of preparation which provided members to utilize their leadership and organizational skills.
- In October the chapter partnered with Turning Point of Lehigh Valley to educate members about domestic violence and the chapter invited all members of Lehigh's community to attend in order to raise awareness. The chapter continued to volunteer at Turning Point throughout the year, continuing this education.
- Sigma Gamma Rho held a Women's Empowerment Event which consisted of a Panel of Alumnae to discuss challenges women face in the workplace. This event provided members with opportunities to network and connect with alumni, and ask any questions about the professional world.
- Chapter members attended the Northeastern Midwinter Meeting and the Northeastern 81 Regional Conference through Sigma Gamma Rho headquarters. These conferences allowed members to connect with other chapters and gain valuable leadership experience, gain new skills, and gather ideas to bring back to Lehigh.
- The chapter New Member Education plan follows Sigma Gamma Rho's T.O.R.C.H. programs consisting of modules educating new members on sorority history, expectations, programming, and service. The chapter had 1 new member cross in the spring of 2023.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How does Sigma Gamma Rho plan to sustain momentum with one undergraduate member being present on campus next year?
- How does Sigma Gamma Rho plan to expand their reach in order to grow the chapter and to participate in intake next year?

In the area of **Leadership & Member Development**, the committee rated Sigma Gamma Rho to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Organizational Operations

- Sigma Gamma Rho meets on a weekly basis to review and plan upcoming events and future goals. The chapter consists of 3 members holding multiple leadership positions.
- Chapter documents and materials are in a Google Drive organized by the officer, which is shared with all current members. The chapter also updates their Google calendar at the beginning of each academic year.
- The chapter is financially responsible as they set up their chapter to have a Lehigh index this year, and are collaborating with their OFSA advisor to stay updated on this balance.
- Sigma Gamma Rho is engaged within operations on the Cultural Greek Council as members hold Executive Board positions and the chapter president consistently meets with their OFSA advisor.
- All intake practices strictly follow Sigma Gamma Rho headquarters policies and timelines.

- Sigma Gamma Rho offers resources to members to support them through any financial needs by referring them to Lehigh University's Student Opportunity Fund.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How will the chapter manage to operate sufficiently with only one undergraduate member going into the next academic year?
- How will the chapter ensure the singular member does not get burnt out balancing multiple responsibilities and practice self care?

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

Community Service & Engagement

- Sigma Gamma Rho members reflect on their community service experiences and utilize the service opportunities to strengthen their bond as sisters to think critically about their growth as individuals. This is seen through their relationship with Turning Point.
- The chapter regularly collaborates with the campus community through assisting the Cultural Greek Council in service events such as cleanups, participating in service opportunities provided by OFSA through Moov In, and collaborating with CSO to volunteer at Victory House and participate in Feel Good Fridays.
- To celebrate the organization's centennial year, the chapter decided to give back to the community through inviting other campus organizations to join Sigma Gamma Rho in planning activities with the Boys and Girls Club.
- In the fall semester the chapter put together their first national program to Lehigh's campus, Operation Big BookBag where the chapter collected donations of school supplies for local middle schools and ended the week with a volleyball tournament where participants had to donate in order to play.
- Sigma Gamma Rho takes advantage of service opportunities outside of the Lehigh University scope of resources. The chapter participated in Bethlehem's Walk for Mental Health awareness as well as traveling to Stroudsburg, PA to join the American Heart Association in a walk around Waterfront Park to advocate for heart health.
- Sigma Gamma Rho was recognized during OFSAs 2023 Leadership Awards where the chapter was presented the Program of Distinction Award for their Women's Empowerment Event.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How can Sigma Gamma Rho contribute to their collaboration efforts within Lehigh's Greek community as well?
- How will Sigma Gamma Rho continue to grow and expand their reach of service opportunities?

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

Academic & Intellectual Advancement

- Sigma Gamma Rho was ranked third out of three Cultural Greek Council Sororities in the fall 2022 semester with a GPA of 3.12, a decrease of 0.12 from the spring 2022 semester. The GPA placed the chapter below All Sorority, and All Greek averages, but above the All CGC average.

- Sigma Gamma Rho was ranked second out of four chapters in the Cultural Greek Council in the spring 2023 semester with a GPA of 3.2, an increase of 0.08 from the fall 2022 semester. The 3.2 GPA placed the chapter below All Sorority, and All Greek averages, but above the All CGC average.
- Sigma Gamma Rho's spring 2023 new member class GPA ranked the chapter first out of three chapters on the Cultural Greek Council.
- Sigma Gamma Rho had 25% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2022 semester and 0% on the Dean's List in the spring 2023 semester.
- Sigma Gamma Rho held an event open for all Lehigh students to create their own SMART Goals and learn about how setting realistic goals is beneficial for their academic success.
- The chapter holds study hours, "Study with the Poodles" providing a quiet space for members to study and learn from each other.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How can developing an academic plan benefit the members of Sigma Gamma Rho?
- What can positive incentives look like for students who are succeeding academically?

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

Overall Rating

Overall, Sigma Gamma Rho has been rated an Accredited chapter by the 2022-2023 Accreditation committee.

Sigma Gamma Rho has done a phenomenal job at getting themselves established on campus through their programming and community involvement. The chapter went above and beyond to get involved in service opportunities not only on Lehigh's campus, but also within the Bethlehem community and beyond. The mission and values of Sigma Gamma Rho remain at the forefront of all chapter development and service opportunities. This chapter is an exemplary chapter within Lehigh's Greek community of what a fully involved sorority looks like. In order for the sorority to expand and grow, the chapter should continue to market and expand their reach through their intake practices and look for ways to collaborate more within Lehigh's Greek life community, including the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council.

The Accreditation committee assigns Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. an overall rating of Accredited, chapter meets expectations set forth by Lehigh University. The chapter is successful and is an active contributor to the Greek and Lehigh communities.

Chapter Development Questions

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- How does Sigma Gamma Rho plan to expand their reach in order to grow the chapter and to participate in intake next year?
- How will the chapter manage to operate sufficiently with only one undergraduate member going into the next academic year?
- How will the chapter ensure the singular member does not get burnt out balancing multiple responsibilities and practice self care?

- How can Sigma Gamma Rho contribute to their collaboration efforts within Lehigh's Greek community as well?
- How will Sigma Gamma Rho continue to grow and expand their reach of service opportunities?
- How can developing an academic plan benefit the members of Sigma Gamma Rho?
- What can positive incentives look like for students who are succeeding academically?

Best Practices

- The chapter's ongoing relationship with Turning Point should be considered a best practice.
- The chapter's Women's Empowerment Event should be considered a best practice and is encouraged to be held annually.