

Mu Sigma Upsilon

Accreditation Report

2023-2024

Leadership & Member Development

- The Yemaya Chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority, Incorporated demonstrates an intentional and inclusive approach to leadership development and member recruitment. The chapter's collaboration with district and national officers underscores its commitment to ensuring a purposeful and enriching recruitment process.
- By organizing multiple Ladies Night Informational Sessions each semester, the Vice President of Recruitment facilitates a comprehensive introduction for interested individuals from the Lehigh community. These sessions delve into various facets of the chapter, including its history, traditions, philanthropic endeavors, and membership criteria.
- While the chapter did not conduct New Member Education during the 2023-24 academic year, it demonstrates a proactive approach to enhancing the process. Members engage in district training sessions and workshops focused on various aspects of leadership and chapter management.
- The Yemaya chapter embraces members from diverse backgrounds and actively celebrates cultural diversity through its programming, events, and social media initiatives. By refraining from calling all members "sisters" and instead using the term "siblings" to respect gender identities, the chapter demonstrates its commitment to inclusivity and respect for individual differences. While the chapter does not have a specific DEI position on its executive board, it integrates DEI principles into its activities, workshops, and New Member Education process.
- Following their transition to "siblings", members are encouraged to further their leadership development through participation in national, district, and university workshops. These workshops cover a wide range of topics, including effective chapter operations, recruitment strategies, event planning, and communication skills.
- The chapter's democratic approach to leadership transitions ensures opportunities for all members to assume leadership roles within the organization. Each member is able to submit a nomination for who they believe will excel in a position, including themselves. Once the nominations are distributed, the nominees must decide to accept or deny the nomination. After the nominations are finalized, the chapter votes following a majority rules system.
- Additionally, the chapter continues to facilitate smooth transitions between executive board members by providing comprehensive documents, one-on-one meetings, and shadowing opportunities.
- The Yemaya chapter's extensive involvement in campus clubs and organizations shows its commitment to active engagement within the university community. Members hold leadership positions in 24 different groups, spanning a diverse array of interests and disciplines. This broad spectrum of involvement not only enriches the members' college experience but also enables them to contribute positively to campus life and foster meaningful connections with their peers.
- Through participation in leadership development programs and events such as the Leadership Development and Belonging Conference and Summit for Greek Excellence provide interactive platforms for members to critically reflect on their leadership roles within the organization and the broader campus community.

Chapter Development Questions for 2024-2025:

- How can the chapter integrate feedback and suggestions from members regarding their leadership development needs and preferences into future programming and initiatives?
- How can the chapter utilize the insights gained from district meetings and retreats to enhance its chapter operations and address any challenges or opportunities identified?

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 chapter meetings where all undergraduates are required to attend. This fosters open communication and discussion about upcoming events, reflections on past events, officer needs, and member concerns. Meeting agendas are circulated beforehand, and minutes are documented and stored in a shared Google Drive for accessibility. Event committees meet separately, streamlining planning efforts and ensuring efficient collaboration.
- Retreats are held before each semester, focusing on both business planning and chapter bonding. Agenda topics include brainstorming event ideas and setting goals, while bonding activities, such as creating a chapter playlist, strengthening interpersonal relationships and setting a positive tone for the semester.
- The chapter maintains three financial accounts, ensuring transparency and accountability in budget management. Balances are regularly reported, and event committees submit itemized budgets for approval before making purchases. Fines serve as deterrents for behavior violations such as tardiness, inappropriate dress code, and the use of foul language while also reinforcing mutual respect among members.
- The chapter prioritizes financial accessibility, offering scholarships and grants for academic excellence, study abroad experiences, and event funding.
- The chapter exceeds national and district requirements for events and meetings, with regular attendance at district meetings and engagement in national updates. The president meets regularly with the advisor, and chapter documents, including by-laws and retention/recruitment plans, are reviewed and updated annually or semesterly.
- The chapter maintains clear boundaries between professional and informal communication channels, utilizing GroupMe for official business discussions and iMessage for casual conversations. Social media platforms are used to promote chapter events and engage with the broader campus community, while collaboration with other campus organizations strengthens connections and fosters inclusivity.

Chapter Development Questions for 2024-2025:

- In what ways can the chapter enhance the effectiveness of its retreats to not only facilitate business planning but also strengthen chapter bonding and cohesion?
- How can the chapter utilize technology and social media platforms more effectively to engage with both members and the broader campus community?

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 not only meets but exceeds national standards for community service, engaging in various events both on and off-campus, including clean-ups, educational programs, and afterschool programs. They collaborate with the Community Service Office and actively participate in events that interact with the Bethlehem community, fostering meaningful connections and making a positive impact.
- The chapter supports both their national philanthropy, the NAACP, and their chapter philanthropy, March of Dimes, through fundraising efforts, education initiatives, and social media awareness campaigns. They are

dedicated to raising funds and awareness for these organizations, contributing to the broader mission of social justice and health advocacy.

- Through collaborations with organizations like Lehigh After Dark, LU Bhangra, and chapters of the Panhellenic and Cultural Greek Councils, the Yemaya chapter hosts and participates in various campus events that promote multiculturalism, awareness, and acceptance. They actively engage with the Lehigh community, organizing events that address important topics such as sexual health, cultural heritage, and women's issues.
- The chapter maintains strong connections with alumni through social media platforms and dedicated communication channels. Alumni advisors provide support and guidance to undergraduate members, fostering a sense of continuity and mentorship within the organization.

Chapter Development Questions for 2024-2025:

- What are some ways in which the chapter can continue to create meaningful connections and successful collaborations with chapters outside of CGC as well as other student groups on campus?
- How can the chapter implement reflective practices to ensure members are building deeper connections with the service work being done?

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 three CGC sororities in the fall 2023 semester with a GPA of 3.01, a decrease of .09 from the spring 2023 semester. The 3.01 GPA placed the chapter below the All Sorority and All Greek averages and above the All CGC average.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon was ranked second out of three CGC sororities in the spring 2024 semester with a GPA of 3.05, an increase of .04 from the fall 2023 semester. The 3.04 GPA placed the chapter above the All CGC average and below the All Greek and All Sorority averages.
- Mu Sigma Upsilon had 22.2% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2023 semester and 22.2% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the spring 2024 semester.
- Recognizing the importance of academic support, the chapter has expanded the frequency of its "Study with the MUs" events from once a semester to once a month. This allows members to prioritize academic success and receive ongoing support throughout the semester.
- In collaboration with other student organizations like Kappa Alpha Psi, the chapter organizes academic events that promote interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. For example, they host joint study sessions where Lehigh and Moravian students can interact, share knowledge, and support each other academically.
- As members prepare for post-graduate opportunities, they actively utilize resources provided by the Center for Career and Professional Development. This includes seeking assistance with resume writing, cover letters, and job applications to ensure a smooth transition from academia to the professional world.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How can the chapter continue to promote a healthy balance between community engagement and academic advancement to reduce burnout and promote better academic performance amongst chapter members?
- How can Mu Sigma Upsilon utilize on campus resources such as the Center to create a more comprehensive, proactive academic plan?

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 2023-2024 Accreditation committee, 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!

The Yemaya chapter of Mu Sigma Upsilon continues to exceed the expectations set forth by both Lehigh University and their national entity, displaying a true commitment to the goals of the organization. The chapter has demonstrated commendable growth in various aspects, including community service engagement, academic advancement initiatives, and organizational management practices. However, there exists untapped potential for further growth and enhancement in the upcoming year. To further promote chapter growth and member development, Mu Sigma Upsilon should take time to reflect on what its most meaningful programs and service opportunities are and consider building the next semester's programming around these. Taking a more intentional approach to programming and collaborations will ensure that members of Mu Sigma Upsilon are focused on the "why" behind these events. Reflecting on current chapter initiatives and contributions is crucial to the success of Mu Sigma Upsilon, providing members with the opportunity to truly connect with the work that they're doing and cut out any programming or service that feels like a departure from the mission and vision of both the national organization and the Yemaya chapter.

Chapter Development Questions

- How can the chapter integrate feedback and suggestions from members regarding their leadership development needs and preferences into future programming and initiatives?
- How can the chapter leverage the insights gained from district meetings and retreats to enhance its chapter operations and address any challenges or opportunities identified?
- In what ways can the chapter enhance the effectiveness of its retreats to not only facilitate business planning but also strengthen chapter bonding and cohesion?
- How can the chapter leverage technology and social media platforms more effectively to engage with both members and the broader campus community?
- What are some ways in which the chapter can continue to create meaningful connections and successful collaborations with chapters outside of CGC as well as other student groups on campus?
- How can the chapter implement reflective practices to ensure members are building deeper connections with the service work being done?
- How can the chapter continue to promote a healthy balance between community engagement and academic advancement to reduce burnout and promote better academic performance amongst chapter members?
- How can Mu Sigma Upsilon utilize on campus resources such as the Center to create a more comprehensive, proactive academic plan?

Best Practices

- Utilizing platforms like GroupMe for official business discussions and iMessage for casual conversations helps maintain clear boundaries and ensures effective communication
- Establishing event committees allows for focused planning and division of tasks, leading to more efficient event management.
- Hosting chapter retreats before the beginning of each semester provides an opportunity for strategic planning, goal setting, and team bonding.
- Hosting a variety of events and activities that cater to different interests and cultural backgrounds promotes inclusivity and diversity within the chapter and campus community.