

Theta Chi

Accreditation Report
2023-2024

Leadership & Member Development

- Theta Chi's Executive Shadowing Program transitions incoming officers by allowing them to shadow current officers over a semester. This initiative, gaining traction in the Fraternity and Sorority Life community, was presented at The Summit for Greek Excellence in the fall 2023 semester.
- The chapter follows IHQ's Sacred Purpose initiatives to discuss topics that affect collegiate men such as alcohol and other drugs, fire and life safety, hazing prevention, sexual misconduct prevention, and mental health awareness. Theta Chi used a mix of campus resources, such as LUPD and BTS (Break the Silence) IHQ resources, and internal members to facilitate these workshops.
- Theta Chi utilizes Small Chair opportunities for brothers to get involved in leadership on a smaller scale where they are elected and voted into their positions and hold them for the duration of the academic year.
- Five executive officers attended Theta Chi's annual conference in Indianapolis, networking and learning growth opportunities from other chapters. They returned with enhanced skills in delegation, operations, financial management, hazing prevention, and organizational image.
- Theta Chi was one of four chapters to receive the Alter Award, which is an award presented by IHQ, which is the highest honor a chapter can receive. The chapter is evaluated on 14 categories where they are reviewed on their practices similar to Fraternity and Sorority Life's annual accreditation review.
- The chapter has implemented DEI practices into member development. Diversity Peer Educators facilitated workshops on unconscious bias and allyship. Following these workshops, the chapter developed a DEI plan focused on addressing unconscious bias, encouraging brothers to identify and reflect on their own biases.

Chapter Development Questions for 2024-2025:

- How can Theta Chi continue to grow and enhance their DEI plan for the future?
- How are members held accountable if they are not attending workshops or educational sessions the chapter is hosting?

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

Organizational Operations

- The chapter has implemented a new Standards Committee to align with the updating of IHQ's national bylaws. The new Standards Committee is now overseen by the Vice President consisting of the chapter's Chaplain and three brothers at large (one from each class). The Standards Committee meets weekly.
- The Executive Board meets weekly before chapter meetings, while committees convene as needed. The chapter collaborates closely with advisors from Fraternity and Sorority Life, IHQ, and their alumni advisor to set goals and seek support.
- The bylaws were reviewed on a semester basis adding updates or changes to reflect the current status of the chapter. Some significant changes this year was the reorganizing of the Standards Committee and the addition of a second Recruitment Chair.
- A budget is created and then shared with chapter members on a semester basis with brothers able to propose adjustments prior to voting.

- The addition of a second Recruitment Chair streamlined the recruitment process and facilitated relationship-building with potential new members. Theta Chi practices values-based recruitment, offering bids to individuals who embody their values of philanthropy, Lehigh spirit, and academic excellence.

Chapter Development Questions for 2024-2025:

- How can the chapter lean on Lehigh University resources to educate members around risk mitigation and Lehigh University policies?

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the committee rated Theta Chi to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Community Service & Engagement

- Theta Chi was found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct where the chapter received two weeks of social probation and has been placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of the spring semester. In response to this the chapter organized “A Perfect Party” program with Fraternity and Sorority Life to learn how to best manage a BYOB system at future events.
- The chapter actively engaged with the CSO’s service initiatives through volunteering with three Homework Dinners and tabling at the annual Spring Fling event.
- Theta Chi also engaged in their own service initiatives by volunteering to cook and serve dinner at the Bethlehem Victory House for local veterans tying directly to the chapter’s philanthropy, the USO. The chapter also held a Community Clean Up Walk on the hill.
- The chapter held a letter-writing table in the fall semester where students could participate in writing letters to veterans thanking them for their service as well as donating money to the United Service Organizations. The day ended with \$500 raised and 50 letters.
- Theta Chi held its annual St. Baldrick’s event, which supports Childhood Cancer Research, where six brothers shaved their heads to “Embrace the Bald ” leading towards the chapter raising \$7,800. In this same vein, the chapter raised \$1,000 at Lehigh’s Relay for Life.
- Theta Chi partnered with Sigma Phi Epsilon and Alpha Gamma Delta to host their annual Color Run which raised funds for the Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley.

Chapter Development Questions for 2024-2025:

- Panelists are concerned with upperclassmen not being required to participate in as many service hours, how can the chapter ensure they are being equitable to all members in this area?
- How can the chapter expand their service efforts outside of the initiatives of the CSO?

In the area of **Community Service & Engagement**, the committee rated Theta Chi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Academic & Intellectual Advancement

- Theta Chi was ranked third out of ten IFC fraternities in the fall 2023 semester with a GPA of 3.39, remaining equivalent with their spring 2023 semester ranking. The 3.39 GPA placed the chapter below the All Greek Average, but above the All IFC and All Fraternity averages.

- Theta Chi was ranked first out of ten in the spring 2024 semester with a GPA of 3.48, an increase of 0.09 from the fall 2023 semester. The 3.48 GPA placed the chapter above the All Greek, All IFC, and All Fraternity GPAs.
- Theta Chi's fall 2023 new member class GPA was 3.26 ranking third out of eight IFC chapters conducting fall recruitment.
- Theta Chi's spring 2024 new member class GPA was 3.20 ranking fourth out of ten IFC chapters conducting spring recruitment.
- Theta Chi had 45.6% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2023 semester and 44.2% on the Dean's List in the spring 2024 semester.
- The chapter uses financial incentives to recognize brothers who are excelling academically. Brothers with highest GPAs in each of the three colleges receive a \$100 scholarship and the brother with the highest increase in GPA also receives a \$100 scholarship.
- Theta Chi hosts a Scholarship Program where upperclassmen mentor and tutor underclassmen within the same college. The mentors are required to meet with their assigned mentees before each round of common hour exams and upon request.
- The chapter has revamped its social media presence to accurately represent its brothers, particularly to alumni. They take pride in their strong alumni connections on LinkedIn, where 431 members engage in discussions about internships and job opportunities.
- "The Big Happy Award" is a new initiative honoring an alumnus who passed away unexpectedly, celebrating his optimism, warmth, and humor. The chapter invited alumni, particularly from the class of 2010, to introduce this award, which is given to a brother exemplifying these qualities.

Chapter Development Questions for 2023-2024:

- How can the chapter bring in Lehigh resources to assist them with their Scholarship Program?
- How can the chapter connect what they are learning in the classroom to enhance member development?

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Development**, the committee rated Theta Chi to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Facilities Management

- Theta Chi had a hole in the wall in the fall semester resulting in a \$50 fine from Housing Services.
- Theta Chi had a hole in the wall in the spring semester resulting in a \$75 fine from Housing Services.
- Theta Chi had no issues with openings or closings during the 2023-2024 academic year.
- The fire alarm was pulled resulting in a minor life safety violation for the chapter.
- A group of chapter members participated in an egg fight in the facility. Members were held accountable for cleaning fees on an individualized basis. Following this incident, the individual members apologized directly to the chapter and ABM staff as well as cleaned the mess.
- Theta Chi exhibited positive characteristics such as consistently adhering to deadlines, taking accountability for violations, and taking preventative action to avoid repeat violations.
- Theta Chi has implemented sustainability efforts such as their "Liquid Gold Initiative" consisting of a competition of who can conserve the most water in one week. Another sustainability effort the chapter integrated was their "Don't Drive, Walk!" event where brothers were encouraged to walk around campus instead of driving.

Chapter Development Questions for 2024-2025:

- Can the chapter branch out and try to include the rest of the Fraternity and Sorority Life community in their sustainability efforts?
- How can the chapter be proactive in preventing further common area damages in the future?

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the committee rated Theta Chi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Theta Chi has been rated an Accredited with Excellence chapter by the 2023-2024 Accreditation committee.

Theta Chi is dedicated to developing upstanding fraternity men through service, academics, and campus engagement. The Beta Sigma chapter has established itself as a welcoming and supportive community at Lehigh. They consistently strive for excellence and leadership within the FSL community. Theta Chi always puts their best foot forward in all endeavors they set their minds to and strive to be leaders in the FSL community. To further enhance their impact, panelists encourage Theta Chi to expand partnerships beyond their usual FSL collaborators. They should explore opportunities to expand and lead the FSL community in some of the great initiatives they are doing such as the "Drive, Don't Walk!" campaign, or their intentional DEI plans. Theta Chi is commended for their meaningful work and encouraged to continue harnessing their potential as leaders in the FSL community.

The Accreditation committee assigns Theta Chi an overall rating of Accredited with Excellence, 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

- How can Theta Chi continue to grow and enhance their DEI plan for the future?
- How are members held accountable if they are not attending workshops or educational sessions the chapter is hosting?
- How can the chapter lean on Lehigh University resources to educate members around risk mitigation and Lehigh University policies?
- Panelists are concerned with upperclassmen not being required to participate in as many service hours, how can the chapter ensure they are being equitable to all members in this area?
- How can the chapter expand their service efforts outside of the initiatives of the CSO?
- How can the chapter bring in Lehigh resources to assist them with their Scholarship Program?
- How can the chapter connect what they are learning in the classroom to enhance member development?
- Can the chapter branch out and try to include the rest of the Fraternity and Sorority Life community in their sustainability efforts?
- How can the chapter be proactive in preventing further common area damages in the future?

Best Practices

- Theta Chi's Executive Shadowing Program where incoming officers shadow current officers over a semester continues to be a best practice.
- Theta Chi demonstrated their ability to effectively create and execute an action plan in collaboration with Lehigh University. By swiftly partnering with Fraternity and Sorority Life to host the "A Perfect Party" program, they directly addressed a violation of the university's Student Code of Conduct.

