

## ALPHA CHI OMEGA

Accreditation Report

2007-2008

### Scholarship

- Alpha Chi Omega's fall 2007 grades are 5<sup>th</sup> overall with a 3.250, slightly below the All Women's and All Sorority GPA. The chapter's spring 2008 grades were 6<sup>th</sup> overall, with a 3.261, slightly below the All Women's but above the All-Sorority GPA.
- The chapter's spring new member class GPA was first amongst sororities, at a 3.225.
- The chapter has implemented many new and positive pieces to their scholarship plan. They have a personalized contract for all members who are struggling academically, instead of a set plan for every student.
- Alpha Chi Omega worked with the Center for Academic Success on several presentations to the chapter.
- The chapter's current academic program includes study hours, an academic resource binder, as well as incentive programs such as a smart cookie and skippy jar.
- Alpha Chi Omega has started putting some recognition in place through their dean's list, teacher of the week, and faculty dinners.
- The chapter's peer mentoring program is working well. The committee would like to see Alpha Chi Omega formalize that process first by looking for possible training opportunities through the Office of Academic Support Services or the Office of Student Leadership Development and then following through by implementing the information learned through training.
- The chapter has made many strides in scholarship since deciding to make this a priority. Last year they specifically indicated that they could do better and wanted to develop a solid academic plan. If they continue to implement the goals which they discussed with the committee, they can quickly make the move from Silver Chapter to Gold Chapter in the area of scholarship.
- A recommendation for next year is to assess their current academic program to see how it truly helped them in this past year and then move forward to solidify it.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Alpha Chi Omega as a **Silver Chapter**.

### Leadership

- The chapter has completely revamped their new member program which indicates a real culture shift by the membership. This change came about by incorporating their nationally espoused rituals and beliefs into their new member education program which was completed on time this year.
- Alpha Chi Omega had great communication with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs on all the aspects of programming. They were particularly communicative concerning areas that they had identified as problematic for the chapter. The committee appreciates the chapter wanting the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs' advice and guidance.

- Alpha Chi Omega added things such as their McDowell Month, a celebration of Arts, and Hera Day to their new member program. Events such as these stress the ties that they have rebuilt with their national organization.
- The chapter cut down drastically the amount of obligations that they expected out of their new members, but were also very clear on what their new members needed to accomplish. The committee believes that this has infused the chapter with a better sense of purpose.
- The chapter became more engaged in educating potential new members about leadership opportunities and ways to engage new members more actively during formal recruitment so that the values of the chapter were more apparent to potential new members.
- The committee would like to recognize as a best practice the assessing of the chapter executive board over the past year as a means of improvement. The Executive Board assessment is a great tool and the committee looks forward to seeing the results next year.
- Alpha Chi Omega revamped their point system. They sought chapter involvement and ownership over the program by voting on it by the entire membership, and were very deliberate in holding chapter members accountable and providing options for members to make up points.
- A recommendation for next year is to continue the work they have done with the Office of Student Leadership Development specifically in regards to overall general membership.
- Alpha Chi Omega is involved in Panhellenic Council and other leadership positions on campus. The committee is impressed with the steps they've made.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

### **Citizenship**

- Alpha Chi Omega has had no violations of the Lehigh University Code of Conduct, nor any violation of the rules of their International Headquarters.
- Alpha Chi Omega's standards board is functioning very well. They've been able to rely on it as a support mechanism as opposed to simply a punishment or reward system.
- The committee was very impressed by the ability of chapter members to use the standards board for anything that seems out of line with the chapter's culture, not just obvious and negative transgressions.
- The committee can tell chapter members are obviously very invested in the day to day running the chapter and the physical structure. It is obvious how committed all chapter members, including seniors are by the high level at which the chapter's internal committee structure is functioning.
- The chapter's community service and philanthropic opportunities are something that they are still working well with, especially the luminary project and their work with the Girl Scouts. The committee was very impressed.
- Alpha Chi Omega should begin to track community service hours and person hours, so they can report those back to Panhellenic, their Inter/National organization, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs for use in publications.

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

### Partnership

- Alpha Chi Omega has improved tremendously their relationship and partnership with both their National Headquarters and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.
- The chapter has worked very closely with their alumni advisor, Ms. Elizabeth Short, however, she is not going to be with them next year and they need to continue to work with their headquarters to identify alumni resources.
- The chapter did an excellent job of incorporating their nationally recognized awards process into the creation of their accreditation binder.
- Alpha Chi Omega worked to streamline and enhance relationships with other Greek and non-Greek organizations to support their educational programming opportunities. This is something that the committee was impressed with: The chapter took the time to find the right partnership opportunities to enhance their internal goals and the goals of other groups.
- The chapter worked with the Alpha Chi Omega chapter at Muhlenberg. They are involved with other Lehigh University Greek Organizations and are getting more involved with Panhellenic. Furthermore, the committee believes the chapter understands the need for this involvement and is getting involved for the right reasons.
- The chapter knows where they need to improve and that is in their area of alumni involvement. This area needs to continue to be strengthened with the assistance of their Inter/National Organization.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Silver Chapter**.

### Stewardship

- The chapter has no major life safety violations, and continues to have very low damage numbers.
- Alpha Chi Omega has embraced the responsibility of upkeep and stewardship of the new facility. Additionally, they have decided to embrace the concept of environmentalism by incorporating "Go Green" tips in their house and collecting cans for Cans for Habitat.
- The chapter is fiscally sound and according to the FMA, is in good standing.
- The chapter again deserves credit for reengaging with their nationally stated values. This was accomplished by reconnecting with their ritual and living the responsibilities of being an Alpha Chi Omega.
- The chapter has an obvious new enthusiasm that was evident in their presentation and in their interactions with each other. If they continue to harness that energy and live their ideals, they have the potential to be a Gold chapter.
- Alpha Chi Omega is asked to reach out to the Pi Beta Phi leadership to assist the women of Phi Beta Phi in their transition to a new facility.

In the area of **Stewardship**, the committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

## Overall Rating

### Alpha Chi Omega

Alpha Chi Omega has had an amazing year and the committee would like to congratulate them on their successful transition. They have reaffirmed their relationship with not only their Inter/National Organization but also the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. They have embraced their principles and made hard decisions that lead to significant changes in their internal organization. While the committee recognizes how far they have come this year, the committee sees great things in the future. It is hoped that they will continue to improve their scholarship plans, standards board, and their plans for focusing and living their organization's values.

The chapter has done a great job of reevaluating themselves this year; they must work hard next year to achieve greatness as, with the loss of their advisor, their Inter/National Organization assistance will not be as close. They have proven that they are ready for the challenge and the committee is excited for the upcoming year. The committee would also like to recognize the chapter's efforts in coordinating their Inter/National Organization's awards process with the creation of their accreditation binder.

**The committee assigns Alpha Chi Omega with an overall rating of Silver** which is considered a high level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all of the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating. The rewards/ recognition will be discussed with the chapter's membership at the beginning of the new academic year. Congratulations on your great work and efforts and we hope that Alpha Chi Omega will continue to strive for excellence.

### Recommendations

- The committee recommends that Alpha Chi Omega assesses their current academic program to see how it truly helped them this year and then move forward to solidify it.
- The committee recommends that Alpha Chi Omega continues the work they have done with the Office of Student Leadership Development specifically in regards to general membership.
- Alpha Chi Omega should begin to track community service hours and person hours, so they can report those back to Panhellenic, their National organization, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs for use in publications.
- The chapter is advised to continue working with their International Headquarters to improve the area of alumni involvement.
- Alpha Chi Omega should begin working with their Inter/national Headquarters to find a new alumni advisor and quickly incorporate her into the chapter's culture.
- The committee asks that Alpha Chi Omega reach out to Pi Beta Phi and assist their Panhellenic sisters in the transition to a new facility.

### Best Practices

- The committee states that the assessment process evaluating the executive board, is a "best practice". The Executive Board assessment is a great tool and the committee looks forward to seeing the results next year.

