

KAPPA ALPHA

Accreditation Report

2007-2008

Scholarship

- In the area of scholarship, Kappa Alpha has a grade point average of 2.967 in the fall 2007 semester which ranks them 10th among the fraternities. In the spring 2008 semester, the chapter had a GPA of 3.094 which ranked them 8th among the fraternities, as well as above the All Men's and All Fraternity Averages.
- The chapter's spring 2008 new member class GPA was 2.965, which was 8th out of the fraternities.
- Kappa Alpha had 28% of the chapter on Dean's List in the fall semester and 13% on Dean's List in the spring semester.
- The chapter makes good use of their standards board in regards to scholarship. They have the involvement of numerous chapter members as well as their chapter advisor, Peter Wolle
- The chapter scholarship chairman, and alumni chairman along with the chapter's faculty advisor, Gary Lutz, took the recommendations of the committee from last year and modified the existing plan to change the overall attitude of scholarship by chapter members
- The scholarship plan included numerous addition activities for the recognition of those who excelled. These activities/programs include: Pennsylvania Voter's, Registration, KA Trivia Nights, the ACE Academic program, and the "A" Dinner
- The chapter has various financial incentives to motivate members. They include:
 - The John Hart Hunter Scholarship, the chapter's National Education Scholarship Fund, is awarded to active brothers who excel both in the classroom and within KA.
 - Cash prize of \$200 and 150 house points to the brother with the most improved GPA.
 - \$100 cash prize and 100 house points to the brother with the highest semester GPA in his class.
 - \$1,000 pool divided among all brothers who beat the all Greek GPA 3.128. There were 17 brothers (43%) who qualified from the fall semester, each earning \$70.
 - \$350 and 350 house points to the brother who has exhibited academic excellence, as determined by the standards board
- The chapter had 11 lectures/dinners with various faculty and alumni members throughout the semester. The speakers covered an impressive array of topics, from scholarship development, to university current events.
- Mark Andersen held a presentation on resume and interview skills.
- The chapter continues to utilize VL Times to distribute news about KA brother accomplishments and other relevant news.
- The chapter held an time management workshop for all new members sponsored by the Office of Student Leadership Development.

- Any brother who receives below a 2.3 GPA for a semester is required to appear before the Standards Board in order to assess the situation and come up with a plan for improvement.
- More than any other chapter, Kappa Alpha was able to articulate the atmosphere of intellectual curiosity that the members bring to the organization. This was something that very much impressed the committee and Kappa Alpha should be commended for it.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Kappa Alpha to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Leadership

- The chapter completed five workshops with the Office of Student Leadership Development as well as their annual ropes course activity
- The chapter does a good job of getting their new members involved in leadership programming
- The chapter included their new members in the time management and respect and responsibility workshops.
- The chapter held its executive board elections in early March. They have a shadowing and transitional process, so that each newly elected officer may benefit from the guidance of the present officer. They continue to have the past president in formal leadership roles and involved with accreditation.
- The chapter attended KA's Concilium where the past chapter president, Tom O'Donnell led a discussion about the necessary changes to the Society in terms of ritual, fees, and communication with our international chapters
- The chapter also has more than one executive board member supporting their current top five. The chapter's officer shadowing process is also very impressive.
- The Lehigh chapter of KA has unbelievable involvement, commitment and responsibility with the rest of Kappa Alpha Society. It is something that they take very seriously.
- Best practice for their initiation with other chapters as well as involving their Lehigh new member in an initiation ceremony at another KA chapter due to some scheduling conflicts. The chapter planned accordingly to make sure that the new member was not given a half hearted initiation ceremony.
- The chapter continues to be very involved with IFC and this will continue into next year with their past chapter president, Tom O'Donnell serving on the IFC board as the Communications Chair.
- The chapter has members involved in various other student organizations on campus including: Accounting Club, Lehigh Film Club (Founding Member), Newman Council, IBE Council, Martindale Scholar, Order of Omega and many others
- The chapter continues to be very involved with the Hobart and Toronto chapters of KA, attending their initiation ceremonies and discussing ritualistic practices on a regular basis.
- The chapter had two members apply and be accepted to be Student Leadership Trainers for the next academic year.
- Kappa Alpha was Purposeful in leadership programming and showed a strong balance between workshops for new members and general membership.

- The chapter partners very closely with the Newman Center and has taken on quite a bit of leadership in assisting that organization.

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

Citizenship

- Kappa Alpha had one code of conduct violation in the fall semester. The chapter was proactive in following the judicial process and learned from their mistake.
- The committee would like to best practice the selection process of their standards board. The chapter is very intentional about who is represented on the board. They take it very seriously, not just from a conduct point of view, but from a GPA point of view. KA's chapter advisor Peter Wolle is very involved in the standards board procedures as well.
- The chapter has a representative from each class on their standards board. These representatives are chosen based on their GPA's.
- The chapter has a posting of their Code of Standards in every common area of the Lodge
- The chapter's knowledge about KA does not stop with new member education. The chapter is required to have house activities that require brothers to learn about additional ritual activities, songs and histories.
- A total of 24 out of 31 of the members participate in the daily operation of the chapter
- Seventy percent of the chapter has a formal leadership position and it is something that KA works very hard on and is very intentional about. The chapter makes it a priority to get younger members involved in a transition period well before leadership positions are selected.
- The chapter is very cognizant of the difference between community service and philanthropy, and the committee believes the chapter has done a good job balancing the two.
- The chapter participates in numerous service projects including: Adopt-a-Highway, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, Thanksgiving Dinner, Allentown Boys and Girls Club and the Assisted Living Center.
- The chapter participated in numerous philanthropy activities including
 - Volleyball tournament for American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund
 - Breast Cancer Walk with Alpha Phi
 - Good Scholar Election for American Cancer Society
 - Newman Center Canned Food Drive
 - IFC "Adopt a Family"
 - 'Skatin' for Salvo' with Alpha Chi Omega
- The committee would like the chapter to continue to track their community service hours. This is something that they become cognizant of needing to do.
- The chapter is currently looking for a national philanthropy. They have started to have the conversation with their National Office. This initiative is something that the committee is excited about that.
- Overall the chapter continues to work hard and improve in this area.

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

Partnership

- The chapter continues to partner extremely well and show their responsibility and stewardship they have for their national organization and for the chapters that they work with.
- The chapter had various Greek and Non Greek partnership initiatives, such as: the Lehigh Lafayette Bonfire, Adopt-a-Highway, Assisted Living Visitations, Take Back the Night, Strikes for Tykes, Luminary Project and Kappa Week.
- KA continues to have a solid partnership with the Newman Center and this is something the committee hopes to see continue next year, even if the chapter doesn't have a formal leadership position on the Newman Center board.
- The chapter partnered with parents and alumni for Parent's weekend and Lehigh/Lafayette weekend.
- The chapter's engagement with faculty and staff members is probably the best that the committee has seen so far in terms of bringing faculty members up and having intellectual conversation.
- The chapter's involvement with their alumni is something that is taken very seriously, both from a chapter level and an IFC and Greek Alumni Council level.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Kappa Alpha to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Stewardship

- The committee would like to award a Best Practice for the chapter's continuity policy for seniors. The chapter has been very intentional on finding ways to keep seniors involved. They currently are required to have a meal plan at the house in order to keep them engaged. This practice/requirement has worked very well for the chapter.
- The chapter has done a much better job of handing in paperwork
- The chapter had no life safety violations.
- The chapter continues to be involved in Greek Week (annual KA Volleyball Tournament) and Intramurals.
- The chapter's Code of Standards is in place to avoid life safety and social policy violations set forth by the University and to continue to keep Kappa Alpha a clean, respectable and safe Lodge. The codes is read and signed by each brother
- The chapter is in good financial standing with the FMA
- In terms of engagement with the focus of the chapter stated values, this group is easily one of the top chapters if not the top chapter in understanding what it means to be in Kappa Alpha and why that is important.
- The chapter was honest concerning their damages this year. Most were a result of social event mishaps. There is no excuse, however, for having one of the highest closing damage numbers for missing furniture. The chapter must do a better job of taking responsibility for university issued furniture.

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

Overall Rating

Kappa Alpha has shown four years of constant progress and is well deserving of the success that they have earned. The chapter is truly well rounded and their commitment to the holistic development of their members is obvious. Additionally, Kappa Alpha's dedication to their alumni and other Kappa Alpha chapters is obvious. The chapter has developed into the truest meaning of a fraternity, and the actives and alumni should be proud of that. Congratulations on a great year.

The committee has assigned Kappa Alpha an **overall rating of Gold Chapter**, which is considered a high level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all 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!

Recommendations

- The chapter was honest that a lot of their damages this year were as a result of social event mishaps. There is no excuse, however, for having one of the highest closing damage numbers for missing furniture. The chapter must do a better job of taking responsibility for university issued furniture.

Best Practices

- The committee would like to Best Practice the selection process of their standards board. The chapter is very intentional about who is represented on the board. They take it very seriously, not just from a conduct point of view, but from a GPA point of view. KA's loyal alum and chapter advisor Peter Wolle is very involved in the standards board procedures as well.
- Best practice for their initiation with other chapters as well as involving their Lehigh new member in an initiation ceremony at another KA chapter due to some scheduling conflicts. The chapter planned accordingly to make sure that the new member was not given a half hearted initiation ceremony.