

SIGMA CHI

Accreditation Report

2007-2008

Scholarship

- Sigma Chi was 5th among fraternities with a 3.110 GPA in the fall 2007 semester. In the spring 2008 semester, they moved up to 4th among fraternities, with a 3.138. They were above the All Men's and All Fraternity GPA's both semesters.
- The chapter's spring 2008 new member class GPA was 3.244, 3rd among the fraternities.
- 61% of the chapter was on Dean's List in the fall semester, and 22% on Dean's List in the spring semester.
- The committee thinks that the chapter has a good streamlined academic process that works for them.
- The chapter continues to train members to act as tutors for brothers in need. Additionally, the chapter provides study rooms for members who want a quiet place to study during mid-terms or finals.
- The committee gives them credit because they have a breath of incentive opportunities based off of meeting the All-Fraternity GPA as well as providing incentives for the five Most-Improved GPAs, as opposed to just one.
- The committee gives Sigma Chi a Best Practice for reviewing executive board operations and turning the scholarship chair position into an executive board position. This decision was made in spite of the fact that the chapter was streamlining the rest of the executive board. The committee believes that Sigma Chi has placed priorities in the right areas of chapter operations and commends them for it.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Sigma Chi to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Leadership

- The committee gives Sigma Chi credit for streamlining their executive board. The chapter cut the board in half because the chapter did not make the current structure was productive.
- The chapter's officer transition report and their shadowing continue to work very well for them.
- Sigma Chi's in-house senior mentoring program is a great step in retention and the committee looks forward to seeing those results next year.
- The chapter did a good job of reassessing resources available to them this year, especially through work done with the Office of Student Leadership Development.
- The chapter's mock house positions are something they do very well in educating chapter members about the various responsibilities in elected and volunteer positions.
- The chapter firmly believes, both within and outside of the Greek community that formal and informal leadership positions are something that very much enhances

chapter operations, and Sigma Chi looks to make these opportunities an important part of the organization.

- The chapter has members in Order of Omega and other numerous activities. In addition, the upcoming Interfraternity President, Bobby Buckheit, is a Sigma Chi.
- The chapter's new member program is one of the best in terms of fusing Lehigh resources, Inter/National headquarters resources and local and national traditions and values. The committee considers it a Best Practice.
- Sigma Chi utilized the Office of Student Leadership Development (OSLD) for leadership workshops, but they have also called upon OSLD for a "consulting" role in providing feedback and suggestions for programs such as their "mentoring program" which will begin next year. The committee deems this to be a best practice.

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

Citizenship

- Sigma Chi does an excellent job of focusing their efforts on Huntsman Cancer Research and decided this year that participation in some other events might hinder their own philanthropic focus.
- The chapter had a major violation of Lehigh University Code of Conduct.
- Sigma Chi continues to implement quality philanthropic opportunities through their fifty hour See Saw-a-thon as well as their Luminary campaign and White Ribbon campaign efforts.
- A best practice for their continued work with the Huntsman Center Cancer Foundation, both through their 1887 club as well as their fifty hour See Saw-a-thon.
- A recommendation for next year is to perform community service. Now that they are closely tied to the Huntsman Foundation, the next step is giving of their time.

Citizenship, the committee rated Sigma Chi to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Partnership

- Sigma Chi continues to be very involved in terms of regional and national conference attendance and philanthropic donations to their headquarters.
- Sigma Chi has good partnership with sororities with the Luminary project and the See Saw Marathon.
- The chapter just acquired a faculty advisor this past spring in Tom Novak and they are very excited to see how that relationship pans out.
- The chapter has reengaged with the Office of Student Leadership Development and they have a number of partnerships with other on-campus offices and departments through their various philanthropic and educational opportunities.
- Sigma Chi does a good job of partnering with their alumni and their headquarters on the alumni recruitment dinner. The committee considers the dinner a Best Practice.
- Our recommendation is that they should take a leading role engaging with non-Greek organizations on educational, philanthropic and community service events and look for those opportunities.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Sigma Chi to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Stewardship

- The chapter did have a life safety violation with ritual candles but the committee feels that they have handled the situation correctly especially since it was early on in the semester they have learned from it. The chapter raised a lot of awareness throughout the fraternity and sorority community regarding the use of candles.
- The chapter has had some damages but for the most part it was vandalism from outside of the organization. This has been confirmed by Residential Services.
- The chapter does a good job with their continued commitment to the Jordan Standard, the ritual and values of Sigma Chi.
- Sigma Chi gets a lot of credit for overhauling their budget and maintaining \$10,000 in discretionary funds for availability next year.
- Sigma Chi is again very engaged with understanding how to balance and comprehend their obligations to both the University and the Inter/National Headquarters.
- A recommendation, due to the large size of the new member class is that they continue to have conversations and put practices in place to ensure that these rituals are passed down.

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

Overall Rating

Sigma Chi

The chapter continues to move in the right direction and the committee thinks it has a special recognition for their ability to work within the constructive nature of accreditation to find a chapter programming template and an accreditation template that works for them based on their belief. They continue to live life by the Jordan Standard while being able to balance the pressures of attending college. It is important to appreciate them for role modeling the way for other chapters by utilizing their actions and not just their words to live up to those ideals.

Sigma Chi has made some definite and impressive improvements over the course of this year and the committee hopes that in the upcoming year they will continue to be a role model chapter to other groups in the Greek community. They have a great relationship with not only their alumni but their International Organization as well and it should be one that they are proud of as a chapter.

The committee assigns Sigma Chi 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 Sigma Chi will continue to strive for excellence.

Recommendations

- A recommendation for next year is to perform community service. Now that they are closely tied to the Huntsman Foundation, the next step is giving of their time.
- Our recommendation is that they should take a leading role engaging with non-Greek organizations on educational, philanthropic and community service events and look for those opportunities.
- A recommendation, due to the large size of the new member class, is that they continue to have conversations and put practices in place to ensure that these rituals are passed down.

Best Practices

- The committee gives Sigma Chi a Best Practice for reviewing executive board operations and turning the scholarship chair position into an executive board position. This decision was made in spite of the fact that the chapter was streamlining the rest of the executive board. The committee believes that Sigma Chi has placed priorities in the right areas of chapter operations and commends them for it.
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