

## ALPHA CHI OMEGA

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

### Scholarship

- In the fall 2008 semester, Alpha Chi Omega was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> amongst sororities, 4<sup>th</sup> overall, with a 3.33563 GPA, which placed them above the All-Greek, All-Women's, All-Undergraduate and All-Sorority Averages. In the spring 2009 semester, the chapter was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, with a 3.3831 GPA, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, which placed them again over the All-Greek, All-Women's, All-Undergraduate and All-Sorority Averages.
- Alpha Chi Omega's spring 2009 new member class cumulative GPA was a 3.21, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8 sororities.
- In the fall 2008 semester 38.5% of the chapter made Dean's List. In the spring 2009 semester 35.2% of the chapter made Dean's List.
- The chapter has instituted a new system of recognition for academic achievement which includes recognizing the highest GPA in each academic college, highest GPA in each new member class, and most improved GPA.
- The committee recommends that the chapter continue to formalize their academic plan including their current informal mentoring program. With the continued assistance of the Center for Academic Success, the committee believes this program will be more beneficial to the chapter. The chapter hosted three sessions for their members with the Center of Academic Success this year.
- The chapter had three workshops with the Center for Academic Success over the course of the year, two in the fall and one in the spring, in addition to working with the Director for the Center for Academic Success to improve the chapter's academic plan.
- Alpha Chi Omega's academic verification forms are considered a Best Practice by the committee.
- The chapter has a 2.7 GPA standard for incoming and current members. The committee is very impressed with this, as it is one of the highest standards within the sorority community.

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

### Leadership

- The chapter is well aware of the challenges they still face with their senior involvement and continuing to place emphasis on values in the chapter. The committee commends the chapter on their efforts to create a senior point system, especially the chapter's withholding the end of the year date party from seniors who did not get the allotted amount of points needed to attend.
- Alpha Chi Omega has continued to work on their recruitment strategies, and incorporating the values of Alpha Chi Omega into each piece of the recruitment process. The chapter was again successful this year in recruiting over quota. A new direction for the chapter included some participation in continuous open bidding (COB), in which the chapter plans to participate in the future.

- The chapter held regular programming for its members including the continued use of the chapter's own program Chi Connections every other week, two risk management presentations per semester, and at least two sponsored events each month.
- The chapter paid special attention to making sure that some programs were offered at two different times to allow for membership to attend, and made an emphasis to state that members were not to be put in a position to choose between Alpha Chi Omega and academics.
- Alpha Chi Omega sisters are very involved on campus, with over 75 percent of the chapter involved in two or more student activities. The chapter should look to find other ways, besides its well established committee system, to utilize this leadership already present through chapter membership to improve overall chapter leadership.
- The chapter has worked hard to create strategic goals for the year, and has partnered with the Office of Student Leadership Development for officer transition, as well as goal setting. The committee recognizes the chapters efforts.
- Alpha Chi Omega partnered with the Office of Student Leadership Development to host a membership motivation workshop, and . In addition, Alpha Chi Omega had two sophomores involved in the Greek EMerging Leaders program and three incoming participants for the coming year, and an incoming senior will serve as a GEM mentor.
- The committee has pleased with Alpha Chi Omega's honesty about areas that they took a step backward in 2009-10 in order to become a better organization. This type of honesty is what builds positive relationships and assists in getting a chapter the help that they need.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Alpha Chi Omega to be a **Silver 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 continues to do a large share of community service that the sisters have come to really enjoy including working with a local Girl Scout Troop that they've assisted over the past couple years, attending events for the American Heart Association, and supporting their national philanthropy of domestic violence awareness through their annual luminary project with Sigma Chi and creation of care packages for a nearby women's shelter.
- The chapter branched out this year and really supported the Women's Center event, Take Back the Night. The chapter has come to realize that partnership with other campus organizations and office is beneficial to supporting a cause such as domestic violence awareness.
- Alpha Chi Omega's standards board is a solid base, specifically with the incorporation of a universal point system. The chapter efficiently and effectively used their standards board, even removing one woman from membership. The committee would like to see the chapter look at how a positive rewards system could be utilized.
- The committee encourages the chapter to continue to evaluate what programs and events it sponsors and participates in to support various community service and philanthropic causes. In assessing this, the chapter will be able to utilize other partnerships, and find more meaning in their community service participation.
- The chapter took the committee's recommendation last year and began to record community service hours for each member participating.

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

### Partnership

- The chapter has made significant efforts to improve the working relationship with their national office. Laurel Pepper, the chapter alumnae advisor, has assisted them greatly over the course of the year, and the chapter has really come to understand the importance of this relationship.
- Alpha Chi Omega has continued their partnerships with some of the Greek organizations they have partnered with in the past, and have looked to partner with new organizations this year with programs such as Kristen's story.
- The committee would like to see the chapter continue to partner with other Greek organizations in the community. In addition, the committee would like to see the chapter look to find more non-Greek organization partnership opportunities.
- The chapter was successful in supporting events hosted by the Women's Center, but with the shared cause, the committee would like to see the chapter look for a more involved partnership opportunity.
- Alpha Chi Omega has made an effort to reach out to alumnae, starting with meeting with the Alumni Office to get a up-to-date contact sheet for their graduates. The chapter is planning to host an event for their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
- The committee recognizes the chapter's efforts to get more involved with their alumnae. It is encouraged that the chapter continue to look for ways that alumnae can get involved in chapter activities and advisement.

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

### Stewardship

- Alpha Chi Omega had repeated issues with leaving the facility during a fire alarm. Individually and as a chapter, this is a major issue which needs to be addressed. The chapter did hold individual chapter members accountable for this incident. However, the committee recommends that the chapter set up an educational program with Residential Services for chapter membership about policies and procedures.
- The chapter had no major life safety violations. However, the volume of individual life safety violations, such as multiple candle and covered smoke detector violations has become a concern that the chapter needs to address.
- The chapter has made large strides in an effort to increase ritual proficiency of chapter members, including instituting monthly formal chapter meetings, which began in the spring semester, and asking for assistance from their chapter alumnae advisor for all Induction and Initiation rituals. If the chapter continues these measures, the committee is confident the chapter will continue to increase ritual proficiency.
- The chapter is in good financial standing with the Fraternity Management Association. Alpha Chi Omega shows fiscal responsibility.
- Alpha Chi Omega has made marked improvement in instituting a values-based foundation for the entire chapter. This foundation has been missing in years passed, and the committee commends the members of the chapter in beginning this next chapter in Alpha Chi Omega's history.

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

## Overall Rating

Overall, Alpha Chi Omega had a strong year, with marked improvement in all areas. However, the chapter is aware of its shortcomings, and needs to address senior involvement and values investment from the chapter. With the improvement in these areas alone, the chapter will see more investment from chapter members and overall, a better functioning chapter, as Alpha Chi Omega has the basics mastered. With the new investment in values-based leadership, the chapter will be able to overcome limitations that may have held them back in past years.

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.

### Best Practices:

- Alpha Chi Omega's academic verification forms are considered a Best Practice by the committee.

### Recommendations:

- The committee recommends that the chapter continue to formalize their academic plan including their current informal mentoring program. With the continued assistance of the Center for Academic Success, the committee believes this program will be more beneficial to the chapter. The chapter hosted three sessions for their members with the Center of Academic Success this year.
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philanthropic causes. In assessing this, the chapter will be able to utilize other partnerships, and find more meaning in their community service participation.

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