

KAPPA SIGMA

Accreditation Report
2008-2009

Scholarship

- In the fall 2008 semester, Kappa Sigma ranked 14th amongst fraternities, with a 2.9582 GPA, which placed them below the All-Greek, All-Men's, and All-Fraternity Averages. In the spring 2009 semester, the chapter ranked 19th amongst fraternities overall, with a 2.8875 GPA, which placed them below the All-Greek, All-Men's, and All-Fraternity Averages.
- The chapter had 13.7% of members on Dean's List in the fall 2008 semester and 15.6% of members on Dean's List in the spring 2009 semester.
- Kappa Sigma's spring 2009 new member class cumulative GPA was 2.61 ranking last of all fraternities.
- The chapter put together a comprehensive academic plan last year that has been working well this year with some small revisions, including the use of various academic incentives incorporated into their point system, and academic teams that the chapter is actively using.
- Kappa Sigma has an active academic advisor who assists the chapter in providing resources to create personal academic plans, including "A Brother's Guide to a 4.0" and offering various academic presentations.
- The chapter held two seminars hosted by the Center for Academic Success in the fall semester.
- Kappa Sigma made an effort to utilize their academic plan to assist a recruit in his classes. The new recruit saw improvement. The committee commends the chapter for assisting men outside of the chapter, and not only assisting their brotherhood. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter has a solid foundation for academic achievement and has developed the needed relationship with the Center for Academic Success. However, the chapter needs to pay special attention to the grades of those they recruit and being sure to assist those students in maintaining or improving their grades through the new member period.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Kappa Sigma to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Leadership

- The chapter is very aware that a relationship with the Office of Student Leadership Development needs to continue to materialize. Stemming from previous discussions with the chapter President and Jess Misner Diehl, the Greek Life Leadership Coordinator, the chapter has begun to develop a comprehensive leadership development plan for the coming year and closed the year positively with a facilitated officer transition workshop. The committee recommends that the chapter make finalizing a comprehensive, year long plan a priority at the beginning of the fall semester

- Beginning this spring semester, the chapter created a position on the executive board solely for leadership development. This position will focus on values based leadership, programs for the chapter membership, and officer transition.
- Kappa Sigma membership is showing more active participation in chapter operations, including individual responsibility of each chapter member in the planning of events for the chapter that fall within one of the scored categories of accreditation. However, Kappa Sigma needs to continue to work on chapter accountability and ensuring that all chapter members are actively involved in all chapter functions. There has been strong chapter leadership thus far, but only involving all members will ensure the continued success of the chapter.
- The chapter has two brothers attending a summer UIFL session this year, which the committee highly commends. One of these brothers earned this free attendance through a scholarship award through the Office of Student Leadership Development.
- Kappa Sigma utilized events hosted by their national headquarters to improve upon their own leadership development including involvement of four brothers in Grand Conclave this past summer, and the attendance at a University series workshop offered by Kappa Sigma's District Grand Master for Lehigh, a nearby colony, and the Kutztown chapter.
- The chapter has one participant for the coming year who will be involved in the Greek Emerging Leaders program, and one of the junior brothers will serve as a mentor in the program.
- Kappa Sigma's new member education program is based upon the values of the chapter, which the chapter also tries to incorporate into recruitment activities. Using a comprehensive plan for both aspects of bringing in new members, the chapter has been very successful. The committee recommends that the chapter continue to find ways to incorporate the values of Kappa Sigma into the overall recruitment process.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Kappa Sigma to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Citizenship

- Kappa Sigma has thoroughly impressed the committee with the chapter's very active community involvement shown by the accumulation of over 1250 hours of community service, which breaks down to about 25 hours per brother. The chapter is able to track the number of hours completed by each brother through an online logging system. The committee asks that the chapter log these hours with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.
- The chapter has been very successful in engaging the brotherhood in the community service projects that the chapter has been involved in. The committee commends the chapter on finding projects through which each brother can find fulfillment in being involved.
- Kappa Sigma's relationship with the Sun Inn is an excellent example of a real community commitment and is considered a best practice. The chapter has established a strong relationship with this historical inn, including assisting with the restoration and being honored by the committee with a request to represent the Sun Inn in the Bethlehem Halloween Parade.
- The chapter has had no social policy violations this year. The committee commends the chapter on placing responsibility on each brother of the chapter. The chapter has a functional standards board that the chapter utilizes to hold individual chapter members accountable.

- Kappa Sigma had involvement in a number of different community service initiatives, and the committee recommends that the chapter look to continue finding other initiatives that the chapter can be involved in, including on large philanthropy associated with Kappa Sigma.

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

Partnership

- Kappa Sigma's partnership with the Sun Inn is a great example of reaching outside the Lehigh Greek Community to form new relationships.
- The chapter needs to continue to find ways to involve more chapter alumni in chapter activities and advisement. The creation of the alumni development program is great, but the chapter needs to find more ways for brothers to be involved in this process, so as to spearhead this initiative. In addition, findings ways to keep alumni and parents informed of chapter activities, such as the chapter newsletter, will help to bridge the gap between the chapter and these support groups.
- Kappa Sigma was a good supporter of other chapters in the Lehigh fraternity and sorority community, attending and co-sponsoring a number of events throughout the year. However, the committee believes there are more opportunities for the chapter to be involved with both other fraternity and sorority chapters, but also organizations outside of the Greek community.
- The chapter has worked to build a better relationship with their Inter/National headquarters, including utilizing programs offered by the staff. In addition, the chapter assisted in the initiation of a new colony at Penn State-Harrisburg. The committee encourages the chapter to continue these relationships in order to ensure that Kappa Sigma has outlets to develop its identity as a chapter of a larger organization.
- The chapter has begun to really utilize partnerships that add value to the overall experience of its members, but needs to continue to look for other partnerships that are worthwhile for Kappa Sigma. It is a matter of the chapter looking for mutual interests with other organizations, and findings ways to continue to develop relationships with those they have already partnered with.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Kappa Sigma to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Stewardship

- Kappa Sigma established a good working relationship with the Office of Residential Services this year. The chapter had very low damages, only having one large damage incident from a break-in earlier in the year.
- The chapter has been successful in holding individual chapter members accountable for any life safety violations and, overall, the chapter has been treating the facility with a lot of respect. This is a positive improvement from years past. However, the chapter needs to work on reducing warnings regarding smoking in the chapter house.
- Kappa Sigma has worked hard to apply for action chapter status through their national organization. This is an assessment of the chapter based off everything the chapter has completed over a certain time period. This, in combination with the emphasis that the chapter is placing on ritual, including testing ritual proficiency at

85% of all chapter membership, demonstrates the chapter's commitment to placing values at the forefront.

- The chapter was very successful in rectifying their past large chapter deficit. The committee commends the chapter for working on this large task.
- Kappa Sigma completed a number of chapter improvement projects with Residential Services approval. With future alumni involvement, the chapter will be able to put forth more improvements to the chapter house.

In the area of **Stewardship**, the committee rated Kappa Sigma to be a **Silver Chapter**

Overall Rating

Overall rating for Kappa Sigma is Silver. The chapter has shown much improvement and insight over the course of their short time on Lehigh's campus since re-colonization. The chapter is showing more dedication and understanding of what it means to be a Kappa Sig, but the chapter realizes that is something that the brotherhood can continue to work on. Additionally, the committee sees the efforts of the members to be involved in the chapter operations as a whole, but also realizes that there is more room for growth. With the continued effort in abiding by the social and conduct policies of the university, the chapter will continue to build upon their already positive reputation with the university and the surrounding community. With the plans prepared, Kappa Sigma is in a good position to solidify their chapter's place in the Lehigh Greek Community.

The committee assigns Kappa Sigma an overall rating of Silver which is considered a high level of academic 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 Kappa Sigma will continue to strive for excellence.

Best Practices:

- Kappa Sigma made an effort to utilize their academic plan to assist a recruit in his classes. The new recruit saw improvement. The committee commends the chapter for assisting men outside of the chapter, and not only assisting their brotherhood. The committee considers this a best practice.
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Recommendations:

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- The chapter is very aware that a relationship with the Office of Student Leadership Development needs to continue to materialize. Stemming from previous discussions with the chapter President and Jess Misner Diehl, the Greek Life Leadership

Coordinator, the chapter has begun to develop a comprehensive leadership development plan for the coming year and closed the year positively with a facilitated officer transition workshop. The committee recommends that the chapter make finalizing a comprehensive, year long plan a priority at the beginning of the fall semester

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