

PHI KAPPA THETA

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

Scholarship

- Phi Kappa Theta was ranked 17th amongst fraternities in the fall 2008 semester with a 2.832 GPA, which placed them below all the metrics. The chapter was ranked 15th in the spring 2009 semester with a 2.957 GPA, which is below the All Men's, All Fraternity and All Greek GPA's.
- The chapter's spring 2009 new member class GPA was 2.954 ranking 13th out of 20 fraternities.
- Phi Kappa Theta had 23% of their chapter on Dean's List in the fall 2008 semester and 18% on Dean's List in the spring 2009 semester.
- The chapter finally instituted what the committee feels is a fairly comprehensive academic program that includes both rewards and consequences. The program was established in the beginning of the spring semester, so the committee would like to see consistent implementation throughout next year.
- The chapter has established academic teams and an informal study buddy program.
- Alumni assist the chapter through providing some scholarships as incentives.
- The chapter instituted a presidential clause of academic probation for any brother under a 2.5 GPA.
- The chapter has study hours which are monitored for brothers who do not meet certain academic metrics.
- Phi Kappa Theta continues to host a cultural week, which the committee thinks is a unique idea, but would like to see the chapter expand it next year.
- The chapter holds internal discussions on current events happening in or affecting the world, which are led by brothers.
- The chapter held one workshop with the Center for Academic Success and obtained assistance with the scholarship program, however the committee recommends the chapter keep working with Center for Academic Success to ensure they are meeting the needs of the brotherhood.
- Phi Kappa Theta also has a new faculty advisor Professor Erdem Aktug who has attended chapter meetings, dinners, and alumni board meetings. He also won the Faculty Advisor award at the Greek Awards Banquet.

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

Leadership

- The chapter utilizes many different options and resources in the area of leadership development.
- Many members of the chapter are involved in the GEM Mentoring Program through the Office of Student Leadership Development. In addition, Collin Brietman will serve as the GEM program intern with Jess Diehl next year in that office.

- Phi Kappa Theta held four leadership development workshops for general membership and officer transition, which have been described as “next level” programs. The committee would like to see the chapter continue to engage their general membership in these types of conversations and challenge the top down authoritative mindset of leadership within their chapter.
- The chapter has increasingly utilized their Inter/national Headquarters over the past few years, particularly being the Alpha chapter. The committee believes this relationship has had a truly positive impact on the brothers and the chapter as a whole.
- Eric Pletcher, next year’s President, attended the President’s Academy and two other members traveled to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for their Northeast Regional Leadership Conference.
- Phi Kappa Theta has members involved in Order of Omega.
- The chapter had several members in leadership roles around campus as well, including the Interfraternity Council, University Productions music committee, Student Senate, GEM Leaders, and involvement in Leadership Lehigh.
- Two members volunteered to attend the Northeast Greek Leadership Association conference this year. The chapter has had members attend for the past two years and the committee would like to see continued participation from members as it is a valuable learning experience.
- The chapter Quo Vadis, a chapter retreat, to reflect on the past year and discuss risk management and goals assessment.

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

Citizenship

- The chapter had two social policy violations back to back in October. The men held an honest discussion with their Greek Life Coordinator Tiffany Showalter about unintentional violations as well as campus-wide social issues. No further incidents occurred this year.
- The chapter conducted a workshop with their National Headquarter staff on risk management policies.
- The committee was extremely impressed with the volunteer Spring Break trip to the Dominican Republic. The committee would like to see the brothers who participated in the trip talk more within the chapter and with the broader Greek community about what they did and how their service impacted the local community in the Dominican Republic.
- The chapter participated in just under 600 hours of community service this year. The brothers work with their National philanthropy Children’s Miracle Network each year to organize an egg hunt for children in Hershey, PA. In addition, the brothers participated in Adopt-a-Family, Habitat for Humanity, and recommitted to the Adopt-a-Highway program.
- The chapter has a positive relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem. Brothers assisted weekly with homework and fun activities, as well as helped with the Club’s Halloween event.
- The chapter has participated in blood drives, bed races, and Spooktacular.

- The chapter has also contributed financial assistance to several influential programs this year, including Rock-4-Haiti and Kristen's Story.
- The standards board seems to be in good shape, but could use a bit more organization. The committee believes the chapter does a good job using the board as a recognition body. Recommendation is to work with Assistant Dean Chris Mulvihill on how to extend the authority of the board to maintain proper accountability for member behavior.

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Phi Kappa Theta to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Partnership

- Phi Kappa Theta has done a good job with their headquarters this year as well as with their alumni.
- The chapter's alumni board, the McGarvey Board, meets regularly throughout the year with the brotherhood. The alumni and chapter have a good relationship where they can discuss issues that are or could affect the chapter/facility and come together to develop plans for the future.
- The chapter continues to work with the Temple chapter of Phi Kappa Theta as it is a relatively new group. They have advised on organizational structure and assist with ritual.
- The committee recommends the chapter work to establish true partnerships with other organizations on campus, both Greek and non-Greek.
- The committee would like to acknowledge that relations with Kappa Sigma this year seem to have been positive and that is something the committee would like to see continue.
- The chapter has begun to focus on spirituality and had Rabbi Seth Goren to the chapter house to speak on values and living by moral principles. The committee encourages the chapter to continue working with Rabbi Seth Goren for future discussions.
- The committee believes that Phi Kappa Theta has reached a point where they are doing some innovative programs and have some perspectives that are not normally seen in a Fraternity and Sorority Community.
- The committee would like to see the chapter look for more partnership opportunities. The committee thinks the chapter realizes that they can make a greater impact on the Lehigh Community and that is an important next step. The members acknowledged that and they know that is the direction they need to pursue.

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

Stewardship

- The house is in good shape and damages were low this year.
- The chapter is actively involved in Intramurals and Greek Week.
- The committee recommends the chapter continues to work to improve communications between the entire chapter and the Office of Residential Services.

- The chapter needs to continue to improve in facilitating storage of bedroom furniture outside of the facility for the summer.
- The chapter has continued to improve on ritual over the years. The chapter conducts ritual right at the beginning of the fall semester and they continue to work with Holy Infancy Church, which is where the chapter was founded.
- The chapter also continues to assist the Temple chapter with their Initiation ritual.
- The chapter has had zero life safety violations all year, which is commendable.
- The brothers are thinking about safety within the house and conduct CPR and First Aid classes with membership. The chapter placed first aid kits on each floor of the house as well.
- The chapter has been working diligently with their alumni and Residential Services to organize major renovations for this summer. The committee was very impressed with their thoughtfulness about the structure and the design.
- The chapter has also worked closely with their alumni to create a policy for occupancy so that it does not become a problem for the chapter as members move out year to year.

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

Overall Rating

The committee assigns Phi Kappa Theta an overall rating of Silver. Phi Kappa Theta has made a lot of strides this year in terms of academic plans and in terms of some innovative programming. The committee believes that the chapter realizes that they should be making a much larger impact based on the potential of the organization and the leaders who have emerged in the past few years. Phi Kappa Theta could be a consistently Gold chapter if they stick with their academic planning and continue to think about social event responsibility. Overall, it was a solid year for the chapter.

The committee assigns Phi Kappa Theta 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 Phi Kappa Theta will continue to strive for excellence.

Recommendations:

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general membership in these types of conversations and challenge the top down authoritative mindset of leadership within their chapter.

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