

SIGMA CHI

Accreditation Report
2008-2009

Scholarship

- Sigma Chi's fall 2008 semester GPA was a 3.15304, which placed them 7th among fraternities, as well as above the all-men's and all-fraternity GPAs. The chapter's spring 2009 semester GPA was 3.079 ranking the chapter 9th amongst fraternities and above the all-men's and all-fraternity GPA's, but below the all-undergraduate GPA.
- The chapter spring 2009 new member class GPA was 2.693, ranking 16th out of 20 fraternities.
- 30% of chapter made Dean's List in the fall 2008 semester. In the spring 2009 semester 16% of the chapter was on Dean's List.
- The chapter has an internal mentoring program which has been created and revised based on past presentations from the Center for Academic Success. There is an opportunity for additional program growth by creating a mentor training program with the assistance of the Center for Academic Success.
- Sigma Chi has monetary incentives in place for academic achievement, including GPA above the all-Greek GPA and top five most improved GPAs.
- The chapter continued recognized academic excellence through a recognition dinner with Alpha Gamma Delta. Held in the Asa Packer Dining Room, faculty members were invited to celebrate the achievements of those receiving the highest cumulative GPA, highest semester GPA, and most improved GPA from each of the classes within the chapter.
- The chapter's GPA has continued to improve over the past several years. The committee would like to see the chapter assess how their scholarship plan has assisted chapter members in improving their GPA and their overall academic ranking within the fraternity & sorority community.
- The committee recommends Sigma Chi continue to examine their academic plan, with the assistance of the Center for Academic Success, to determine if/how they can offer more services to chapter members. The scholarship plan is based heavily on internal accountability, which works well for the chapter; however there is room to solidify standards in case the fraternity experiences a drop in GPA or accountability in the future.
- Sigma Chi's scholarship plan differs from many chapters based on its reliance on individual accountability. The committee feels that the chapter has justified this difference based on adherence to academic standards during recruitment, as well as individual academic assessment and accountability. Their plan is a good example of a different school of thought being proven successful.

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

Leadership

- The chapter has a strong new member education program that adheres to the expectations of Sigma Chi inter/national headquarters as well as Lehigh University.

The committee is impressed with the chapter's no alcohol policy during new member education, as well the chapter's commitment to ritual.

- Sigma Chi does a good job with post initiation training. This is a practice that allows the chapter to fit in the necessary items during the six week new member period but also continue to educate new members and motivate older chapter members after initiation occurs. The committee would like to see the chapter take the lead in sharing this practice among the other fraternities.
- Chapter members continue to be involved outside of the fraternity in various leadership positions on campus. The chapter is also well-regarded for their work with the Sigma Chi inter/national headquarters.
- Sigma Chi was represented on the Interfraternity Council's executive board by President Bobby Buckheit and will be represented in 2009/2010 by Secretary Joe Masilotti. The chapter also has several members in Order of Omega.
- The committee continues to like the chapter's leadership action plan and encourages the chapter to work with various offices and the resources available to them on campus in order to make further progress.
- The chapter has a strong internal leadership plan which begins as a new member and continues throughout all four years. It encourages involvement both within the chapter and in the greater Lehigh community, with an emphasis on making positive impacts across campus to build better relationships and challenge fraternity/sorority stereotypes.
- The chapter has a formalized internal officer transition program, including an officer transition report which flows through several levels of the chapter before a new officer takes on his position.
- The committee would like to see the chapter formalize the senior mentoring program. This program is a great idea and has the potential to become a best practice if it can be more formalized and organized.
- During Greek Week, the chapter's new members were part of a serious bias related incident during Sigma Chi's Opening Ceremonies skit that appeared to be premeditated. The chapter claimed to be unaware of the plans of the new members, allowing them the independence to create their own skit. This incident needs to serve as a lesson to the chapter that the actions of all members are representative of Sigma Chi at all times.

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

Citizenship

- Sigma Chi was recognized as a leader in community service amongst all Lehigh student organizations this year by winning the Giving Tree Award from the Community Service Office. This was a tremendous improvement over past years and the chapter should be proud of the many positives ways they touched the Lehigh and South Bethlehem communities.
- The chapter continues to do a good job of supporting their philanthropy, especially through the See Saw Marathon which has become a best practice within Sigma Chi nationally.
- The chapter did an excellent job not only in community service and philanthropy, but in selecting their endeavors strategically and being able to articulate what they learned and how the entire chapter got involved. Sigma Chi does a better job of getting members involved in community service than just about any other chapter.

- The committee considers Sigma Chi's internal judicial system a best practice. The chapter has a very strong internal accountability structure that members are expected to adhere to from day one. Everybody is held to a standard with certain positive and negative actions associated with that standard. The chapter doesn't wait for a member to do something wrong, but instead automatically places that standard on members and expects them to follow it.
- Sigma Chi understands and has correctly utilized options such as medical amnesty and has done a good job of holding their own chapter members accountable when incidents occurred over the past year.
- The chapter had two social policy violations this year stemming from unregistered parties. The chapter had an additional social policy violation in relation to respect from others. The chapter was placed on disciplinary probation through fall 2009.

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Sigma Chi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Partnership

- Sigma Chi truly understands what it means to "partner" with another organization on philanthropic, community service, and educational activities. They do an excellent job of sharing responsibilities and breaking them up based on the strengths of their fraternity and the other organizations.
- The committee would like to see the chapter take the lead in initiating conversations with the Interfraternity Council and the fraternity/sorority community regarding partnership and what it really looks like versus just sending a few chapter members to an event and calling it a partnership.
- The chapter's alumni are very active with the chapter and very active for the right reasons. The recruitment/alumni dinner continues to be a success and the chapter does a good job of working with alumni on goal setting and reviewing throughout the year.
- The chapter created new website this past year and has seen alumni communication and participation increase since its debut.

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

Stewardship

- Sigma Chi had the one of the highest closing damages in the fraternity and sorority community and overall for the entire year.
- The chapter damages their recently renovated dining floor, causing major damages.
- The chapter had one Life Safety violation, as candles were found in the house in April.
- The chapter continued to be a leader amongst Lehigh's fraternities and sororities in their commitment to the Jordan Standard and the values and ritual of Sigma Chi.
- Sigma Chi's budget was balanced and maintained in excellent shape, per the Fraternity Management Association.

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

Overall Rating

Overall, Sigma Chi is rated Silver. This was truly an impressive year for the chapter. They continue to utilize the committee recommendations, their relationships with Sigma Chi's Inter/National Headquarters, alumni corporation and OFSA. Congratulations to Sigma Chi. It is unfortunate that the incident during Greek Week and other incidents at the end of the semester marred what was an otherwise stellar year. However the seriousness of the incident and the fact that it was premeditated cannot be overlooked. The committee expects a chapter of Sigma Chi's caliber to learn from this misstep, and take a lead in the fraternity and sorority community in discussing the impact such an incident can have on a chapter specifically and the community in general.

The committee assigns Sigma Chi 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.

Best Practices:

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Recommendations:

- The chapter's GPA has continued to improve over the past several years. The committee would like to see the chapter assess how their scholarship plan has assisted chapter members in improving their GPA and their overall academic ranking within the fraternity & sorority community.
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