

SIGMA PHI EPSILON

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

Scholarship

- In the fall 2008 semester, Sigma Phi Epsilon ranked 1st amongst fraternities, with a 3.27218 GPA, which placed them above the All-Greek, All-Men's, and All-Fraternity Averages. In the spring 2009 semester, the chapter ranked 1st amongst fraternities overall, with a 3.27932 GPA, which placed them below the All-Greek, All-Men's, and All-Fraternity Averages.
- The chapter had 28.6% of members on Dean's List in the fall 2008 semester and 34.2% of members on Dean's List in the spring 2009 semester.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon's spring 2009 new member class cumulative GPA was 3.195, ranking 2nd out of 20 fraternities.
- The chapter continues to be ranked at the top of fraternities with the highest GPA over the last four semesters. The committee commends the chapter for their academic success, including being awarded the Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse award by their Inter/National Headquarters for having over a 3.15 cumulative chapter GPA for two years in a row.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon's academic requirement for full membership is 2.75 GPA which is one of the highest for fraternity and sorority organizations. Additionally, the chapter continues to raise its own standards each year for executive board membership, which currently is a 3.15 cumulative GPA.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon reached out to individuals who were interested in joining the chapter, and before the individuals were brothers, the chapter offered academic assistance. The chapter opened the door to these individuals to use any of the resources the chapter had available, including the intensive academic program for those under a 2.75 GPA.
- The committee commends the chapter for again being recognized as a Residential Learning Community, and for all activities associated with trying to achieve that status through the chapter's Inter/National Headquarters.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has a well established relationship with the Center for Academic Success, as their faculty advisor is the Director of the Center. The Center for Academic Success held four academic sessions for the chapter, two each semester, and assisted the chapter with its academic plan.
- The chapter has a very well established routine when it comes to academic success, and the committee asks that the chapter continue to find ways to offer this resource to other chapters.

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

Leadership

- Sigma Phi Epsilon has a good philosophy behind their efforts to create relevant programming for their membership. The committee believes this stems from the chapter's efforts to create a community of leaders that really buys into the concept of being a leader in all aspects.

- The chapter had a very structured way of approaching leadership and chapter programming, including, but not limited to, starting the year with an executive board retreat, setting short-term and long-term goals, completing mid-year reviews, and setting up shadowing programs.
- The committee considers the chapter's efforts to avoid over-programming and to truly construct their programming in a developmental, thought-out manner a best practice.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon should continue to reach out to other fraternity and sororities in an effort to share their resources and success in a way that works and is well received. The committee asks that the chapter find ways to reach out to chapters beyond the newly developed GrEIC group.
- The chapter has continued to be very involved in a number of other student organizations around campus. Individual members have begun to translate the leadership skills that members are learning in Sigma Phi Epsilon into other student organizations on campus and reaching out to other students organizations may benefit from their expertise.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon had twenty-five brothers attend EDGE camp, a program offered by Inter/National Headquarters for new brothers in the fraternity. The chapter continues to make this an important part of the Lehigh chapter. The chapter also sent seven brothers to the annual Carlson Leadership academy.
- The chapter had one member attend the National Out and Greek Conference this year and this chapter member is actively working to create a Greek Allies program for the university community.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has established a very good relationship with the Office of Student Leadership Development. Through this relationship the chapter was able to create membership development programs that directly tie into the different membership challenges that are part of the Sigma Phi Epsilon experience. The committee considers this a Best Practice and a great example for other chapters.

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

Citizenship

- Sigma Phi Epsilon not only places an emphasis on philanthropic services to the community through their annual Election for Cancer Research and co-sponsorship with Alpha Gamma Delta, YouthAids Charity Softball Tournament, but the chapter also makes a point to provide community service to the area community.
- The chapter contributed over \$24,000 to various charitable groups throughout the year, including to the American Cancer Society and Red Cross, in addition to other groups through other chapter functions.
- The chapter logged approximately 700 hours for the year in participating in service for Homework Club, Victory House, Wildlands Conservancy, among other charities.
- The chapter continues to have senior leadership involved with the chapter on a number of levels, of which the committee is very impressed. The committee encourages the chapter to continue this practice.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon was very successful in holding individual members accountable in the case of a minor violation. The Dean of Student Conduct is personally impressed with the action taken by the chapter.

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

Partnership

- Sigma Phi Epsilon has been very successful in its partnerships, as the chapter has reached out to a number of different Greek organizations, in addition to non-Greek groups. The committee encourages the chapter to look for ways to partner with chapters that the chapter normally does not partner with.
- The chapter has continued a positive and successful relationship with its alumni, as the alumni members continue to be actively involved in advisement of the chapter. The chapter has regular chapter newsletters and hosts annual alumni events. The alumni are also active supporters of the chapter's academic success, offering a cultural event for chapter members who achieve a 3.30 GPA or higher.
- The committee is very impressed with Sigma Phi Epsilon's brother mentor initiate rate. It is the committee's understanding is that less than 10% of Sigma Phi Epsilon nationally becoming brother mentors and the Lehigh chapter alone has four brother mentors in the chapter.
- The chapter has reached out to assist its other Sigma Phi Epsilon chapters in the area, including the Moravian chapter. The chapter reached out to assist the Moravian chapter in its Brother Mentor ritual.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon partnered Alpha Omicron Pi to host two Kaleidoscope programs on gender issues this year. The chapter also partnered with Alpha Gamma Delta to host a YouthAids Charity Softball tournament, Pi Beta Phi to host a Welcome Week Volleyball Tournament, and through the chapter's Election for Cancer Research the chapter partnered with student organizations of all kinds.
- The committee is very impressed with the fact that Sigma Phi Epsilon required the chapter membership to attend Take Back the Night, a program sponsored by the Women's Center, and the chapter membership was happy to attend. The chapter continues to show its support for all groups on campus.

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

Stewardship

- Sigma Phi Epsilon has developed a positive relationship with the Office of Residential Services and had a successful closing, with minimal damages throughout the year.
- The chapter spearheaded a facilities beautification project that culminated in new landscaping for the chapter house. Each brother actively participated in this project, even planting all shrubs and flowers, and being assigned watering duty.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon shows a strong dedication to the chapter ritual, shown through their commitment to incorporating ritual into all aspects of the Sigma Phi Epsilon experience.
- The chapter's alumni facilities pledge given to seniors prior to graduation which is used to remind seniors upon their return to the chapter house following graduation that all brothers are expected to be dedicated to the physical property. The committee commends the chapter for this practice.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has an actively functioning standards board that works to incorporate the values of the chapter in all aspects. Additionally, the standards board works to not only hold members accountable but to award brothers who provide positive contributions to the chapter.

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

Overall Rating

Sigma Phi Epsilon continues to be a front-running leader on campus. The chapter excels in academics, programming that is beneficial to its membership, and involvement in both community service and campus activities. Sigma Phi Epsilon should continue to look to reach out to others and share the chapter's resources. In addition, the chapter should consider ways to reduce their internal stress over regular chapter functions, but this may come with time. Having this conversation with the chapter's Greek Life Coordinator and the Greek Leadership Coordinator will be beneficial. Overall, this was a great year for the chapter.

The committee has assigned Sigma Phi Epsilon an overall rating of Gold Chapter, which is considered a high level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all 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!

Best Practices:

- The committee considers the chapter's efforts to avoid over-programming and to truly construct their programming in a developmental, thought-out manner a best practice.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has established a very good relationship with the Office of Student Leadership Development. Through this relationship the chapter was able to create membership development programs that directly tie into the different membership challenges that are part of the Sigma Phi Epsilon experience. The committee considers this a Best Practice and a great example for other chapters.

Recommendations:

- The chapter has a very well established routine when it comes to academic success, and the committee asks that the chapter continue to find ways to offer this resource to other chapters.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon should continue to reach out to other fraternity and sororities in an effort to share their resources and success in a way that works and is well received. The committee asks that the chapter find ways to reach out to chapters beyond the newly developed GrEIC group.
- The chapter continues to have senior leadership involved with the chapter on a number of levels, of which the committee is very impressed. The committee encourages the chapter to continue this practice.
- Sigma Phi Epsilon has been very successful in its partnerships, as the chapter has reached out to a number of different Greek organizations, in addition to non-Greek groups. The committee encourages the chapter to look for ways to partner with chapters that the chapter normally does not partner with.