

THETA CHI

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

Scholarship

- Theta Chi was ranked 16th out of 18 fraternities in the fall 2008 semester with a GPA of 2.890. In the spring 2009 semester, the chapter was ranked 17th out of 21 fraternities with a 2.915 GPA. In both semesters, the chapter was below the All Men's, Fall Fraternity and All Greek GPA's.
- In the fall 2008 semester, the chapter had 19% of their chapter members on Dean's list. In the spring 2009 semester, the chapter had 20% of their members on Dean's List.
- Theta Chi's spring 2009 new member class GPA was 2.955, ranking 12th out of 20 fraternities.
- The chapter attacked their academic deficiencies head on in the fall with a complete revision of their scholarship plan. They met on multiple occasions with their alumni leadership, the Center for Academic Success, and their Greek Life Coordinator.
- Theta Chi incorporated a gradual raise in GPA standards over the next three years, which factored in to the chapter's heavier focus on academics during new member recruitment.
- The chapter also dramatically increased the scope and amount of scholarships and academic awards distributed each year.
- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their writing revision committee. It is an excellent opportunity for peers to assist peers in improving their writing and comprehension skills.
- The chapter sponsored a time management workshop through the Center for Academic Success, held their annual faculty dinner and scholarship reception with Pi Beta Phi, and was invited by Delta Gamma to speak to their chapter about how to improve academics within the sorority.
- Theta Chi has three members in Order of Omega.
- The chapter continues to have a strong relationship with their faculty advisor, Dr. Keith Shray.
- The committee applauds Theta Chi for their continued diligence in trying to improve their academics. There is no better academic plan in the fraternity and sorority community.

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

Leadership

- Theta Chi was represented on the 2008/2009 Interfraternity Council executive board by Todd Dobry, Campus Relations chair.
- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their visit with Theta Chi Past National President and Executive Director Howard Alter and utilizing recommendations and advice from him. It was a great way to reestablish a

partnership and tradition with one of the most esteemed members of Theta Chi International Fraternity.

- The chapter continues to do a good job of supporting members who hold leadership positions in outside activities as well as figuring out ways to get the activities of those leaders integrated into the chapter.
- The chapter does an excellent job of keeping seniors involved, as evidenced by the composition of their executive board. They are one of the two or three strongest chapters in terms of senior involvement.
- They chapter continues to utilize shadowing in their officer transition and new member education programs.
- The chapter utilizes an Officer Transition wiki which officers continuously update with plans and programs over the course of the year.
- Theta Chi does a good job of working with Lehigh University as well as their International Headquarters with different leadership opportunities.
- The chapter continues to be involved in the Greek Emerging Leader program with Mike Doherty and Anand Jayachandran serving as mentors in 2008/2009 and again for 2009/2010.
- The committee recommends that the chapter move beyond chapter management leadership and intentionally integrate leadership development in additional facets of the fraternity.

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

Citizenship

- Theta Chi had a great partnership with Colleges Against Cancer and Relay for Life this year. Ian McManus should be commended for his hard work in identifying a philanthropic focus for the chapter, particularly one that all members were connected to and committed to supporting.
- The chapter does a good job in raising money for philanthropy rather than just budgeting for the chapter to make donations.
- The chapter raised over \$4000 through events such as Chowdown for Charity, Strykes for Tykes, Save your Balls Dodgeball Tournament, Fashion for a Cure, and the Election for Cancer Research.
- Overall the chapter participated in a number of different events this past year, both continuing old traditions as well as looking for new and innovative opportunities.
- The chapter has taken due diligence in terms of social policy with no violations this year. They continue to grow and learn from being granted the alcohol-free housing waiver.
- The chapter requires members to sign a Code of Conduct form that the Standards Board utilizes in holding members accountable as well as educating them on the expectations of membership in Theta Chi.
- The committee recommends Theta Chi continue to examine how best to hold individual members accountable for the minor violations that still place a great strain on the chapter.

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

Partnership

- The committee was very impressed with the chapter's overall commitment to partnership.
- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their parent program initiatives, including events during Parent's Weekend, mailing The Red & White to parents, and inviting them to the chapter house through the Parent Dinner program. These are impressive steps that show the member's transparency and confidence in the chapter.
- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their overhaul and increased distribution of The Red & White newsletter to six times per year.
- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their wide range of alumni involvement. The chapter sponsors events and conducts regular meetings with alumni as well as utilizes technology, such as the website, to engage both young and old alumni who are unable to attend the meetings.
- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their impressive relationship with the Lehigh University Police Department. The chapter was intentional in identifying additional opportunities to meet and interact with various members of the police force.
- The chapter has continued their partnership with Sigma Phi Epsilon, Phi Sigma Kappa, and Kappa Alpha through the Greeks Exchanging Ideas for Change (GrEIC) neighborhood meetings.

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

Stewardship

- The chapter continues to do a good job of using their brother lock in's to keep the chapter house in good shape and they continue to look for ways to improve the facility.
- The chapter had no major Life Safety violations this year.
- The chapter does a good job of running the Theta Chi Sweetheart competition during Greek Week, however they should assess whether all portions of the competition are consistent with the values of the fraternity.
- The chapter continues to be financially solvent.
- Theta Chi's new "Brothers Supporting Brothers" program encourages members to attend performances, athletic events, etc in which brothers are participating. This is a great initiative that has strong potential for growth.
- The chapter is very involved in the Lehigh intramural program, with over 90% of brothers participating in a sport.
- Theta Chi continues to do an excellent job of incorporating the values and beliefs of the fraternity into everyday chapter operations, programs, and practices..

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

Overall Rating

The overall rating for Theta Chi is Silver. The chapter continues to implement new and positive programming based on the values of the chapter. Theta Chi also continues to integrate new opportunities and partnerships and really tries to understand what is

going on in the fraternity and sorority community and how these trends impact the brothers in the chapter. They partner well and continue to utilize their recommendations well. While the committee continues to expect academic improvement, the chapter's academic program is well thought out and progressive. Good job as usual.

The committee assigns Theta 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 Theta Chi will continue to strive for excellence.

Best Practices:

- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their writing revision committee. It is an excellent opportunity for peers to assist peers in improving their writing and comprehension skills.
- Theta Chi is recognized with a Best Practice for their visit with Theta Chi Past National President and Executive Director Howard Alter and utilizing recommendations and advice from him. It was a great way to reestablish a partnership and tradition with one of the most esteemed members of Theta Chi International Fraternity.
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Recommendations:

- The committee recommends that the chapter move beyond chapter management leadership and intentionally integrate leadership development in additional facets of the fraternity.
- The committee recommends Theta Chi continue to examine how best to hold individual members accountable for the minor violations that still place a great strain on the chapter.