

that information as “Directory Information.” SUNY Potsdam has designated the following as Directory Information: student’s name, date and place of birth, address, telephone number, e-mail address, previous institution(s) attended, dates of attendance, enrollment status (full/part time), class standing, major field of study, academic honors or awards received, past and present participation in officially recognized sports or activities, physical factors (height, weight of athletes), and degrees conferred (including dates).

In accordance with FERPA, the student’s consent is not required when a College official has a legitimate educational interest in the student’s educational record; that is, if the official needs to review this information in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. However, this does not constitute authorization to share that information with a third party without the student’s written consent. A “college official” is a person employed by the College in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including Campus Police and Student Health); a person or company with whom the College has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor or accrediting agent); a person serving on the College Council; or a student serving on an official committee, or assisting another College official in performing his or her tasks.

A former or currently enrolled student may request that directory information not be published in the printed or web version of the Campus Directory nor released to non-College personnel without the student’s prior consent by filing a “Request to Withhold Release of Directory Information” in the Registrar’s Office. Requests must be filed before September 1 in order to be excluded from the Campus Directory printed for the upcoming academic year. Privacy requests are valid until rescinded by the student.

Please consider very carefully the consequences of any decision to withhold Directory Information. All requests for such information from outside the College will be refused. Regardless of the effect upon you, the College assumes no liability for honoring your instructions that such information be withheld.

FERPA Rights and Procedures

FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. Students have the right to review their educational records within 45 days of the day the College receives a request for access. Students should submit to the College Registrar written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect and the student will be notified of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained in the office of the College Registrar, the Registrar will advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

Students have the right to request an amendment to the educational records that are believed to be inaccurate. They should write to the College official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the College decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the College will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

Students have the right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

Students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by SUNY Potsdam to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

The academic programs at SUNY Potsdam offer students the opportunity to combine career preparation with strong liberal arts education. The College maintains its emphasis on the liberal arts because we believe that liberally educated individuals are best equipped to respond to challenges and to take advantage of opportunities in all areas of life. The liberal arts foster the flexibility needed to adapt to our rapidly changing a society by developing skills in observation, analysis, communication, research, and judgment that are applicable in any situation.

The curriculum at SUNY Potsdam also encourages students to pursue professional preparation through selected degree and certification programs as well as second majors and minors at the same time that they study the liberal arts. The curriculum at SUNY Potsdam blends the liberal and the professional to prepare the whole person for the challenges of living in a complex and changing global environment. This philosophy governs all of the programs of the College, from performance in The Crane School of Music to secondary education certification in the School of Education and Professional Studies, from studio art to biology or sociology in the School of Arts and Sciences.

The College desires to provide the opportunities for students to develop into citizens who are able to contribute in a positive, creative way to the demands of our society, and who have the knowledge, skills and experiences to accomplish their personal goals. “The Potsdam Graduate,” adopted by the Faculty and SUNY Potsdam, is a statement of the College’s expectations of the SUNY Potsdam student expressed in terms of knowledge, skills and experiences to be acquired during the college experience.

The Potsdam Graduate

The Potsdam Faculty believes that an educated person is one who can cope with, thrive in, and provide leadership in our complex, ambiguous and mutable world. Such an individual must possess not only knowledge and skills, but also the commitment to apply them in acting responsibly in the physical and social environment. An educated person understands the limitations of both formal education and human comprehension of the world. Thus the educated person is inclined to continue to learn throughout life and is committed to the search for truth through free inquiry and open debate. The total atmosphere of the campus contributes to such an education.

Within the moral, intellectual and social atmosphere of the College, the curriculum is central. Each student’s curriculum is ideally an integrated whole, consisting of three components: a major that permits disciplined study of a particular body of knowledge, electives that allow students to shape learning to individual ambitions and needs, and the general education program which provides a context of skills, knowledge and experiences for learning.