

## POTSDAM PROFILE

### History

The State University of New York at Potsdam is one of 64 units of The State University of New York and one of 13 SUNY arts and sciences colleges. Its origin was the St. Lawrence Academy, founded in 1816 by early settlers of the region. It continued as Potsdam Normal School in 1867, as Potsdam State Teachers College in 1942, and became part of the largest university system in the United States, The State University of New York, in 1948. Throughout its distinguished history the institution has served the people of the North Country and of New York State.

### Mission

The State University of New York at Potsdam prepares students to act as engaged global citizens and to lead lives enriched by critical thought, creativity, and discovery. As an inclusive scholarly community rooted in our historic role in providing exemplary teacher and music education and our leadership in the fine and performing arts, we are committed to the liberal arts and sciences as an academic foundation for all students. With an abiding sense of responsibility to our region and to the world beyond, SUNY Potsdam fosters an appreciation of and respect for the variety of human experience.

### Locale

The College is located in New York's picturesque North Country, an area that ranges from scenic tranquility to cultural and recreational activities.

The Adirondack Mountains to the southeast offer hiking, relaxing beside quiet streams, fishing or swimming in the many lakes. In winter, skiing the beautiful trails of Whiteface Mountain in Lake Placid (scene of the 1980 Winter Olympics) or Big Tupper, an hour from the campus, is a popular pastime.

The world-renowned Thousand Islands region is also an hour's drive away. There, visitors can take a boat tour, fish, swim or visit one of the many quaint little shops.

For those who prefer the cultural atmosphere of large cities, Ottawa and Montréal are 70 and 80 miles away, respectively. While in Ottawa, students can visit the National Art Gallery or Museum of Natural History; attend a concert or theatrical production at the National Arts Center; tour the Houses of Parliament and witness the changing of the guard in the summer. Montréal provides the opportunity to visit a completely different culture.

### People

While location is a definite plus for SUNY Potsdam, the people who make up the College community are its greatest asset. The students, faculty and staff make us what we are – a very special place.

Our enrollment is approximately 4,300 – including about 3,600 undergraduate and 700 graduate students.

Our students are an interesting and diversified group. They come to us from all over the United States with a small number from foreign countries. Students come from farms, small towns, the suburbs and large cities. They are traditional students (those who come to us straight from high school) and non-traditional (those who enroll after raising a family, serving in the military or deciding to switch careers in mid-stream).

Faculty members are also of many different backgrounds and age groups. They hold degrees from such prestigious universities as Harvard, Stanford and Yale. They are published authors, well-known researchers, accomplished artists and musicians. Like their students, they are a friendly, caring group – always ready to discuss a problem or assist with a project. Dedicated to teaching, they are not just active in the classroom, but in every facet of their lives. Many of our students say they learn as much through friendship and interaction with their professors as they do in classroom studies.

### The Potsdam Pledge

*Being more than a collection of individuals, SUNY Potsdam is a community dedicated to the pursuit of common goals. While these goals can be elusive and controversial, the community described in this document reminds us not only of what we are seeking to become but of all that we share in common.*

*Therefore, let it be known that SUNY Potsdam strives to be:*

#### **An Educational Community**

sharing academic goals and in which students, faculty and staff work together to strengthen teaching and learning;

#### **An Open Community**

uncompromisingly protecting freedom of thought, belief and expression;

#### **A Civil Community**

expressing disagreements in rational and non-threatening ways and treating all individuals with consideration, decency and respect;

#### **A Responsible Community**

accepting obligations under clearly articulated principles of behavior designed to support the common good;

#### **A Safe Community**

respecting each other's rights, privacy and property;

#### **A Healthy Community**

respecting and promoting physical and emotional wellness;

#### **An Ethical Community**

reflecting honesty, integrity and fairness in both academic and extra-curricular activities;

#### **A Diverse Community**

celebrating our differences and learning from our diversity;

#### **A Socially Conscious Community**

seeking to contribute to the betterment of the campus, the local community, the nation and the world;

#### **A Watchful Community**

remaining alert to the threats posed by hatred, intolerance and other injustices and ever-prepared to combat them.

## Public Service and Outreach

Faculty, staff and students have always taken an active role in public service activities through the different schools and departments. The College has long served as a major center for the arts in the North Country through its extensive musical programs performed by the students and faculty of The Crane School of Music, the Roland Gibson Art Gallery and dance and theater productions.

Over the years, the College has increased, diversified and made more accessible a variety of educational services to the North Country, including the Fort Drum Consortium and the St. Lawrence Valley Teachers' Learning Center. A special educational service is offered to migrant farm workers and their families through the North Country Tutorial Outreach Program.

The College also has provided vital leadership and direct service to assist in the economic development of the North Country. Through our participation in agencies and organizations such as the Council for International Trade, Technology, Education and Communication (CIT-TEC), Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), North Country Alliance (NCA) and St. Lawrence Seaway Project, we have provided leadership in revitalizing the economy of the North Country.

In 1990, SUNY Potsdam established the Rural Services Institute to marshal the available resources and expertise of the College's faculty, staff and students in order to assist local communities in meeting their challenges and responsibilities. Renamed the William C. Merwin Rural Services Institute in 1996, MRSI has provided valuable service to the community in such areas as assistance to local governments, economic development agencies, rural health care and grant writing.

## FACILITIES

### Academic Building Hours

Regular academic building hours during the fall and spring semesters: Monday through Friday – 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (closing times are determined by mutual agreement of building administrators and custodial services responsible for locking buildings).

Saturday and Sunday – Buildings may be open and unlocked between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. on Saturday and/or Sunday. Whether a building is open on specific hours during weekends is determined by the building administrator in consultation with the physical plant.

Holiday hours may vary and students should check with University Police if they have a question about a specific date. Summer hours are to be determined and will be posted by May 15th of each year. All academic buildings will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during summer. Some buildings, however, may be open later depending on summer class schedules.

For more information, please contact the University Police office, first floor of Van Housen Extension or call (315) 267-2222.

### Thomas M. Barrington Student Union

The Thomas M. Barrington Student Union is the hub of all student activity. Several Student Affairs offices, the Student Government Association (SGA), student communications media and several other student organizations are housed there. The Student Union also houses

conference and meeting rooms, The College Store, the Union Market, Venture Outdoors, Pete's Place, the Student Union Dining Court and Student Mail Services.

Many of the students who frequent the Union are there in response to social and educational programs planned and promoted by the SGA. With an annual budget of nearly \$500,000, students organize concerts, outings, speakers, coffee houses and lots more.

The campus is also alive with cultural opportunities. In addition to offering over 300 concerts each year, The Crane School of Music in cooperation with the Community Performance Series brings to campus national and international performers. The art gallery mounts a dozen different exhibitions each year.

Add to all this the student theatre, dance and opera performances, and the breadth and depth of the College's commitment to education outside the classroom becomes apparent.

Multicultural goals and objectives permeate every aspect of campus life and have been infused into student activities, materials, training programs and curricular offerings at the College. Diversity programs include workshops for all faculty, staff and students on a variety of diversity issues as well as multicultural programming that is conducted jointly between the Center for Diversity and student organizations.

SUNY Potsdam's membership in the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley multiplies these opportunities. Not only may students attend the cultural programs at SUNY Canton, Clarkson University and St. Lawrence University, but the faculties of these institutions also join SUNY Potsdam professors in sponsoring numerous colloquia that open new intellectual areas for exploration.

Some of the most memorable out-of-the-classroom learning experiences center on one or more of over 80 student organizations:

1. Academic clubs, including national honor societies that may influence career opportunities;
2. Diversity organizations, such as the Black Student Alliance (BSA); Caribbean Latino American Student Society (CLASS); Jewish Cultural Club (JCC); Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bi-Sexual Association (LGTBA); Potsdam Association of Native Americans (PANA) and the Student Association for Gender Equality (SAGE);
3. A wide variety of career-oriented music organizations including student chapters of Music Educator's National Conference (MENC), American String Teachers Association (ASTA), International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) and Music Entertainment Industry Student Association (MEISA);
4. Performance and exhibit groups in such arts as theater, dance and painting;
5. Student communications media, ranging from The Racquette, the weekly newspaper, to WAIH-FM, the campus radio station;
6. Intramural and sports clubs;
7. Special interest clubs, such as the Circle K.
8. Five social fraternities and eight social sororities.

One of the key unifying forces on campus is physical fitness – from the intercollegiate athletic teams to jogging. The College encourages physical fitness by opening Maxcy Hall, a modern sports complex, at 8:00 a.m. and not closing it until 10 p.m. Maxcy has something for everyone: a field house that includes a 1/10 mile track, basketball and volleyball