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 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 thrive and provide leadership in our complex, ambiguous and mutable world. Such an individual possesses not only knowledge and skills, but also the commitment to apply them reflectively in order to create a more humane, sustainable and just world.

An educated person is one who aspires to learn throughout life and is committed to the search for truth through free inquiry and open debate. While all aspects of the student experience contribute to such an education, the curriculum is central. Each student's curriculum is ideally an integrated whole, consisting of three components: the general education program which provides a framework of skills, knowledge and experience for learning; a major that permits disciplined study of a particular body of knowledge; and in most programs of study, electives that allow students to shape learning to individual goals and needs.

Skills

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- organize thought and communicate in written and oral form
- reason analytically, formally, symbolically and quantitatively
- solve problems by creative synthesis of knowledge
- judge, appraise and evaluate, in matters ethical, aesthetic, empirical and logical
- locate, evaluate, and effectively use information
- use technology appropriately to solve problems and disseminate ideas

Knowledge

Students will demonstrate knowledge of:

- the historical method of investigation, including knowledge of the heritage of Western Civilization and of at least one non-Western culture
- fundamental biological and physical concepts
- the impact of human activities on the environment
- contemporary social institutions, including their underlying values and principles.
- both historical and contemporary currents in and approaches to literature, arts, and philosophy
- a second language and of the culture of speakers of that language the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the principles of democratic civic engagement

Experiences

Students will experience opportunities to:

- actively engage with the creative process in the arts
- explore the way the sciences generate, organize, and verify scientific concepts
- participate in physical activities that include instruction emphasizing the importance of life-long health and wellness
- serve the campus as well as the wider community

Advising Mission Statement

SUNY Potsdam is committed to promoting student success through responsible academic advising. Our mission is to foster dynamic and interactive relationships between advisers and advisees that help students satisfy the academic requirements of the College, take advantage of support services, explore career opportunities, and develop skills necessary to thrive and provide leadership in a complex and mutable world.

Philosophy

Advising is a crucial personal and professional relationship between a student and their faculty adviser, built through the process of periodic communication. Advising focuses on utilizing campus resources to assist students in selecting courses and formulating sound educational, career and life goals. The advising relationship provides students with a direct mentoring link to teaching faculty and professional staff, encouraging active engagement in their educational process, increasing their overall connection the College and its mission, as well as assisting them in making the academic decisions that are ultimately their responsibility. Personal and professional advising also promotes a supportive educational and social environment. The advising process enables students to pursue their educational goals and encourages them to become successful and productive members of the College community.