

## 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 filled with scenic tranquility as well as cultural and recreational activities.

To the southeast, the Adirondack Mountains 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 as the most bilingual (French-English) metropolis on the North American continent. While in Montréal, you can stroll through the underground pedestrian network which connects business, boutiques, hotels, restaurants, museums and many other city attractions. Additionally, there are over 200 professional theatre companies, more than a dozen professional musical ensembles, 32 museums, 28 exhibition centers and the largest scientific museum complex in Canada.

### 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 4,400 – including nearly 4,000 undergraduate and 400 graduate students. Our students are an interesting

and diversified group. They come to us from all over the United States with students from more than twenty 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).

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 the campus community. 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

Beyond 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 Art Museum at SUNY Potsdam, as well as dance and theater productions.

The College has a diverse array of educational services throughout the North Country including the Fort Drum Consortium and was a Founding Partner in the Jefferson Community College Higher Education Center. The Center houses a number of public and private institutions that provide access to bachelors, masters and professional certificates by offering classes, degrees and integrated academic support services for residents in the greater Watertown/Ft. Drum area of northern New York. Additionally, the College offers a special educational service to migrant farm workers and their families through the North Country Tutorial Outreach Program.

The College sponsors many activities that serve the residents and communities of the North Country. The Center for Lifelong Education and Recreation (CLEAR) is committed to providing opportunities for lifelong learning and personal/professional enrichment in a variety of contexts. This includes non-credit coursework such as youth and adult fitness, summer camps, and a variety of professional development and/or training programs. There are annual conferences such as the “Managing Local Government Conference,” the Court Conference, and many others throughout the year. CLEAR also assists SOAR, which offers peer learning opportunities for area residents of retirement age, such as courses on computers, contract bridge, agriculture, North Country, science, religion, and the arts.

The Potsdam Institute for Applied Research (PIAR) is a university-based research institute which provides high quality, cost effective data collection, evaluation, survey, reporting and other research services to North Country communities, schools, and agencies.

The Office of the Provost coordinates the T. Urling and Mabel Walker Research Fellowship Program, a competitive funding program that supports research on critical issues confronting North Country communities, with the objective of making recommendations for their solutions, by faculty from the region’s 11 institutions of higher education.

## FACILITIES

### Academic Building Hours

Regular academic building hours during the fall and spring semesters: Monday through Friday – 7 a.m. to 11 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 a.m. to 5 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.

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 over \$500,000, students organize concerts, outings, speakers, coffee houses and more.

Some of the most memorable out-of-the-classroom learning experiences center on one or more of over 100 student organizations, including:

1. Academic clubs, including national honor societies;
2. Diversity organizations, such as the Black Student Alliance (BSA); Caribbean and Latino Origins and Cultures & Associates (SOCA LOCA); Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA); 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), and Music Entertainment Industry Student Association (MEISA);
4. Performance and exhibit groups in such arts as theater, dance and art;
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; and
8. Three fraternities and seven sororities.

### Barrington Student Union Hours

Regular building hours during the fall and spring semesters:  
Monday through Sunday 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Building hours during breaks and the summer recess:  
Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Semester building hours are posted on all exterior doors in the Barrington Student Union. Student Union staff can help groups and organizations to schedule multi-purpose space for meetings and activities. Building Hours are subject to change and will be posted accordingly. For more information, please visit the website at [www.potsdam.edu/bsu](http://www.potsdam.edu/bsu) or call 315-267-2013.

### Maxcy Hall

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 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