

SUNY Potsdam

Administrative Unit Assessment Report and Improvements

Administrative Unit: Residence Life

Unit Contact -- Name: Amanda Grazioso

Phone: x2350

Email Address: grazioaj@potdam.edu

Date Submitted: April 1, 2016

Mission Statement: The Department of Residence Life at SUNY Potsdam provides a safe and clean environment, resourceful staff, and learning experiences for the diverse members of our residential community in pursuit of their educational goals.

Vision Statement:

On-campus living is an integral part of SUNY Potsdam's mission and Residence Life plays a vital role in the students' collegiate experience. Our department believes that a residential environment contributes significantly to the transformational education of our students.

The core of our philosophy is the sense of community that our staff intentionally creates throughout the residence halls. The development of meaningful learning opportunities that are uniquely suited to students is central to our work. Residence Life strives to connect students to each other and foster the development of life-skills. Cooperation, commitment, and a sense of responsibility to self and others define our community that develops as a result of students living and learning together.

In addition, we intentionally facilitate community involvement in an environment that is infused with the values of civility, inclusivity, responsibility, and service. Students are encouraged to grow in their self-awareness and are empowered to make significant connections with each other in our community based on these values in order to achieve their goals in our global society.

Learning Outcomes:

Self-Discovery & Development

Students will grow in their understanding of themselves; building upon their strengths and improving their shortcomings.

Community Engagement

Students will learn to form healthy, interdependent, and meaningful connections with others by embracing civility and diversity.

**SUNY Potsdam
Administrative Unit Assessment Plan**

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Goals	Desired Outcomes/Objectives	Assessment Methods and Targets/Measures
<p>1. Provide staff who are caring, dedicated, diverse, professional, and well-trained in order to provide support and guidance to our students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide professional and paraprofessional live-in staff consistent with national standards. b. Provide training for staff prior to and during each semester. c. Provide high-quality staff who meet set expectations. d. Staff will be available and accessible to residents. e. Both professional and paraprofessional staff will reflect the diversity of the student population. f. Recruitment efforts for professional and paraprofessional staff will target a diverse population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compare professional and paraprofessional staff ratios to national averages/standards. b. Evaluate professional and RA staff training to ensure we are meeting the needs of the staff and preparing them to successfully complete their jobs. c. Perform semesterly performance evaluations to ensure professional and paraprofessional staff are meeting expectations. d. 85% of students will report their staff being available and accessible. e. Review student demographic data to compare with demographics of staff. f. Recruitment materials and job descriptions will be written and advertised in ways that reflect inclusive excellence; search committee will be representative of campus demographics.

<p>2. Our facilities will be clean, safe, accessible, and modern and include amenities and furnishings that contribute to student success.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Residential students will be satisfied with the overall physical conditions of the residence halls. b. Student will feel safe in the residence halls c. Residence Life will regularly evaluate theme housing options to ensure they meet changing student needs. d. Provide quality furnishings in the residence halls. e. Maintain adequate supply/stock of residence hall furniture. f. Assess and advocate for continued, major residence hall improvement projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 80% of students will report satisfaction with the overall physical conditions of the residence halls. b. 90% of students will report feeling safe and secure in their residence halls. c. Gather student input through regular surveys/focus groups. d. 80% of students will report satisfaction with furnishings in the residence halls. e. Regularly take inventory and evaluate supply of furniture and allocate funds accordingly to maintain stock. f. Work with campus administration to submit a RFP for a revised Residence Halls master plan.
<p>3. Programs offered will promote community development and active campus involvement in order to serve the interests and needs of our diverse students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Residential students will attend/participate in at least 1 program/event in the Residence Halls b. Residential students will learn something as a result of participation in a residence life sponsored program/event. c. Residential students who attend programs/events in the residence halls will find them to be beneficial. d. Staff will attain 300 Community Development (CDM) points each semester. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 70% of residential students (80% of FYE residents) will attend/participate in at least 1 program/event b. 75% of residential students will learn something as a result of participating in a residence life sponsored program/event. c. 90% of residential students who attend programs/events in the residence halls will find them to be beneficial. d. 95% of staff will attain 300 Community Development (CDM) points each semester.
<p>4. We will be a leader in student retention efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Residential student retention will exceed that of the campus b. Residents in the First Year Experience program will be retained at a higher rate than residents living elsewhere on campus. c. Residence Life staff will perform outreach to academically at-risk residential students. d. Residence Life will set financially responsible room rates to keep housing affordable to our students. e. Residence Life will provide programs and services that attract students to live on campus beyond the residency requirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Based on campus assessment data, residential student will be retained at a higher rate than that of the rest of campus. b. Based on campus assessment data, residents in the First Year Experience program will be retained at a higher rate than residents living elsewhere on campus. c. Residence Life staff will receive Early Alert data and contact residential students to share academic resources and discuss strategies for academic success; staff will meet with 75% of residential students who have 3 or more early alerts. d. Residence Life staff will assess the rates

		<p>of comparable housing options including other campus and off-campus.</p> <p>e. Examine number of students (%) who live on campus beyond the residency requirement.</p>
<p>5. Residence Life will play an integral role in the Colleges' efforts towards inclusive excellence.</p>	<p>a. Residential students will live in an environment free from harassment.</p> <p>b. The residence halls will be inclusive.</p> <p>c. The residence halls will be a place accepting of differences.</p>	<p>a. 90% of residential students will report a living environment free from harassment</p> <p>b. 90% of residential students will report a living environment that is inclusive.</p> <p>c. 90% of residential students will report a living environment that is accepting of differences</p>