

SPECIAL PROGRAMS ∨

The Adirondack Experience

The Adirondack Experience (ADX) is SUNY Plattsburgh's adventure education program. Taking advantage of the college's ideal location, ADX provides both academic and recreational opportunities for all members of the college community, regardless of age or abilities. Whether enrolled in the academic major or minor in expeditionary studies or simply interested in specific classes, students can take advantage of the extensive curricular offerings, including beginner through advanced courses in paddlesports, rock and ice climbing, and backcountry skiing. Beginner level classes take place in local settings, including the waters of Lake Champlain, the rock and ice cliffs of the Adirondacks, and backcountry ski trails and peaks throughout the North Country woods and mountains. Advanced level classes take advantage of regional settings and also travel to distant locales.

Expeditionary studies is a rigorous major integrating outdoor skills with academic materials. The major includes a foundation in the liberal arts, in such courses as "The History and Culture of the Expedition," and advanced skill training in technical climbing, skiing, or paddling. A two-course capstone sequence, "Expedition Theory and Planning" and the "Senior Expedition," completes the program. The minor in expeditionary studies is an ideal supplement for majors in any field. Students in expeditionary studies gain the type of training and experiences that qualify them for outdoor leadership roles in adventure-based counseling, outdoor education, and state and national park services. (For details, see the Expeditionary Studies Department in the Academic Departments, Centers, and Major Programs section of this catalog.)

In addition to its academic offerings, ADX supports an active Outing Club, which provides weekly trips for the experienced and inexperienced alike, along with training opportunities for those interested in outdoor leadership. ADX also sponsors "The Adventure Lecture Series," bringing to campus speakers and films dealing with outdoor experiences. Recent programs have included Heather Paul's presentation on her ski mountaineering expedition to the Chinese Altai Mountains, snowboarder Stephen Koch's coverage of his descents from the Tetons to Tibet, Shelly Johnson's talks on her sea kayak adventures, and expeditioneer Henry Barber's multi-media lectures on rock climbing, global business, and the history of climbing ethics. Annually sponsored ADX events include *The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour*, *The Lake Champlain Sea Kayak Institute*, and training development courses such as *Wilderness First Responder*.

The Adirondack Experience supports the goals of the greater SUNY Plattsburgh mission, in its commitment to train students as outdoor leaders and educators, to create recreational opportunities for all members of the campus community in the Lake Champlain/Adirondack

region, to emphasize environmental ethics as a component of all outdoor education, and to promote the benefits of skilled and thoughtful outdoor recreation and leadership as meaningful dimensions of lifelong learning. ADX offices are located at 102 Broad St.. Facilities include faculty offices, a resource center, and an equipment room, which supplies all gear for outdoor courses and offers rentals at affordable prices.

Center for Teaching Excellence

The Center for Teaching Excellence at SUNY Plattsburgh promotes and supports strategies and activities that strengthen our faculty's teaching on behalf of our students. The center sponsors workshops on pedagogies and teaching practices, facilitates discussions on teaching in organized faculty learning communities, and provides consultative assistance to the faculty on a wide range of issues that concern teaching. The center is located in Room 301 Feinberg Library, phone 518-564-3043.

Center for the Study of Canada

Established in 1975, the Center for the Study of Canada is dedicated to promoting and providing comprehensive scholarly professional development programs on Canada to academic, government, and business constituents in the United States. Recognized as a Title VI National Resource Center on Canada by the United States Department of Education since 1983, the center is at the forefront of innovative Canadian-focused curricular, research, and program initiatives. Center staff plan and implement an extensive national educational outreach program that includes workshops, seminars, institutes and conferences.

The center is located in a beautiful home at 133 Court St.. This setting serves as an ideal locale for receiving distinguished guests who visit the campus each semester, as a teacher resource center, and as headquarters for the dissemination of information to promote teaching, research and professional development initiatives on Canada.

Honors Program

The Honors Program is a special program of educational opportunities; it is a sign of the college's commitment to provide the best education for its best students, and its recognition that most students realize the quality of their education will help determine their future. The program unites students and faculty in small seminars and research projects that enable students to have greater freedom and responsibility for their education.

The program assumes that excellence can be achieved in any area of formal study, and that the most

✓ SPECIAL PROGRAMS

satisfying and rewarding form of learning occurs when curiosity is aroused.

The program helps students realize their educational goals in two levels. The first, General Honors, is designed for freshmen and sophomores. Students complete four special honors seminars in approximately their first four semesters. Each seminar is limited to about 15 students and is taught by faculty who have a reputation of excellence in teaching. Seminar topics vary and each seminar satisfies a general education requirement. Through student representatives on the Honors Council, all students in the program can participate in the development of the General Honors seminars.

The program continually searches for and implements innovative and challenging educational experiences. For example, specially designed learning communities are sometimes offered which associate an Honors Seminar with one or two non-honors courses related by subject and content. Occasionally, distance-learning experiences are available which allow students to work with faculty at other colleges and universities in the U.S.

The second level of this program is Advanced Honors. Ordinarily juniors and seniors are admitted to this portion of the program. Advanced Honors work continues the goals and ideals of General Honors, except the work is focused in the student's major and requires that students design and carry out a project in research, in performance, in fieldwork, or whatever else would be appropriate to a particular major. Students share the results of their project with others. A number of academic programs have developed Advanced Honors opportunities for their students. Students should inquire about the availability of Advanced Honors opportunities in their field of study at the Honors Center.

Admission to the Honors Program is likely on a space-available basis for any interested student whose high school average is 92 or above and whose combined SAT score is 1250 or above, or whose GPA is 3.5 or higher. Students who do not meet these standards but who would like to be in the program are frequently admitted after consultation with the Honors Program director.

Facilities include seminar rooms, a computer lab, a small library, and a pleasant study/lounge area. Students may contact us at Redcay Honors Center, Hawkins Hall 121-123, 518-564-3075, or visit www.plattsburgh.edu/honorscenter.

Institute for Ethics in Public Life

In its mission statement, SUNY Plattsburgh has identified fostering students' commitment to ethical values and responsible citizenship as major objectives. This requires that students acquire an understanding of ethical sensitivity and reasoning in terms of their future professional roles, as well as in their public responsibilities as citizens. To enable the college to meet this commitment to its students, the Institute for Ethics in Public Life was established on the campus in 1998. The purpose of the

institute is to provide faculty with the opportunity and support for sustained review of ethical issues in their disciplines, with the intent that they will then be able to construct for students, both in their own courses and through curriculum leadership within their departments, newly designed educational experiences. These experiences will provide students with an understanding of ethical sensitivity and reasoning especially as they relate to their professional preparation.

Each semester three faculty members are selected as fellows at the institute, where they work at developing their skills in teaching ethics and civic responsibility.

Study Abroad and Exchanges

Study abroad programs offer students an opportunity to explore new and exciting cultures while studying at internationally respected institutions. In this era of global economics, Internet communications, and worldwide technological advancement, an understanding of other cultures and languages has become increasingly important.

SUNY Plattsburgh currently has study abroad agreements with institutions in Australia, Canada, Chile, China, England, Italy, Mexico, Spain, and Switzerland. Students may also apply to more than 400 programs in more than 60 countries through other SUNY institutions. These programs provide students with opportunities to become immersed in the academic and cultural life of the host countries. Specifically, students may study the language, literature, art, culture, geography, history, economy, government, and social institutions of individual countries and world regions. Courses are offered in all academic fields (French, Spanish, economics, literature, science, computer science, history, politics, sociology, geography, and anthropology, to mention a few). Students who meet the minimum GPA requirement range of 2.5 to 3.3 are eligible to apply for any study abroad program administered by SUNY Plattsburgh or other SUNY institutions.

Credits earned through a SUNY study abroad program are applicable toward a student's degree requirements at SUNY Plattsburgh provided a grade that would be acceptable at SUNY Plattsburgh is earned in the course. However, before going abroad students must submit a *Permission for Off Campus Study* form (available at the Global Education office) in order to have the courses they plan to take evaluated for SUNY Plattsburgh equivalences. The final grades and credit hours are recorded on the Plattsburgh transcript but are not normally factored into the GPA.

Students who have participated in a SUNY-approved study abroad program (outside the U.S.) may request to have the grades earned in that program count in their GPA. If such an election is made, it must include all the courses computed in the specific program (including any D's and E's), and the request (in the form of a written note signed by the student and approved by his/her advisor, chairperson, and dean) must reach the Registrar's Office no more than one semester after

completion of the study abroad course work and prior to final degree clearance.

All students must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours at SUNY Plattsburgh, but students completing their final course in a SUNY study abroad and/or student exchange program are exempt from the requirement that 30 of their last 36 credits be completed at Plattsburgh. Any semester-long, approved, satisfactorily completed study abroad program will satisfy the Integration requirement of the General Education Program.

Detailed information on all SUNY programs, including eligibility requirements, cost and application forms, are available at the Global Education Office, 102 Broad St., 518-564-2321, or via e-mail gloaleducation@plattsburgh.edu. Interested students may also visit our Web site at www.plattsburgh.edu/academics/studyabroad.

NOTE: Plattsburgh students participating in SUNY study abroad programs may apply for special scholarships through the Global Education Office. Certain eligibility criteria apply.

Short-Term Study Abroad Programs

SUNY Plattsburgh offers various short-term study abroad programs throughout the year. The destinations and number change annually. In the past, programs have taken place in Mexico, France, Nepal, China, Nicaragua, Croatia, Martinique, Canada, and England. Students interested in current short-term programs

should contact the Global Education Office at gloaleducation@plattsburgh.edu or 518-564-2321.

National Student Exchange

The National Student Exchange (NSE) offers full-time, undergraduate students an opportunity to study for a semester or academic year at one of over 180 member state colleges and universities located in all 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Canada. The purpose of the NSE is to provide students with the opportunity to access different courses, internships, or field studies while living in a different geographical and cultural setting. NSE offers two payment plans: Plan A where the student pays the host institution's in-state tuition rate and Plan B where the student pays normal SUNY Plattsburgh tuition while attending another NSE institution. The NSE experience is seldom more expensive than attending your home institution, excluding travel.

Students eligible to participate in the NSE are usually sophomores, juniors, or seniors at the time of participation. All participants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and demonstrate adaptability, motivation, and the ability to act as a good ambassador for their home campus.

The NSE Directory of participating campuses, applications, and college catalogs for participating campuses are available at the Global Education Office, 102 Broad St.; telephone, 518-564-2321.

