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 sea kayaking, 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 decent from the Teton to Tibet, Shelly Johnson’s talks on her sea kayak adventures, and expeditioneer and author Dave Anderson’s multimedia documentation of his worldwide travels. 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 Street. 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 Effectiveness

The Center for Teaching Effectiveness at SUNY Plattsburgh promotes and supports strategies and activities that strengthen and enhance our faculty’s teaching effectiveness on behalf of our students. The center sponsors workshops and discussion sessions that are designed to help us reach these goals. In addition, individual faculty members are welcome to consult with the center’s board members about specific needs or questions related to effective teaching.

Effective teaching means effective communication. The center strives to strengthen formal communication between faculty and students in the classroom and to enhance informal sharing of ideas within the campus community. Improved teaching effectiveness can be achieved through a willingness to consider different teaching strategies and learning activities that colleagues have found successful.

The center is located in Feinberg Library Room 301, a comfortable, quiet room ideal for small group discussions and private, individual meetings. An array of reference materials on teaching strategies is available for faculty use. For more information, call 518-564-3043.

Center for the Study of Canada

The Center for the Study of Canada (CESCA) coordinates the premier undergraduate Canadian studies program in the United States. (See the curriculum outline under Canadian Studies in the Academic Departments, Centers, and Major Programs section of this catalog.) A variety of cultural and social activities and events complement its academic program offerings. Center staff members manage and coordinate an extensive outreach program that includes workshops, institutes, conferences, and seminars. Since 1981, the center has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Resource Center on Canada, one of only two in the country. The center’s mandate is to promote and provide comprehensive scholarly and professional development programs on Canada to academic, government, and business communities in the United States. The Center administers the prestigious Killam Fellowship for students to study in Canada.

The center is located in Canada House at 133 Court Street. This impressive home has been recently restored.
and serves as the headquarters for academic programs and student advisement, as a teacher resource center on Canada, and as an ideal locale for receiving distinguished guests who visit the campus each semester.

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 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 automatic for freshmen with a high school average of 92 or above and whose combined SAT score is 1150 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.

Plattsburgh’s study abroad programs are available in Australia, Canada, Chile, England, Mexico, and Spain. Additional programs and exchanges can be arranged through other SUNY institutions. Over 400 programs are located at leading universities throughout the world. 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, history, economy, government, and social institutions of individual countries and world regions. Courses are offered in all academic fields (French immersion, Spanish, economics, literature, science, computer science, history, politics, sociology, ge-
The University of Queensland, the University of New South Wales in Sydney, the University of New England in Armidale, and the University of Wollongong in Wollongong connect students to a variety of courses and facilities, providing a rewarding and valuable international study experience for American students. Australia is a safe, friendly, and politically stable English-speaking environment in which to live.

The International College of Management is the largest private residential college in the southern hemisphere. The ICM campus learning facilities are of the highest international standard. The ICM students may specialize in business, tourism, hospitality, and event management programs.

Canada: Plattsburgh offers a variety of programs throughout Canada. Students have the option of studying in English or French, or completing a French immersion program to help them learn French. French immersion programs can last anywhere from three to five weeks in the summer, a full semester, or a full academic year. In French immersion programs, students only take French courses with other foreigners through a program specially designed for them. In addition to courses, immersion programs contain a social and cultural component meant to introduce students to Québecois culture and civilization. French immersion programs are available at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Université de Montréal, and Université Laval (Québec City). To apply for a French immersion program, you need to have taken one college semester of French before departure.

English-language universities with which Plattsburgh has agreements are McGill University (Montréal), Concordia University (Montréal), and Carleton University (Ottawa). French-language universities with which Plattsburgh has agreements are École polytechnique, Université Laval, Université de Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke, and most of the Université du Québec campuses across the province of Québec. Students wanting to take courses at a French-language university must demonstrate proficiency in French (a total of five college semesters of French).

Students also have the opportunity to study in Canada through the National Student Exchange (NSE). There are currently eleven Canadian universities across the country in NSE. For more information on NSE, please contact the Global Education Office at globaleducation@plattsburgh.edu or (518) 564-2321.

Chile: Through a special agreement with Middlebury College in Vermont, SUNY students may apply to study at one of its many partner institutions in Chile at a reduced cost payable through SUNY Plattsburgh. All coursework is completed in Spanish in normal Chilean university classrooms, and students must have a high level of language proficiency to apply. Students may take courses in a variety of subjects.

England: The Study Abroad and Exchanges Office at Plattsburgh administers four exchange programs in England, at Chester University, Liverpool Hope University, University of Central Lancashire, and University of East Anglia. These programs are one-for-one exchanges with students at the English institutions. Students are
fully integrated into the British schools. They take regularly scheduled classes and live in the college dormitories. All credits earned are applied toward the completion of a degree at Plattsburgh. These a competent and carefully administered programs have enriched the lives of hundreds of Plattsburgh and British students during the past 30 years. Undergraduate courses are offered in art, biology, computer studies, communications, drama and theatre, education, English literature, environmental science, business, geography, history, mathematics, music, psychology, and sociology. Students have numerous opportunities to travel.

**Mexico:** Three historic cities – Monterrey, Guadalajara, and Oaxaca – provide culturally authentic and intimate settings for overseas academic programs through Plattsburgh. With its scenic and ultra-modern 80-acre campus located at the foot of the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains, la Universidad de Monterrey has become one of Mexico’s leading universities and an increasingly popular destination for adventurous students. Guadalajara, located on the Pacific side of Mexico and considered to be a jewel of Latin America, is noted for its strong traditional culture, archaeological importance, and enticing weather year round. The university has a 200-year history of providing a superior quality education to students from all over Mexico, the Caribbean, and the United States. Guadalajara offers summer, semester, or academic year study options. Both universities offer students of all language levels, from beginner to near-fluent, the opportunity to choose among regular university courses, Spanish language and culture courses for non-native speakers, and a few courses taught in English. Rounding out the overall cultural and linguistic immersion opportunities are flexible living arrangements varying from homestays with local families to individual rooms to apartments with other students.

Oaxaca, highlighted by a fascinating mix of colonial and pre-colonial architecture and history, thriving indigenous communities, and natural surroundings that include high mountain cloud forest, tropical rain forest, and Pacific coast, is the ideal setting for Plattsburgh’s faculty-led Sustainable Development and Cultural Studies Program (in Oaxaca and Chiapas). The Southern Mexico Program combines intensive intermediate-to-advanced level Spanish courses, studies in sustainable development theory, and individual research projects. The program’s site, the Center for Intercultural Encounters and Dialogue, is an institution of scholars, professionals, and practitioners who are involved in community work and research at the local level. This fall-semester program includes field trips to archeological sites, community-based development centers, weaving cooperatives, and other sites of historic interest.

**Spain:** The University of Deusto is located in Bilbao, an industrial city of around one million. The city is seven hundred years old and is the economic and cultural center of the Basque Country. During the summer, the university offers a wonderful 4-week program for foreigners interested in learning the Spanish language and visiting some of Spain’s major cities. The program includes many excursions across the country to Madrid, Segovia, Toledo, Pamplona (running of the bulls), as well as regional excursions.

**Other SUNY Study Abroad Programs**

Students are not limited to studying abroad in the countries in which Plattsburgh has programs. As SUNY students, they may apply to study abroad programs administered through other SUNY campuses. The only difference between studying on a Plattsburgh program and a program of another SUNY institution is that the student will send application materials to the administering campus rather than to Plattsburgh. The same policies concerning the transfer and applicability of Plattsburgh study abroad program credit apply to other SUNY study abroad program credit as well. There are over 400 programs in more than sixty countries available to SUNY students, and students are encouraged to explore all options available to them. A complete list of all SUNY study abroad programs is available at: [http://www.studyabroad.com/suny](http://www.studyabroad.com/suny).

**Short-Term Study Abroad Programs**

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, Nicaragua, Croatia, Martinique, Canada, and England. Students interested in current short-term programs should contact the Global Education Office at globaleducation@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 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 Street; telephone, 518-564-2321.