Study Abroad

Every year more students are incorporating study abroad in their career and personal planning. Now is the time to think collaboratively with your son or daughter about whether this is an appropriate option. Typically the sophomore year is a perfect time to study abroad since many majors have particular sequences of courses that must be taken on campus in the junior and senior years.

Studying abroad provides students with international experience, which is ever more important in this age of globalization. Businesses are looking to colleges to provide global training programs, and citizens expect their leaders to be globally competent as we enter a new business era. Studying abroad is one of the best ways students can begin earning international experience.

In addition, studying abroad can foster personal growth and independence. Many students return with new ideas about what they would like to do with the rest of their lives. More importantly, they will have lived in and navigated their way through another country on their own without the immediate support of family and friends, yet have had an academic support system in place. To find out more information about study abroad, please visit the Web site, http://www.plattsburgh.edu/academics/studyabroad/whystudyabroad.php.

Spring Semester

While the spring semester has similar challenges to a student’s first semester on campus, these can also differ slightly. Homesickness can set in again. Students may wonder if college is the right choice for them or if they have chosen the right major. They may realize they need to take their academic coursework more seriously. They may miss their family and friends, or complain that the weather is cloudy and cold. Do these sound familiar?

New thoughts also emerge. Many students are feeling more connected with the new friends they’ve made on campus. They may have joined a campus club or organization. If they were not as successful academically as they wanted to be in the fall, they now know where to go for help. Students are also thinking ahead to spring break, fall course registration, summer jobs and internships, as well as roommates and housing for fall. In addition, many may be setting personal and academic goals, and so on.

All of these thoughts and questions are perfectly normal. What you can do is support them as they think about their options and serve as a resource to them when they need encouragement from a loved one.

Moreover, a care package from home is always welcome in the spring. Fill it with items they love: tea, hot chocolate, cookies, nuts, pretzels, granola, and a little of their favorite candy. Finally, a photo is always a great item to add to a package from home.
Director’s Letter

Congratulations on your student’s completion of the fall semester at SUNY Plattsburgh.

Please be assured that all of us at the college will continue to ensure that your son or daughter is well supported during the spring semester.

A significant number of first-year students had outstanding academic success during the fall semester. We took great pleasure in sending 443 individualized letters to domestic first-year students, commending them for finishing the semester with a grade point average above 3.00. A large number of these students were named to the dean’s list with a grade point average above 3.50. This group of high achievers represents slightly more than 42 percent of the entering class. Additionally, many first-year students were actively engaged outside the classroom in many educational, community-oriented or other purposeful activities.

As the father of two students who recently graduated college and one who is still attending, I know the challenges you face as a parent. Your continued interest and support are crucial to your student’s success. Hopefully, you had the opportunity to discuss fall semester grades. If your son or daughter did well in the fall, please continue to take the opportunity to praise and reinforce this success.

On the other hand, for students who did not do as well as they wished, now is the time to assist. Talk specifically about what they can do differently in the spring semester. This discussion might include plans related to attending class, keeping up with the reading and assignments, taking better notes, improving study skills, enhancing time management skills, etc. The conversation should include discussion of the many academic support services available to assist all students. The creation of a “new” academic plan can end with results that will be appreciated by all concerned. This is especially true if you continue the dialogue during the semester to see how the plan is working.

Mid-term grades will be posted March 25. These grades are important indicators of how the spring semester is going academically.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my office if there is anything I can do to assist you.

Peter Luguri
Director of the First-Year Experience
Phone: 518-564-3289
E-mail: peter.luguri@plattsburgh.edu

A Glimpse of Campus Life

If you’d like to learn more about campus life, please visit the following Web sites:

Campus News www.plattsburgh.edu/news/.
Focus Online weblog.plattsburgh.edu/focus/.

Fun Weekends on Campus

Family Weekend
September 24, 25, 26
www.plattsburgh.edu/studentlife/familyweekend/

Summer Reunion – Calling All Alumni
June 11, 12, 13
www.plattsburgh.edu/alumni/reunion

Is your son or daughter looking for something to do on the weekends? All students are welcome to enjoy “Weekends with Burghy,” 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights at the Angell College Center. This fun series of events include musicians, comedians, dance parties, board games, trivia competitions, video games, bingo, tie dying, etc. Please go to: http://web.plattsburgh.edu/studentlife/collegecenter/latenight.php for more information.

The Center for Student Activities and Volunteerism offers programs that encourage involvement through service to local not-for-profit agencies, schools and community organizations.

Programs include:

Project H.E.L.P.
Community Service Scholarships
Alternative Break Program

Please visit http://www.plattsburgh.edu/offices/centers/service/ for further information.

Important Contact Information

Here is a listing of some of the most frequently contacted offices on campus:

Steve Matthews, dean of students .................................................518-564-3282
Bryan Hartman, director of residence life .................................518-564-3824
Peter Luguri, director of First-Year Experience .........................518-564-2280
Suzanne Daley, director of academic advising .........................518-564-2080
William Laundry, vice president for student affairs ...............518-564-2280
University Police (available 24/7)........................................518-564-2022