Our Mission

SUNY Plattsburgh is a public, comprehensive college that prepares students for academic, professional and personal success.

What We Value

• Student-centered education
• Academic excellence
• Diverse people, experiences and ideas
• Critical inquiry
• Community and civic engagement
• Integrity, civility and collegiality
• Environmental sustainability
• Affordability and value
• Stewardship of resources
• Freedom to speak, think and write

Our Vision

SUNY Plattsburgh will be a model comprehensive college for a student-centered approach to higher education. The “Plattsburgh Experience” will be recognized as one that matches student talents and abilities with pathways to academic, professional and personal success.

What Student Success Means at SUNY Plattsburgh

Successful students are those who have attained a degree that is most relevant to their life’s goals, a quality degree that has rigorously prepared them academically for the workplace or for graduate education.

They have acquired the skills of reasoning, communication, problem solving, ethical judgment and cooperative teamwork, which are required for any endeavor in this diverse and globally interconnected world.

They have acquired the core knowledge that is expected of
any educated citizen. They have had experiential opportunities that will provide advantages in fulfilling their goals, whether in the form of internships, clinically rich experiences, service learning, field study, undergraduate research, study abroad, campus leadership positions, community service or other volunteer opportunities.

They have felt well supported on campus. In this regard, they have been provided a safe, diverse and welcoming environment; they have had help with any learning needs; and they have received good advising and mentoring.

They have had significant opportunities for social, artistic, cultural and political engagement. They have had help with career planning and preparation.

Above all, they have had a memorable and transformative personal experience that will affect them all their lives.

Six Strategic Directions

Student success is at the heart of the six strategic elements of SUNY Plattsburgh’s 2013-2018 Campus Plan.

• Strengthen Support for Student Success
• Promote Teaching Excellence
• Expand Experiential Learning Opportunities
• Build Our Community Connections
• Increase Global Experiences and Multicultural Competencies
• Cultivate a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Strengthen Support for Student Success

Student success is core to the mission of SUNY Plattsburgh.

We have a comprehensive understanding of success, one that involves academic preparation as well as preparation for life and work.

Our goal is to demonstrate to students, their parents and the public that the educational experience on our campus is one that strongly supports that success.

To this end, SUNY Plattsburgh will:
• Make organizational changes that integrate academic programs, student support services, advising, student life, career planning, and other relevant departments, in order to provide better support for the student success;
• revise the General Education program in a manner that better realizes the fundamental learning outcomes critical to an educated person and improves the methods of assessing that learning; and
create a more intentional, deliberative process for undergraduate and graduate course and program development that is attuned to academic goals, student demand, employment opportunities and social needs.

Promote Teaching Excellence

Excellent teaching is essential to student success.

Our faculty has always been committed to continuously improving student learning through innovative pedagogy and best practices, whether in the traditional classroom or online.

Teaching also involves mentorship and advisement outside of the classroom, and our campus is known for the “Plattsburgh Experience” — which is characterized by special attention and concern for student success.

To have effective teaching, we must be able to assess whether our efforts are resulting in the learning outcomes we want for our students.

To promote teaching excellence, SUNY Plattsburgh will:

- Identify ways to increase student-faculty-staff interactions and mentoring that are characteristic of the “Plattsburgh Experience;”
- develop initiatives, projects and programs that are designed to increase teaching effectiveness;
- reward and celebrate excellent teaching and the teacher-scholar ideal;
- invest in proven instructional technologies and provide support for the pedagogies that are most effective for their use;
- make changes to the campus environment that support more dialogue, inquiry, and written and creative expression that enhance the intellectual life of the college; and
- improve data and data collection processes for assessment of student learning outcomes, and use the results more intentionally to improve instruction and curriculum design.

Expand Experiential Learning Opportunities

To prepare students for their careers and for citizenship in a globally connected world, it is important to provide them with relevant experiential learning.

Experiential learning encourages a mutually beneficial, cooperative relationship between students and mentors. Such opportunities include internships and practica; faculty-guided research; artistic and cultural exhibitions and performances; clinically rich experiences; scientific and social fieldwork; study abroad programs; campus employment; service/volunteer programs; student campus leadership opportunities and related experiences.

To expand experiential learning at SUNY Plattsburgh, we will:

- Develop more opportunities in the region, the state, the country and abroad;
• promote collaboration among career development personnel, academic divisions and departments in order to strengthen experiential learning and leadership roles for students;

• promote collaboration among career development personnel, departments and alumni services to better incorporate alumni in the experiential learning process;

• support continued student and faculty cooperation on research-related experiences; and

• investigate means to officially document the experiential learning experiences of students.

Increase Global Experiences and Cultural Diversity

An important part of student success is preparation to work and study in an increasingly diverse and globally connected world.

We have an assortment of internationally focused academic programs, study abroad opportunities and an excellent reputation for supporting international students.

Plattsburgh is also a campus with a diverse student population. Together, these advantages make Plattsburgh well positioned to be a leader in helping students develop multicultural competencies.

*To increase global experiences and cultural diversity, SUNY Plattsburgh will:*

• Evaluate and refine our recruitment, enrollment and financial aid plans in order to promote and support a diverse campus community;

• continue to build the variety of multicultural and global experiences for all students; and

• encourage more curriculum development that emphasizes diversity, global issues and multicultural competencies.

Build Our Community Connections

Our students, faculty and staff are connected to a variety of communities — not only our campus but also our alumni, our region, the natural environment and the global community.

Students and employees alike have voiced a desire to enrich these relations, to break down silos, to enhance our dialogue and interaction, and to assist with the economic, civic and physical health of our local and regional communities.

As we work to strengthen our campus community, we must also increase efforts to connect to our alumni, our local community, our region and our state.

SUNY Plattsburgh has a strong reputation for assisting with the health, educational and business needs of the community,
but there are myriad ways we can strengthen our communities while enriching the experiences of our students.

To build community connections, SUNY Plattsburgh will:

- Encourage interdisciplinary scholarship and collaboration on campus, and promote academic program alignments that will build capacity and enhance scholarship;
- continue to build partnerships with the local community, the region and the state, particularly in the business, education and health fields, and to support, where relevant, the efforts of the area’s regional economic development; and
- increase alumni connections with students for mentoring, career development and building relationships with the college.

Cultivate a Culture of Continuous Improvement

The purpose of planning is to develop goals that, when accomplished, will improve the institution.

To do that effectively, the institution needs to have processes in place that assess progress towards those goals and connects budgeting and planning in a more deliberate way.

To cultivate continuous improvement, SUNY Plattsburgh will:

- Develop processes for planning integration that coordinate, align and assess the variety of plans on campus;
- develop transparent processes that align planning, assessment and budgeting; and
- encourage the active participation of all stakeholders in shaping, implementing and evaluating plans.

Who We Are

The State University of New York College at Plattsburgh is one of 13 comprehensive colleges within the largest state university system in the nation. We selectively enroll approximately 6,000 students in more than 60 baccalaureate, certificate, and master’s programs in the sciences, arts, humanities, social sciences, business, education, health and human services.

These programs are delivered by instructors, many of whom are recognized as SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professors, who are dedicated to innovative teaching and scholarly research. Plattsburgh faculty consider themselves teacher-scholars. Current scholarship informs the classroom, and active, experiential learning is considered a key to academic success. SUNY Plattsburgh prides itself on its advocacy for a strong liberal arts foundation for its students, whether they pursue degrees in the traditional academic disciplines or in the business and professional programs. We are known for our student centeredness and for motivating students to fully realize their talents and abilities.

SUNY Plattsburgh students come from a number of regions in New York state, across the country, and internationally. More than a quarter of our students are from ethnically diverse backgrounds. We are especially
well known for our internationally acclaimed Global Education Office, which serves many students from around the world and provides global education opportunities for our domestic students.

As a residential college, Plattsburgh houses approximately 2,700 students. SUNY Plattsburgh was recognized by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, its regional accreditor, for its friendly and supportive staff. The college provides a rich campus life with many social, academic and cultural events. We are well known for our Museum Without Walls, with its excellent collection of art placed throughout the campus. SUNY Plattsburgh is a NCAA Division III college with 17 varsity teams.

SUNY Plattsburgh is situated on a 256-acre campus that lies between the beautiful Adirondack Mountains and Lake Champlain. Our branch campus is located farther south in Queensbury, N.Y. The college is within easy traveling distance to Montreal, Quebec; Lake Placid, N.Y., and Burlington, Vt. The region provides many recreational opportunities. The campus is located in the greater Plattsburgh community of some 40,000 people, considered to be the center of the North Country’s economic and cultural vitality. We are committed to contributing to our local and regional communities in ways that give our students many enriching experiences.