Student Success Center

128 Sisson Hall
www.potsdam.edu/support/ssc
Important Information

- Student Success Center Brochure
- Fall 2015 Important Dates
- Have You Earned College Credit?
- Academic Catalog
Director:
Tamara Durant

Centralized, integrated group of student service offices

Timely, accurate information and assistance with:

- Understanding and meeting College requirements
- Withdrawal from classes
- Leaves of absence
- Withdrawal from school
- Advisor assignment for undeclared students
Academic Advising & Support

Tim Morse
Director

- Coordinates advising for incoming freshman and transfer students

**Academic Support Lab**

- Provides a variety of academic support services for all students
- Group tutoring offered in many lower-division courses
- Hosts satellite hours for College Writing Center
- Walk-in help is available in study skills, time management, etc.
- Open computer lab available for general use
Donnita Firnstein
Kristen Jordan
Tim Morse

- A special admissions program that provides academic support services for first-year students:
  - Academic advising
  - Counseling
  - Mentoring
  - Learning skills
Shaili Singh, Director

A special admissions program for students who possess the potential for academic success

Services include:

- Tutoring
- Counseling
- Financial Assistance
Sharon House Coordinator

Provides academic accommodations for all qualified students with documented disabilities (as defined by Sections 504 and the ADA) and a need for accommodations

- Learning
- Emotional
- Physical
Louise Tyo, Director

- Coordinates orientation programs
- Administers FYSS
- Organizes Common Reading Program
- Bear Bus
- Coordinates Family Programs
Patrick Massaro, Military/Veteran Student Coordinator

- Veteran and Military Services
  - Advising
  - Certification of benefits

- Adult Learner Services
  - Alpha Sigma Lambda Newsletters
  - Lounge
  - Social gatherings

Student and Family Transitions
Mark Millward, Director

A federally funded TRIO program designed to:

- Enhance academic skills
- Increase retention and graduation rates

Eligible students are those who:

- Are US citizens or permanent residents
- Have academic need for the services
- Are first generation college students and/or meet certain family income guidelines and/or have documented disabilities
SSS participants have access to:

- 1-1 peer content tutoring
- Study skills assistance
- Academic planning and monitoring
- Personal counseling
- Mentoring
- Information technology trainers
- Cultural activities and graduate school planning
• The Student Success Center is the place to go when you have questions!

• If we don’t handle something in our office, we will direct you to the office that does.

1st floor Sisson Hall
8:30am - 4:30pm
Monday – Friday
Format of Advising

Day 1 – Group Sessions
◦ Students will meet in groups of 5-7 with their Orientation Adviser and Orientation Leader
◦ The goal is to learn about course scheduling tips and tools, while creating your fall course schedule

Day 2 – Individual Sessions
◦ Students will meet directly with their Orientation Adviser to finalize schedule and register for fall courses
The BIG Picture

Credit Hours

◦ Each course is worth a certain number of credit hours (most courses are worth 3)
◦ Each student needs at least 12 credit hours per semester to be considered full-time
◦ Each student needs at least 120 total credit hours to graduate

Today: Build a schedule with 12-14 total hours, along with some alternate courses (just in case)
The BIG Picture

Academic Major
- Each student is required to complete at least one academic major
- Requirements for each major are found in the Academic Catalog
- Your major will constitute *roughly* one-third of your overall curriculum

**Today:** Find 2 courses within your intended major and/or area of interest(s)
The BIG Picture

General Education

- Provides a framework of skills, knowledge and experience to
compliment your major
  (gives you a well-rounded, liberal arts education)
- Gen. Ed. courses will constitute *roughly* one-third of your overall
curriculum

**Today:** Find 2 courses outside of your major/area of interest that fulfill Gen. Ed. requirements
General Education

Foundations
- (FW) Writing
- (FS) Speaking, Reading, and Research
- (FM) Mathematics
- (FC) Critical Thinking

**Today:** Find at least 1 Foundations courses, do not take FW and FS during the same semester.
General Education

Modes of Inquiry
- (AC) and (AE) Aesthetic Understanding
- (SB) and (SP) Scientific Inquiry
- (SA) Social Analysis
- (PI) Philosophical Inquiry
- (HI) Historical Inquiry
- (XC) Cross-Cultural Perspective

**Today:** Find at least 1 Mode of Inquiry course
The BIG Picture

What about the other one-third of my curriculum?

- Academic Minor
- Second Major
- Second Minor
- Electives

**Today:** Feel free to explore and try new things, find a course that you did not expect to take!
Goals for Today

- Try to find two courses in your intended major and/or area of interest(s)
- Try to find two courses that fulfill Gen. Ed. requirements
- Try to find a First Year Success Seminar (FYSS)
- Total course load should be 12-14 credit hours

The easiest way to accomplish all these things is to select a First-Year Interest Group (FIG)
First-Year Interest Groups (FIGS)

- Cluster of 3-5 courses with a common theme
- Courses fulfill a variety of Major and Gen. Ed. requirements
- Many include a First Year Success Seminar
- Guaranteed not to have any time conflicts
- Most FIG faculty work together to create a learning community, even outside the classroom

Today: Start by looking through the FIG booklet!
What’s Next?

**Today:** You will meet your Orientation Adviser and will have the next two hours to learn more about course scheduling and draft your academic schedule for the fall.

**Tonight:** you will continue to work on your fall schedule with your Orientation Leader.

**Tomorrow:** you will meet with your Orientation Adviser to finalize your schedule and register for courses.
Questions?