THE UNIVERSITY

Mission

Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment, with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Vision

Plymouth State University is a visionary institution at the hub of an ever-growing creative community where students, faculty, staff, and alumni are actively transforming themselves and the region. We develop ideas and solutions for a connected world and produce society’s global leaders within interdisciplinary Integrated Clusters, open labs, partnerships, and through entrepreneurial, innovative, and experiential learning.

Values

Our values shape the environment in which our campus community members learn, teach, and serve. Our values guide our decision-making, provide clarity in determining priorities, and influence our relationships and behaviors. We value:

- our alumni, heritage, and future as a transformative and highly engaged University with innovative and creative approaches to learning and problem solving;
- service to others, exemplifying our motto, Ut prosim (That I may serve), and working across disciplines where deeper levels of learning and outcomes occur;
- entrepreneurial partnerships that enrich our learning and benefit our region focused on sustainable, environmentally connected work that enhances our sense of place and purpose;
- the rights and dignity of all people;
- free speech, diversity of opinion, and the opportunity to learn from one another;
- collective responsibility for the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community;
- accountability for decisions, actions, performance, and conduct.

Accreditation

Plymouth State University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, Inc. (NECHE), the nationally recognized, nongovernmental organization whose mission is to evaluate the quality and integrity of educational programs. Institutions earning this accreditation are judged to be providing educational experiences that can be transferred to any other accredited college or university in the nation.

In addition to being accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, Plymouth State University is approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education–Division of Higher Education–Higher Education Commission.

Program-specific accreditation include the following:

- athletic training program by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education;
- nursing program by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education;
- social work program by the Council on Social Work Education;
- the bachelor’s degree programs in accounting, business administration, finance, management, and marketing by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs;
- the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE);
- the school psychology program by the National Association of School Psychologists;
- the school counseling program by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP);
- the health education program by the Society for Public Health Education and the American Association for Health Education; and
- the mental health and school counseling programs by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

All teacher certification programs are approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education (http://www.ed.state.nh.us/), Nationally Accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Education Preparation (http://www.ncate.org/) (CAEP) and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (http://www.aacqep.org) (AAQEP). Specialized Program Association (https://campus.plymouth.edu/educator-preparation/office-of-educator-preparation/accreditation/) (SPA) recognition is by program. PSU graduates from teacher certification education programs are eligible to apply for licensure in the state of NH. The US Department of Education (https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/) maintains a contact database for state education agencies in all 50 US states for students seeking certification outside of NH.

- PSU holds conditional approval from the NHDOE through August of 2020.
- PSU Initial Teacher Preparation (ITP) programs hold full accreditation through June of 2026 by AAQEP.
- PSU advanced programs are fully accredited by NCATE through December 2021. Initial Teacher Preparation programs hold full national accreditation through December 2024 by CAEP.

Academic Programs

Programs of study are designed to engage students and to prepare them for gratifying and productive careers. Students will have numerous opportunities to engage in real world, hands-on experiences. The undergraduate General Education program gives students a broad perspective on ideas and an awareness of diverse human experiences and cultures. Academic majors and minors build on this foundation by providing concentrated learning in areas of choice. Experiential learning through internships, field experiences, service learning, study abroad programs, and other practical learning partnerships allow students to become directly involved in testing and applying their knowledge.

Education in the liberal arts and sciences and in professional fields is provided through baccalaureate and advanced degree programs. Plymouth State University is authorized to confer the bachelor of arts (BA), the bachelor of fine arts (BFA), and the bachelor of science (BS) degrees to students who complete these four-year programs of study. The University offers more than 50 four-year degree programs of study, many of which have specialized curricular options within them. In addition, a degree in interdisciplinary studies enables highly
motivated students to choose a customized academic path and integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines in order to follow their passions toward a successful future career.

A wide variety of minors are available, giving students an opportunity to study outside their chosen major and to enhance their academic experience in other fields of interest. If students are uncertain of the specific field of study in which they want to concentrate, PSU allows them to experience the strong liberal arts general education program at the core of every undergraduate degree program while they decide on a major during their first year or two.

Advanced degrees offered at Plymouth State University include the master of arts (MA), the master of arts in teaching (MAT), the master of business administration (MBA), the master of education (MEd), the master of science (MS), the certificate of advanced graduate studies (CAGS), the doctor of education (EdD), and the doctor of physical therapy (DPT). The master of education degree program offers courses in a variety of disciplines.

Bachelor's degree studies dovetail nicely with graduate study; in fact, students who choose undergraduate courses wisely can earn a bachelor's degree and an MAT, MBA, or MEd at Plymouth State University in five years. By taking classes each early spring and summer session, it is possible for a talented, highly motivated student to complete his or her degree in three years or complete both a bachelor’s and master's degree in four (some majors do not apply).

Hundreds of faculty members share a commitment to teaching and to preparing students for successful careers. They are nationally renowned scholars in their fields, exceptional educators, former CEOs, and critically-acclaimed authors, artists, and scientists. Faculty members are active in their respective fields—presenting research, workshops, and seminars; working as consultants; participating in exhibitions; performing in concerts; and writing books, articles, plays, and musical compositions. The student–faculty ratio is 18:1. Each student has an advisor.

Opportunities exist for service learning and internships within the larger community and for international study. Students are encouraged to broaden their academic experience by studying for a semester or a year as part of a national or international exchange program. PSU has official affiliations with programs around the world. For further information, see the Global Engagement Office in the Academic Resources section of this publication.