

Welcome to the Au Sable Institute summer program at the Pacific Rim campus!

We look forward to seeing you out here in the Pacific Northwest.

General 2024 Information- Pacific Rim Campus

Session Dates: refer to www.ausable.org/college for current dates

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

You will receive an email from Ashley Rosenberger, ashley@ausable.org in May that includes a Google Form in which you will input all of your travel information. This information will be used to pick you up from the shuttle stop in Coupeville, WA, therefore it is imperative you fill this out.

ARRIVAL

You are to arrive in Coupeville, on Whidbey Island, by 6 PM on on the first Sunday of your course session dates. You may arrive to Camp Casey as early as 4pm, Saturday before the course session dates. The first meal that will be provided is Saturday dinner.

DRIVING

If you are driving yourself or being dropped off, ***please inform Au Sable (email ashley@ausable.org) in advance of your approximate arrival time at the Bachelor's Officer's Quarters (BOQ) on the Camp Casey Conference Center*** campus at 1276 Engle Road, Coupeville, WA 98239. A map of the campus and directions can be found on the [Camp Casey website](#).

FLYING

If you are flying to Seattle ***you must arrange ground transportation*** from the airport to Whidbey Island. The most convenient mode of transportation is the [Whidbey-SeaTac Shuttle](#). The shuttle picks you up at Door 2, under the AIRPORTER sign. You will need to book the shuttle to the ***Coupeville stop*** where Au Sable staff will meet you.

Any flight delays, baggage delays, etc. may cause you to miss your scheduled Shuttle, so scheduling flights and shuttle times with an adequate buffer time is important.

You must reserve your shuttle before your arrival. You can reserve your shuttle to Whidbey Island here: [Home - Seatac Airport Shuttle \(seatacshuttle.com\)](#)

NOTE: Shuttle times may change, so before booking your flight, check the SeaTac Shuttle schedule here ([Schedules & Fares - Seatac Airport Shuttle \(seatacshuttle.com\)](#)) and book accordingly. The goal is to have you on campus by 6:00PM on the Sunday before the course session dates, so keep that the number one goal when booking your flight and shuttle. If you need any help or have questions as you are booking your flight and shuttle, please feel free to email or text 231-252-6374.

DEPARTURE/RETURN HOME

The session officially ends at 12 PM on the final Friday of the session dates. If you are using the Whidbey-SeaTac shuttle service, the earliest shuttle you can book leaves Coupeville at

Pacific Rim Summer Session II

approximately 2:15 PM, meaning your flight cannot depart from SeaTac any earlier than 6:30 PM. Please allow a minimum of 4 hours of total time between getting picked up at your shuttle stop in Coupeville near our campus and arriving at the airport. It is best to arrange your departure from campus in the ***late afternoon or early evening*** on that final Friday. The latest you can depart from campus is the following Saturday at 12:00pm. Again, please book a shuttle that departs Coupeville no less than 4 hours prior to your flight departure time. ***Plan on having a final exam on the final Friday of the course session dates.***

Important Note to Highlight: Do not plan on leaving earlier than the final Friday. It is ***highly recommended you fly out early on following Saturday*** to give you adequate time to pack, checkout of your room, enjoy one last night at the BOQ, and say goodbye to new friends.

FLYING

Please review the shuttle schedule before making your round-trip flight reservations. It is a 3-hour trip to and from the airport on the shuttle and you must land at Sea-Tac airport at least 60 minutes before the scheduled departure of the shuttle for Whidbey Island and Coupeville. Do not book a return flight any earlier than 4 hours after the shuttle departs Coupeville for the airport. ***Shuttle and ferry times are updated for the Summer, normally, in February, so the times listed above are subject to change.***

COURSE LOGISTICS

COURSES

You will be taking two different courses during your time here. Class schedules vary depending on the week and any overnight trips that are taking place. You will meet with each class two days a week and have an Integration Day on Wednesdays, except the first week where Integration Day is on Monday, the Opening Day.

Textbooks and Class Supplies

Your professors will notify you a few weeks before the courses begin about what textbooks and special gear/supplies you should bring. Please review your course syllabus in your Populi account on the Au Sable website. ***Please have your textbooks with you the first day of class, and plan to travel with them.***

What to bring:

Au Sable has provided a packing list. Please review the packing list and bring all the essential items. When packing, ***please think smart and simple!*** Do not bring any unnecessary valuables or large items. Space is limited! In your dorm, you will have a regular twin bed, a shared dresser, and some shared closet space. Bathrooms are dorm style bathrooms.

COVID INFORMATION

Au Sable courses are short, 5 week-intensive, 4 credit courses that are particularly susceptible to major disruption by COVID-19. The entire program takes place in five weeks, so a 5-7 day 'isolation' period would take a student out of about 20% of the normal course delivery. Also, the courses are designed around experiences in the field; around Whidbey Island, and some overnight

camping trips off island. ***These are not experiences that can be captured by 'zoom'.*** Furthermore, since all Au Sable students study, eat, and travel together, if one student were to become ill, it is highly likely several others have been exposed and could become sick. ***This may likely mean the cancellation of at least some of the scheduled trips for the entire class.***

While the outcomes of 'class disruption' are not medically serious (unlike some possible health outcomes of COVID-19 infection), they are *certain* outcomes of an infection. Keeping this in mind, we ask all students to thoughtfully consider what precautions they can take to reduce the risk of infection, to avoid the cancellations / disruptions that could result from a COVID-19 infection. We also ask you to keep in mind that some students need these courses to graduate, so we ask the entire community to think beyond themselves and love their neighbor well during their time at Au Sable. ***You are not just protecting your own experience; you are protecting the experience of every one of your classmates.***

SYMPTOMATIC TESTING

After arrival testing, students will be tested if they have symptoms of COVID-19. We expect students to self-report symptoms to reduce the spread of covid and show love and kindness to their fellow classmates and staff.

To reduce the risk of testing positive for COVID-19, we ask students to be wise two weeks before their arrival to Whidbey Island. Being wise may include things like wearing a mask in the airport and flight, reducing participation in large group events, limiting exposure to people who have symptoms of COVID-19 and being careful as/when needed. We also ask that during your time at Au Sable, you continue to be wise and practice good COVID-19 reducing behaviors.

We want to thank you in advance for doing your part to reduce the risk of a COVID-19 infection and outbreak during your time at Au Sable Pacific Rim.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Au Sable Pacific Rim is hosted at the Camp Casey Conference Center, operated by Seattle Pacific University. For more campus information including housing, dining, and classroom accommodations, see www.ausable.org/pacific-rim-overview.

Au Sable Community Events:

Throughout your time at Au Sable, Au Sable staff and students will participate in a Vespers service every Sunday night. Vespers marks the beginning of our week together and students/staff are expected to attend (and occasionally lead) these services. Staff will plan shuttles in and out of Oak Harbor and other surrounding areas for students to get supplies as needed. Au Sable staff may also plan some optional community events on the weekends. We welcome students to participate in all these events. Au Sable values community and will work to provide opportunities for fun and meaningful connection for all participants.

Weekends and free time:

The weekends are generally free time for students to rest, study, and explore. To build community and a sense of place students are ***expected*** to stay on campus the first weekend of the session. We

highly encourage students, for the remainder of the session, to stay in the area with other Au Sable students. This builds community and allows time for students to rest and relax after the busy weeks of coursework and fieldtrips. Furthermore, traveling off the island or out of the Pacific Northwest takes a lot of time, energy, and money, and takes away from the overall Au Sable experience. Therefore, ***we recommend that you plan on being at Au Sable Pacific Rim campus during the entire session and do not plan on traveling to events (weddings, family events, college events) during the five-week session.*** Students will have a greater overall experience if they commit their time to the Au Sable program and the Au Sable community.

There is much to do around Camp Casey and on Whidbey Island, and after a full week of classes, the rest and relaxation will be needed. At Camp Casey, you can hike, walk on the beach, study, read, rest, and hang out with your peers. Bring your favorite game(s) (if you have room!), books, music, running/walking shoes, journal, or thing you do to relax as you will find Whidbey Island is an excellent place to just “be” during your five weeks at Au Sable. Often students use the weekend to explore and camp together in the area, and this is highly encouraged!

Whidbey Island Climate

During the summer months, ***Whidbey Island receives very little rain as it is located in the rain shadow of the Olympic mountains range.*** Summer days are comfortable and sunny; highs are typically in the high 60s/low 70s. The mornings and evenings are cool and usually accompanied by a slight ocean breeze and foggy mornings are common as the summer progresses. During your time on Whidbey, there may be a few rainy days, but Whidbey Island, as noted above, is in the rain shadow and is not the typical climate you think about when you think about the Pacific Northwest.

Whidbey Island has many natural and cultural features including five State Parks, Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve (a unit of the National Park Service – the first of its kind in the world – worth reading up on before you arrive), farmland, and historic Coupeville on Penn Cove. The Whidbey Island shoreline has diverse coastal bluffs and estuarine ecosystems. Tide pools display a remarkable array of sea life. Orcas and Minke whales (if you are lucky), harbor seals, eagles and shore birds can all be observed from the shoreline.

Media and Communication:

Wireless internet access is available at Camp Casey ***but it IS sporadic, slow and unreliable. Bring your own laptop or tablet.*** Plan on using the internet only for course work, essential communications, and studies. ***Au Sable will be able to provide internet for academic purposes, but not for personal streaming use.*** Please be aware of this and be ready to “disconnect” as the internet is not what you have at your home institutions or residences. Cell phone reception can also be spotty, but generally most students find their phones are reliable at Camp Casey, somewhere on campus! What you might “miss” in internet speed or cell phone reception will be made up for with the Camp Casey sunsets, beach, and bonfires.

Mail is delivered to Camp Casey and will be delivered to you at the BOQ. The address for personal mail during your stay is:

c/o (your name)
Au Sable Institute

Pacific Rim Summer Session II

Camp Casey Conference Center
1276 Engle Road
Coupeville, WA 98239-3617

We look forward to getting to know you and facilitating your participation in the Au Sable Summer Session. If you have any additional questions, please call or email. Be on the look-out for further communication from Au Sable staff and the RA's as we get closer to your arrival! And, finally, **our packing list is below!**

If you have any questions, contact:

Ashley Rosenberger
Admissions Manager
231-252-6374
ashley@ausable.org

Heath Garris
Director of College Programs
864-630-8884
heath.garris@ausable.org

AU SABLE INSTITUTE PACIFIC RIM PACKING LIST

Clothing

- Shirts
- Hiking or Field Pants/Jeans
- Shorts for nicer/hotter days on campus
- One set of nicer casual clothes for church
- Clothes for playing rec games
- Sweatshirt or flannels
- Rain jacket and rain pants
- Medium weight jacket or flannel
- Sleepwear (*nights can get chilly*, especially if/when camping)
- Hat for sun protection
- Socks
- Undergarments
- Good walking or hiking shoes/boots for class- please break them in before coming!
- Shower shoes
- Good walking sandals (like Chacos or Tevas, no flip flops)
- Tennis shoes for games/rec if wanted or needed
- Winter hat and gloves for camping

NOTE: Au Sable has a supply of rubber boots for the Marine Biology course.

Toiletries

- Shampoo
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Sunscreen (the sun can be intense in high altitudes and on campus)
- Personal Medications-
- Other personal needs

NOTE: Many students purchase, once they get to the island larger volume of shampoo and soap to make packing less difficult. Au Sable staff will provide shuttles to stores to make these purchases. It is recommended you bring at least enough for a week so you are not stressed the first few days about getting to a store.

Other Essentials

- Sleeping bag and/or blanket
*NOTE: Many students find a sleeping bag is most convenient and easiest to travel with as a carry on, but we suggest bringing a sheet set too, for warmer nights and the fitted sheet for your twin bed. *Students who are in Alpine Ecology, Forest Ecology or International Development will have camping trips, so a sleeping bag is necessary.* Students not in these courses may choose to just bring a blanket for their bed instead of a sleeping bag, but often students end up camping on the weekends as they explore, so please keep that in mind!

It *does get chilly at night*, so if you have room for both a sleeping bag and blanket as you pack, you might be happy to have both available.

- Twin sheets (NOT extra-long)
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Towel(s)
- Laptop computer
- Camera
- Daypack or bookbag for day trips
- Plastic Tupperware container(s) for packed lunches or reusable silicon sandwich bags, and lunch bag.
- Sleeping Pad
*NOTE: Sleeping pads and sleeping bags **are needed for overnight trips**. Check with your professor or course syllabus to see if your class will have overnight camping trips, as most courses do. We do have a small number of sleeping pads available, but if you already have one and have room, please bring it. Au Sable has tents, so you do not need to bring a tent unless you would like to and have room.
- Bible and journal
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Flashlight/headlamp with extra batteries
- Cell phone with alarm clock or small alarm clock
- Small notebook for field notes
- Larger notebook for lecture notes
- Pen/Pencils
- Small supply of snacks stored in a **well-sealed** container.
- Laundry Bag (the laundry facility is NOT located in your dorm building)
- Laundry Soap
*NOTE: You can pick up laundry detergent once you get to Whidbey Island.

Other Options and/or Suggestions

- Binoculars
- Small acoustic guitars, small hand drums, etc.
- Supplies needed for your hobby (knitting, drawing, fishing, running shoes, etc)
- Camp chair/hammock/outdoor blanket
- Coffee Travel Mug

Other Helpful/Random notes

- There is no gym at Camp Casey. There are playing fields, trails, and many places to walk/run. If you have specific needs related to working out/training, please talk to your coach and/or find alternative types of workouts.
- Au Sable staff can take shuttles into Oak Harbor and other surrounding places if you need to purchase toiletries and additional items sometime during the first week of classes. Pack enough toiletries and laundry pods to get you through two weeks.
- We will be providing food for you to pack a lunch every day during the week so faculty feel the freedom to be in the field, or leave in a moment's notice to see, for example, whales. ***To reduce the waste that is often associated with packed lunches, think about what you can bring to reduce your use of plastic bags, paper bags, and plastic silverware. You will have access to a kitchen to wash items you use for packing a lunch.***