

Great Lakes May Session

Welcome to the Au Sable Institute May Session program at the Great Lakes campus! We look forward to seeing you up here in the Northwoods of Michigan and getting to know you as we pursue our call to serve, protect and restore God's earth.

General 2024 Information- Great Lakes Campus

May Session Dates: check www.ausable.org/college for current program dates

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

The Institute is located in northwest Lower Michigan between Kalkaska, Mancelona, and Grayling. To get here, you can drive to our campus, bus, or fly! **Plan on arriving on the Sunday before the course begins and departing after 4:00pm on the final Friday of the course.**

Traveling by car

If you choose to drive to our campus, please use the attached map. If you use GPS for directions, please be aware that some units will send you onto a rural 2-track road. If your directions lead you onto a dirt road, please find a different route. For best directions, use the attached map. There is parking on campus for students' personal vehicles, although if you have others coming from your same school/areas, we encourage you to carpool!

Traveling by bus

For those who will be traveling by bus, **Greyhound** and **Indian Trails** travel through both Grayling and Traverse City. Indian Trails also has service coming from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. **Please email or call the office by May 1, 2023 with your travel information** so that we can provide our shuttle to meet your bus. The shuttle pick-up is free.

Traveling by plane

The closest commercial airport is the **Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City (code TVC)**, and it is connected to airline hubs like Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Chicago. We will email you on April 1, 2023, requesting your arrival times to arrange airport shuttles. **Please respond to this email with your flight information so a shuttle will be available for your arrival.** Au Sable staff will be attempting to make as few airport runs as possible, so you may have a short wait. **Please plan on arriving on an early to mid-afternoon flight.** If you have no choice and must arrive on a later flight, please **contact us prior to purchase to advise on possible options.**

Upon arrival, pick up your luggage at the baggage claim area and exit the terminal through the baggage claim doors. At your confirmed shuttle time, look for the white Au Sable logoed van. **If your flight is delayed or canceled, please contact Eric Bond, the Director of Support Services, at 231-590-4749 right away so we can have a shuttle available for you.** We recommend putting Eric's number in your cell phone, so you have easy access to it the day you travel.

NOTE: Au Sable will only provide shuttles to the Cherry Capitol Airport in Traverse City (Code TVC). We will not provide shuttles from Grand Rapids airport (2 hours from campus) or Detroit (4 hours from campus). Please purchase tickets, if you plan on using Au Sable shuttles, to and from the Traverse City Airport.

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After Arriving

We will serve dinner on arrival day (Sunday) at 6:00 PM. Students should arrive no later than the afternoon of the Sunday before their class starts, as general check-in for your housing will occur between noon and 4:00 PM on the Sunday prior to the start of their course(s).

There will be a short orientation after the arrival but otherwise you will have some time to rest and decompress from travel. **Classes will begin immediately following breakfast at 7:30 AM on the first Monday of the course.** If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to call or email the Institute.

Departure from campus

Classes end on the final Friday of the course. The final Friday is your exam day. You should arrange for a flight no earlier than 4:00 PM on that Friday, or plan on departing campus, in general, after 4:00pm on Friday. If you need to stay until Saturday, please plan on departing campus by 12:00pm (noon) as we need to turn campus over for the following sessions.

If you are staying for Summer Session I, campus and the dining hall are open for you during the transition weekend.

COURSE LOGISTICS

Courses

During May Session, you will be taking one course, Monday-Friday. Integration Days are days in which all courses come together for a field trip that incorporates the subjects you are studying and the ways they are all connected to the broader realm of environmental topics and issues. Your course will participate on Mondays for Integration Days. Integration Days are a part of your course and are therefore required.

Textbooks and Class Supplies

Your professor 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. You can travel with them or send them ahead of time (see address below).***

What to bring:

Au Sable has provided a packing list below. 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. Think layers, flannels, fleeces, field clothes and hiking boots.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Au Sable Great Lakes campus was selected for its environmental features. Surrounded on three sides by hundreds of acres of public land, the main campus of 65 acres features two small ponds and frontage on a 215-acre lake. Fine examples of the Great Lakes pine forest community, a small bog, meadows, and young northern hardwood stands also occur on site. Many beautiful natural areas for teaching, research, or recreation are nearby. Our climate is typical of north-temperate regions, although the Great Lakes moderate the extremes. Summer days are usually warm and sunny but can get rainy and down in the 50's, followed by cool evenings (ranging from 50's to 60's). May typically

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has highs ranging from the high 50's to low 70's with cool to cold nights. Because of its climate and natural features, this region has long been popular for tourists.

Lodging

Au Sable has cabin style housing available to all our students. You can expect to share a cabin with 6-8 other students. You will have a regular twin bed, a shared dresser, and some space for hanging up a few items. Bathrooms are shared bathrooms in each cabin. There are no desks in our cabins, but there are several student lounges and study areas to spread out on campus.

Dining

Au Sable has a communal dining hall where we serve all our meals. Students are welcome to coffee, hot drinks, and snack items throughout the day. Our dining hall is a great place of fellowship and community. Au Sable serves breakfast at 7:30AM, lunch at 12:15PM and Dinner at 5:30PM. Au Sable can accommodate most dietary restrictions, and will request information concerning any allergies and dietary restrictions in April. If you have any concerns in the meantime, regarding our food service, please contact ashley@ausable.org.

More about our Campus

For more information about your accommodations, dining, and what is available on campus, see: [Au Sable Great Lakes Campus Overview](#).

Au Sable Community Events:

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 also plan shuttles in and out of town for students to get supplies as needed or attend church services. 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 create a sense of community amongst 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 on campus or 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 out of the area takes a lot of time, energy, and money, and takes away from the overall Au Sable experience. Therefore, *we request that you plan on being at Au Sable Great Lakes campus during the entire session and do not plan on flying home or 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 on campus and in Northern Michigan. On campus, you can hike, spend time on the lake, study, read, rest, swim, 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 our Great Lakes campus is an excellent place to just “be” during your five weeks at Au Sable. Often students use the weekend to explore and camp together, and this is highly encouraged!

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Media and Communication:

Wireless internet access is available. Bring your own laptop or tablet. There are a few campus PC's available for student use if you do not own your own laptop. Plan on using the internet for course work, essential communications, and studies. However, because our campus is, literally, in the forest and under trees, cell phone reception is sporadic and for some, unreliable. Au Sable staff can help you find the best "spots" on campus for reception.

Mail is delivered to the campus library where each student will have a mail box. The address for personal mail during your stay is:

Student Name
c/o Au Sable Institute
7526 Sunset Trail NE
Mancelona, MI 49659

Feel free to send items (books in particular) before the session starts. We will have them waiting for you when you arrive!

COVID INFORMATION

Au Sable courses are short, 3 week-intensive, 4 credit courses that are particularly susceptible to major disruption by COVID-19. The entire course takes place in three weeks, so a 5-7 day 'isolation' period would take a student out of about 1/3 of the normal course delivery. Also, the courses are designed around experiences in the field, around our Great Lakes campus. *These are not experiences that can really 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.*

Testing

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 disrupting your short, three-week intensive courses, upon your arrival, Au Sable will conduct rapid COVID tests. If a student tests positive, Au Sable will provide isolation quarters, following CDC guidelines.

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.

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To reduce the risk of testing positive for COVID-19 when you arrive, we ask students to be wise two weeks before their arrival to our Great Lakes Campus. 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.

We look forward to getting to know you and facilitating your participation in the Au Sable May Session. If you have any additional questions, please call or email. Be on the look-out for further communication from Au Sable staff including an Emergency Health and Safety Form and an email requesting travel information. And don't forget to check out the packing list below!

If you have any questions, contact:

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

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

AU SABLE INSTITUTE PACKING LIST

Clothing

- Shirts
- Hiking or Field Pants/Jeans
- One set of nicer casual clothes for church
- Clothes for playing rec games
- Sweatshirt or flannels
- Rain jacket and rain pants
- WARM sleepwear (nights can get cold!)
- Hat for sun protection
- Socks
- Undergarments
- Modest bathing suit
- Good walking or hiking shoes/boots for class that can get muddy/wet (waterproof)
- Slippers/flip flops for dorm and for around campus
- Shower shoes
- Good walking sandals (like Chacos or Tevas, no flip flops) that can get wet
*NOTE: You will need a shoe that can get wet! Some students prefer to bring an old pair of sneakers for this, or water shoe/sandal. Whatever shoe you choose, make sure it has good traction and grip so you do not slip on rocks and wet surfaces!
- Winter hat and light gloves

Toiletries

- Shampoo
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent (anything over 70% DEET is NOT necessary and is bad for your skin, the environment, and your gear!)
- Personal Medications
- Other personal needs

Other Essentials

- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Sheets for twin bed (NOT extra-long)
- Pillowcase
- Towels (for bath and beach)
- Laptop computer (some campus PCs are available)
- Camera
- Daypack or backpack for day trips

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- 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
- Laundry Soap

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 Notes:

- Au Sable owns many pairs of waders for you to use. You do not need to purchase waders for your course, but if you have them and want to bring them, feel free to.
- In May, trails can be sloppy and muddy, so in general have a walking/hiking boot that is waterproof and ready to be worn in the field (and wear them in before!).
- Have we said enough to think layers? It can be chilly in the mornings, warm in the afternoon, and chilly again in the evening.
- Au Sable has board games, a ping pong table, pickleball court, tennis courts, soccer field, volleyball court, kayaks and canoes, a keyboard, one guitar, and other things to build community on campus.