



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

For additional information concerning Services for Students with Disabilities or PALS, please call 516-463-7075 or e-mail [SSD@hofstra.edu](mailto:SSD@hofstra.edu).



**HOFSTRA**  
UNIVERSITY

Hempstead, New York 11549

32465/7/11



# Program for Academic Learning Skills (PALS)

► [hofstra.edu/PALS](http://hofstra.edu/PALS)

**SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**



**Hofstra University** is committed to extending equal opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, marital or veteran status in employment and in the conduct and operation of Hofstra University's educational programs and activities, including admissions, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school administered programs.

### **Are my records kept confidential?**

All records and documentation are kept confidential. Services for Students with Disabilities will notify professors of your accommodations only upon your request.

### **Does PALS offer content tutoring for course work?**

No. However, content tutoring is available to all Hofstra students through the University Tutorial Program.

## PALS FEE

Enrollment in PALS is a two-semester (one-year) commitment. Students enrolled in PALS are billed a one-time, \$10,500 charge during their first year at Hofstra. However, this one-time fee entitles the student to continue meeting with a learning specialist for the duration of his or her academic program at Hofstra.

## FINANCIAL AID

To apply for financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applications are available online at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). For information, please call Hofstra's Office of Student Financial Services at 516-463-8000.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is there an additional charge for PALS?

Yes. Students enrolled in PALS are billed a one-time charge of \$10,500 during their first year at Hofstra. However, this one-time fee entitles that student to continue meeting with a learning specialist for the duration of his or her academic program at Hofstra.

### What happens after I complete my first year in the program?

You are still entitled to meetings with your learning specialist after your first year; however, you are released from any obligation to attend.

### What is the difference between PALS and reasonable accommodations?

PALS utilizes weekly meetings with learning specialists to help students develop academic learning skills. Reasonable accommodations are free compensatory aids (i.e., extended time, note-taking) to which eligible students are entitled by law.

### Are there separate courses for PALS?

PALS does not have separate courses. Students take courses from the Hofstra University curriculum, but meet weekly with an assigned learning specialist for strategy instruction.

## OUR MISSION

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) strives to meet the various needs of all eligible students. Our mission is to:

*... provide disability-related education, services and resources to the Hofstra community. SSD ensures equal access to education for all Hofstra students, regardless of disability, in compliance with federal law and in keeping with Hofstra's longstanding commitment to equality and access in its programs and services. We respectfully serve our students by facilitating barrier-free educational opportunities and assisting them in becoming self-advocating, independent learners.*

Additionally, SSD offers a fee-based program to students with learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD, known as the Program for Academic Learning Skills (PALS). PALS has been in existence at Hofstra since 1979.

## ABOUT PALS

The Program for Academic Learning Skills provides eligible students with an opportunity to work in partnership with a learning specialist on a weekly basis in one-to-one sessions. These individualized sessions address unique educational challenges and develop supplemental learning strategies and time management and executive function skills, all of which encourage students to become independent, lifelong learners. PALS students agree to a one-year commitment, but continue to have access to a learning specialist throughout their academic career at Hofstra.

PALS students are also eligible for reasonable accommodations through SSD. Reasonable accommodations are adjustments to Hofstra University programs, policies and practices that "level the playing field" for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations may include extended time on examinations, testing in a smaller, proctored environment, and supplemental note-taking services. As with learning strategies, accommodations are based on each student's disability-related needs and careful review of comprehensive disability documentation (see documentation requirements in *Admission to PALS* section).

Although there is a fee for the PALS program, reasonable accommodations are free of charge to all eligible students who complete the SSD registration process and provide the appropriate documentation. For more information about applying for accommodations through SSD, call **516-463-7075** or e-mail [SSD@hofstra.edu](mailto:SSD@hofstra.edu).

## ADMISSION TO PALS

Students are admitted to PALS through a deliberative process involving Hofstra's Office of Admission and Services for Students with Disabilities. Students complete the undergraduate admission application, and indicate on the application that they are interested in applying for PALS enrollment. In addition to the required admission materials, students submit comprehensive documentation of their specific disability. Documentation requirements can be found at [hofstra.edu/PALS](http://hofstra.edu/PALS). Documentation must be in the form of a current (within two years of application to Hofstra) psychoeducational evaluation. This includes test results in the following:

- ▶ **Aptitude:** The *Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale III (WAIS-III)* with subtest scores is the preferred instrument. The *Woodcock-Johnson Psychoeducational Battery III: Tests of Cognitive Ability* and the *Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale IV* are acceptable.
- ▶ **Achievement:** Assessment of comprehensive academic achievement in the areas of reading (decoding and comprehension), mathematics (calculation and problem solving), oral language, and written expression (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, writing samples) is required. The *Woodcock-Johnson Psychoeducational Battery III: Tests of Cognitive Ability* is the preferred instrument. The *Scholastic Abilities Test for Adults (SATA)* and the *Stanford Test of Academic Skills (TASK)* are acceptable.

The completed test report must include all data, including the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS-III) and all results of the achievement test(s) used in the diagnosis of the learning disability.

**Please note: The complete psychoeducational evaluation MUST offer a DSM-IV diagnosis. The same documentation requirements apply for ADD/ADHD diagnosis. High school IEPs are NOT an acceptable form of documentation.**

Once the documentation is received, it is reviewed by an SSD staff member. Hofstra's Office of Admission and SSD then meet to determine each applicant's eligibility. Students are notified by Hofstra's Office of Admission if they are selected for a PALS interview. All documentation is kept confidential and remains on file in the SSD office.

