

THE PA STUDENT'S SCHEDULE, YEARS 1-3

The PA program recommends incorporating the Hofstra University Honors College (HUHC) first-year course sequence (Culture & Expression, or C&E as it's known) into its curriculum in the following manner: the four C&E courses in the first two semesters satisfy distribution requirements in the social sciences (both HP and BH) and in the Humanities (LT both terms). Students who bring in credit for one or both of their writing courses (WSC 001 and/or 002), or for their math or foreign language requirements, will have even more flexibility. HUHC students then earn the balance of their honors credits in HUHC seminars or through the Honors Option Program's enrichment of regular courses that they planned to take anyway.

After the third year, the professional phase of the PA program begins. Students can receive up to 6 honors credits through 200-level graduate courses completed during the professional phase. Honors College counts graduate courses taken by undergraduates as the automatic equivalent of an Honors Option. In sum, the PA program fits well with Honors College, as many students who have done both can attest.

Recommended Course Sequence: Semesters 1-6

FIRST YEAR: FALL	FIRST YEAR: SPRING	SECOND YEAR: FALL	SECOND YEAR: SPRING	THIRD YEAR: FALL	THIRD YEAR: SPRING
WSC 001 3 s.h.	PHA 101 1 s.h.	WSC 002 3 s.h.	PHA 102 1 s.h.	BIO 025 4 s.h.	PHA 103 1 s.h.
HUHC 011 (HP) 3 s.h.	HUHC 012 (BH) 3 s.h.	BIO 135 3 s.h.	BIO 137 3 s.h.	CC Distribution Course 3 s.h.	BCHM 162 or 163 3 s.h.
HUHC 013 (LT) 3 s.h.	HUHC 014 (LT) 3 s.h.	Foreign Language Level 1, 2, or 3 3 s.h.	Foreign Language Level 2 or 3 3 s.h.	Foreign Language Level 3 3 s.h.	AA Distribution Course 3 s.h.
BIO 012 4 s.h.	BIO 011 4 s.h.	BIO 100 or PSY 040 or SOC 180 4 s.h.	HUHC SEMINAR 3 s.h.	BIO 103 4 s.h.	BIO 140 4 s.h.
CHEM 003A/B 4 s.h.	CHEM 004A/B 4 s.h.	CHEM 135 4 s.h.	MATH 050 or 071, 072, or 073 4 s.h.	Liberal Arts Elective 3 s.h.	BIO 105 4 s.h.
17 credits	15 credits	17 credits	14 credits	17 credits	15 credits



Contact:

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PA Program Faculty:

Carina Loscalzo, MS, PA-C, *Program Director*
Professor Loscalzo has served in physician assistant programs since 2000 in multiple capacities, including academic, clinical, coordination, and administrative roles. Clinically practicing in emergency medicine since graduating from PA school, she is able to apply patient encounters to classroom activities.

Other distinguished faculty members include:

Mark L'Eplattenier, MPAS, PA-C, *Associate Director*
Samuel Sandowski, MD, *Medical Director*
Shannan Ricoy, MS, PA-C, *Clinical Coordinator*
Christine M. Zammit, MS, PA-C, *Clinical Coordinator*
Mary Banahan, MS, PA-C, LCCE, *Dual-Degree Coordinator*
Kelly R. Porta, MS, PA-C, *Academic Coordinator*
Amy Roberts, MS, PA-C, *Academic Coordinator*
Christina Ventura-DiPersia, MPH, *Research Coordinator*

Hofstra University Honors College

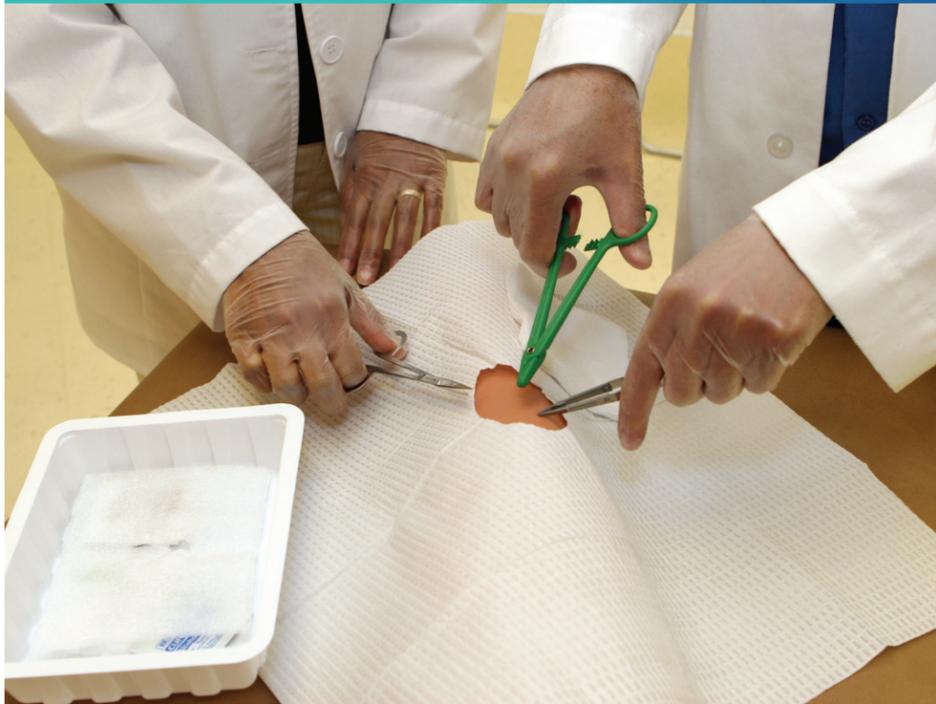
and the

Physician Assistant Studies Program



HOFSTRA NORTHWELL
SCHOOL of GRADUATE NURSING
AND
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

About the Physician Assistant Studies Program



The Physician Assistant Studies Program is housed within the Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies. The school combines the diverse academic programs and infrastructure of Hofstra University with the significant clinical activities and educational resources of Northwell Health.

Physician assistants are health professionals licensed to practice medicine in collaboration with physicians and other health care providers. These health professionals work in a variety of medical settings, ranging from basic primary care to subspecialty medicine. Physician assistants are qualified to assist in surgery; attend medical emergencies; and care for patients in out-patient internal medicine, pediatrics, or family medicine offices and clinics.

Hofstra's program is designed to provide undergraduates with the opportunity to earn both the BS and MS. Undergraduate students first complete the pre-professional phase, consisting of three years of collegiate instruction, including all prerequisite courses. The professional curriculum is divided into three semesters of didactic instruction, three semesters of clinical clerkships, and one semester of research. Using a number of learning modalities, including case-based learning, students integrate basic science with the study and application of clinical medicine.

During the clinical year of the program, students are assigned to clinical clerkships at affiliated hospitals, private physicians' offices, and community clinics. Located in a variety of medical settings, these clinical campuses offer training in all disciplines of medicine and provide the opportunity for exposure to a wide variety of patient populations. The research semester culminates in a research project using community partnerships and based on the principles of community-oriented primary care.

Upon successful completion of the program, candidates are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE).

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Our Mission

Hofstra University Honors College (HUHC) aims to be at the forefront of Hofstra University's pursuit of academic excellence. We promote intellectual engagement among students, faculty, and the broader Hofstra community. HUHC is compatible with all fields of study and welcomes students from all disciplines.

A History of Success With Physician Assistant Students

From the inception of the Physician Assistant Studies program at Hofstra, HUHC has had a large number of PA majors among its students. This is because HUHC's curriculum is flexible and adapts to the individual interests and needs of our students, including those who are pursuing highly structured degree programs like PA studies.

A Supportive Community

The HUHC community provides an extraordinary level of support to highly motivated students. With supplemented advisement and carefully planned social and co-curricular programming, we ensure that HUHC students feel like part of a community that knows them personally and can respond to their needs as they arise. Along with the PA program, HUHC is another home, another comfortable place with friends and peers, and another base of support for academic and social life at Hofstra.

An Extraordinary First-Year Curriculum

All entering Honors College students take a linked four-course sequence called *Culture & Expression* (two courses in the fall and two courses in the spring). Taught by some of Hofstra's best faculty, these courses give students a cross-disciplinary view of ancient (fall semester) and modern (spring semester) cultures. All four *Culture & Expression* courses fulfill University requirements in the social sciences and the humanities. Thus, they are enriched versions of courses that all Hofstra students are required to take.

Earning Honors Credits in Physician Assistant Courses

As PA students move on to their sophomore and junior years, they may pursue honors credits in regular courses. In these "honors options," PA students meet with a faculty member who develops an enriched curriculum for a regular course that the student is *already planning to take*. Throughout the semester, the student attends the regular course sessions, and also meets outside of class with a faculty member to discuss the supplementary material. This structure leads to richer faculty-student relationships, and often promotes the mentoring process, which is crucial for success in college and beyond. Most importantly, it allows students to focus their honors work where their interests and passions are most fully engaged.

The Workload: It's About Quality, Not Quantity

Honors work has always been defined qualitatively rather than quantitatively. Typically, it is thicker, richer, and more fully informed by theoretical themes. As a result, many students report that their honors courses bring out the best in them without interfering with other commitments. This makes sense, since most of the time, they are choosing to do their honors work in courses they find intrinsically interesting.



A STORY OF SUCCESS

Honors College and the Physician Assistant Studies Program

Name: **Crystal Malichuk, PA-C**
Employer: **Southside Hospital, Northwell Health**
Program: **BS/MS in Physician Assistant Studies**
Graduation Year: **2014**

What attracted you to Hofstra University's Physician Assistant Studies program?

There were a variety of factors that led to my choosing Hofstra for the PA program. First, I grew up on Long Island and I liked the idea of staying close to home. Being at Hofstra for my undergraduate degree as well, I witnessed the program changing into what it is today. I was able to attend Hofstra knowing that I would graduate from the PA program with the newly added master's degree in physician assistant studies, making it a dual-degree program. The changes that occurred in the program were also reflected in the program's high pass rates on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). The pass rate not only increased from year to year, but surpassed the average pass rate. Finally, being at Hofstra as an undergraduate, I was able to establish relationships with the faculty before I started the graduate part of the program, which allowed me to adjust to the campus and be more involved.

What led you to be interested in this field?

I have always been concerned with the well-being of others and doing what I can to help them. When I learned about the physician assistant profession, I realized that it would be a perfect fit for me. I love to help people. I have always been caring and compassionate, and having a job where I could incorporate these traits would be ideal. I love that I have the opportunity to establish relationships with people. Along with this, I have always been interested in and excelled in my science classes. A profession where I could combine my compassion for people and my love for science felt like the perfect fit for me.

Talk about your experience in Honors College and the advantages of being in the dual-degree program.

Looking back, I really appreciate the honors classes that I took in my first year. They helped to shape me and expand my knowledge. I learned to think and analyze on a different level. I did not realize how useful this would be until I started the PA program. Along with this, my honors classes counted for other prerequisites needed for the PA program. When applying for the program, being part of Honors College helped me stand out, and I was remembered for it. When I graduated with my baccalaureate degree, I had a special recognition on my diploma and a medal indicating that I completed the Honors Program. One great advantage of being in the dual-degree program was that I had one less year of undergraduate classes. I was given a very specific list of classes that I needed to take in undergrad. I liked that it was very structured and that I worked closely with my advisor so I knew that I was on track.

What opportunities (extracurricular activities) did you take advantage of at Hofstra?

Being a physician assistant studies major with a minor in biology, I looked to involve myself in activities that had a medical aspect. I was a member of Project Sunshine, where we would visit children in hospitals and make crafts with them; the Red Cross Club; and the Association of Pre-Health Oriented Students.

Describe your experience working and studying with faculty in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

My experience was excellent. The staff and faculty are very professional, and I have built relationships with all of them. I know that what they do to help students succeed goes above and beyond because when sharing my experiences with students from other schools, I am one of the few without a single complaint about my program. Hofstra's PA program also has a sound professional reputation in the medical field. The faculty groomed us as respectful, professional, and well-educated future health care providers. Because of this, we stand out on rotations and are remembered by hospitals and medical offices. When hiring, some places will ask for only Hofstra graduates, which speaks so much more than words.

Where are you currently working and how prepared do you feel to be a practicing PA?

Recently, I switched from outpatient to inpatient family medicine as well as obtaining a per diem position at an urgent care. Overall, my learning experience at Hofstra helped immensely in preparing me to become a practicing PA. Straight out of school, I was able to use my educational and clinical experience to diagnose and treat a wide variety of conditions and diseases. Within two months of starting my job, my supervising physician and I were confident enough to even have me as a sole provider in the office. I truly believe that if it was not for my experience at Hofstra's Physician Assistant program, I would not have demonstrated the preparedness to take on such a significant role as a new PA.