PROGRAM for
PALS
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Student Access Services
hofstra.edu/PALS
Nondiscrimination Policy

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. For more information, visit hofstra.edu/EOE.
Our Mission

Student Access Services (SAS) 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. SAS 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, SAS 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 SAS. 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 PALS, reasonable accommodations are free of charge to all eligible students who complete the SAS registration process and provide the appropriate documentation. For more information about applying for accommodations through SAS, call 516-463-7075 or email SAS@hofstra.edu.
Admission to PALS

Students are admitted to PALS through a deliberative process involving Hofstra’s Office of Admission and Student Access Services. 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. 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 all cognitive and achievement subtest scores 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 SAS staff member. Hofstra’s Office of Admission and SAS 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 SAS office.

**APPLY**

Hofstra Application or Common Application. Submit your application as soon as possible. Make sure to check off the PALS box.

**TESTING**

Submit testing results to the Office of Admission for eligibility review for PALS. If required, you will be notified and an interview will be scheduled with a learning specialist within the program.

**DECISION***

A decision to both the University and PALS are generally made two weeks after interview (if required). If no interview is required, decisions will be mailed three weeks after the application is complete with testing results.

*Please note that decisions will not be mailed prior to the third week of December.
Are my records kept confidential?

All records and documentation are kept confidential. Student Access Services 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, $13,000 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. 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 $13,000 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.
Contact Information:

For additional information concerning Student Access Services or PALS, please call 516-463-7075 or email SAS@hofstra.edu.