

# PROGRAM for ACADEMIC LEARNING SKILLS



Student Access Services

 HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY®

[hofstra.edu/pals](https://hofstra.edu/pals)



# OUR MISSION

# ABOUT PALS

The **Program for Academic Learning Skills (PALS)** provides eligible students with an opportunity to work one on one with a learning specialist on a weekly basis. These individualized sessions address unique educational challenges and help students develop supplemental learning strategies, as well as 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 Student Access Services (SAS). Reasonable accommodations are adjustments to Hofstra University programs, policies, and practices that assist 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. Visit [hofstra.edu/pals](https://hofstra.edu/pals) for documentation requirements.

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](mailto:SAS@hofstra.edu).

**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.

## 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 (characteristics collectively referred to as "Protected Characteristic") 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. This statement of nondiscrimination is in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, the Age Discrimination Act, and other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to nondiscrimination ("Equal Opportunity Laws"). The Equal Rights and Opportunity Officer is the University's official responsible for coordinating its overall adherence to Equal Opportunity Laws. Questions or concerns regarding any of these laws, other aspects of Hofstra's Nondiscrimination Policy, or regarding Title IX as it relates to reports against employees or other nonstudents, should be directed to the Equal Rights and Opportunity Officer, who also serves as the Title IX Coordinator for Employee Matters, at [HumanResources@hofstra.edu](mailto:HumanResources@hofstra.edu), 516-463-6859, 205 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549. Student-related questions or concerns regarding Title IX should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator for Student Issues at [StudentTitleIX@hofstra.edu](mailto:StudentTitleIX@hofstra.edu), 516-463-5841, 127 Wellness & Campus Living Center, Hempstead, NY 11549. For additional contacts and related policies and resources, see [hofstra.edu/eoe](https://hofstra.edu/eoe).



## PALS Eligibility

Hofstra's Office of Admission determines all students' admission to the University. After the student is admitted to Hofstra, Student Access Services separately determines the student's eligibility for and acceptance to PALS. Information about PALS is provided on the admission application as a resource for all applicants. Prospective students may express interest in the PALS program on the admission application, but are also free to wait to express interest in the program until after they receive a decision on admission to the University.

For PALS consideration, students must submit comprehensive documentation of their specific disability to Student Access Services. Documentation requirements can be found at [hofstra.edu/pals](https://hofstra.edu/pals). Documentation must be in the form of a current (within three years of application to Hofstra) psychoeducational evaluation. This includes test results in aptitude and achievement.

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 diagnosis. The same documentation requirements apply for ADD/ADHD diagnosis. High school IEPs are NOT an acceptable form of documentation.**

Once the required documentation is received, it is reviewed by an SAS learning specialist. SAS determines the student's eligibility for and acceptance to PALS. Students are notified if they are selected for a PALS interview. All documentation is kept confidential and remains on file in the SAS office.



## HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY DECISION

Hofstra admission decisions are rendered based on the date the Hofstra application or Common Application is submitted. To be notified of a decision around December 15, a student must apply by November 15 for Early Action 1. For notification around January 15, a student must apply by December 15 for Early Action 2. Rolling admission decisions are rendered on applications submitted after December 15.

## TESTING

Submit test results to PALS at [PALS@hofstra.edu](mailto:PALS@hofstra.edu) for eligibility review by a learning specialist. *If required, you will be notified to schedule a PALS interview with an SAS learning specialist.*

## PALS DECISION

PALS acceptance decisions are generally made two weeks after the interview (if required). *If no interview is required, decision letters are mailed three weeks after test results are submitted and reviewed by Student Access Services.*





## Financial Aid

To apply for financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applications are available at [fafsa.gov](https://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 \$16,350 during their first year at Hofstra. This one-time fee entitles the student to weekly meetings with a learning specialist throughout their first year, as well as access to a learning specialist for the duration of their 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.

## Are my records kept confidential?

Yes. 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 coursework?

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





## CONTACT INFORMATION:

For additional information  
concerning Student Access Services  
or PALS, please call **516-463-7075**  
or email **[SAS@hofstra.edu](mailto:SAS@hofstra.edu)**.