

Hofstra University Profile

Hofstra University was established in 1935 as a private educational institution offering liberal arts, business, communications, and education programs. Hofstra provides its students with several comprehensive undergraduate, and graduate programs as well as certificate and professional educational programs for full, and part time students. The school itself is located in the Village of Hempstead Long Island, within Nassau County New York. Hofstra is unique because it's located in a suburban neighborhood that has commuter links to New York City via the Long Island Railroad. The footprint of the site is large for a medium-sized suburban private school with approximately 240 acres of suburban property that winds through Hempstead.

Hofstra University is like a small city that encapsulates a large portion of real estate in Hempstead Village with approximately 112 buildings including lecture, sports, performing arts, and student housing facilities. The issue of student housing on campus is not a challenge for Hofstra due to its relatively large number of residence halls, and commuter student population. The university provides guaranteed housing for undergraduate students for all 4 years according to campus officials. Hofstra also has a high number of students attending the university as undergraduate & graduate part time students.

The physical layout of the academic buildings, athletic fields, and residence halls is designed to separate the campus into 2 parts, with Hempstead Turnpike separating the academic buildings from the residence halls on campus. The school's student center, and sports & recreation facilities are located in close proximity to the residence halls while administration and library facilities are also close to the lecture halls for easy access to classes. Hofstra is a medium-sized suburban commuter school that feels like a larger school because the campus landscape is big and active.

The internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including physical fitness, library, cultural meeting places, and dining halls. Hofstra's observed focal point of reference during the campus tour was the Mack Student Center, which is the main student life hall. My tour guide told me that students come to the center to relax, and eat in the food court. Students also use the university physical fitness center that was once a practice facility for the New York Jets Football team to workout, socialize, and talk about school and life. The student, and fitness center facilities are large for a medium sized school with offices for all the student clubs and recreational activities located under one roof for students to enjoy.

Hofstra University Demographics: Hofstra is home to approximately 3,615 male, and 4,103 female full time undergrad students. The university also has 390 male, and 336 female students attending the school on a part-time basis. Hofstra also has 1,526 male, and 2,520 female graduate students attending the campus. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old; all undergraduates are 21 years old. 65% of students are state residents with the rest coming from 49 other states, and 50 foreign countries. 60% of students are white, 8% are Hispanic, 12% are African American, and 5% students are Asian.

The total number of students with on campus housing is 4,200 according to published handouts. Hofstra offers a Liberal Arts and Sciences programs for undergraduate students. Below is a list of specific admission requirements for admission.

Hofstra University: Freshman Class: 18,471 applied, 9,986 accepted, and 1,735 enrolled to the school. SAT Verbal 590, Math 590. Act: 25 Application Deadline is December 15.

Retention Rate: 21% of students do not continue beyond the first year; 54% remain to graduate.

Faculty/ Classroom: 56% of faculty is male, 44% female. 86% teach undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 31, Lab 14 and 22 in a regular course.

Student / Faculty Ratio: 17 to 1

Campus Footprint: The overall physical layout of the campus is typical of a college setting with wide sidewalks, grass field meeting places, and park like benches. The pedestrian flow of traffic within the facility was centered on both sides of campus due to the time of day. The buildings and open spaces of the facility were reasonably clean and maintained during my observations. I observed students enjoying several grassy areas around the outside of the fitness center during my visit. I also observed several students enjoying Hofstra's student center within the campus footprint.

The design and physical setting of Hofstra is unique because the campus is located within a suburban Long Island community in close proximity to a major city. The facility is also unique because it has 2 large campus landscapes on either end of the Hempstead Turnpike to provide students, employees, and visitors with a wide assortment of academic, performing arts, sports, cultural, student, and housing facilities. The footprint of the university is not unique because students like to get away from classes to retreat to their residence halls. The buildings geographical design features form a large square in which students can enter, and leave the campus from several locations. Hofstra also uses metal fencing around the entire perimeter of the facility to direct students, and visitors to campus entry points.

Parking resources on campus is a big feature due to the high number of parking permits issued to students and employees. Hofstra has public security officers stationed at several parking lot checkpoints to identify, and or restrict access to parking areas. This large suburban campus has approximately 22 parking lots for full, and part time students, employees, and visitors. The campus parking lots are connected to several local roads on the campus perimeter, which act almost like natural barriers, students can park their cars without any concern for internal traffic issues within the campus footprint. Hofstra public safety closes several of it's parking lots and exterior entryways in the evening to reduce access after evening classes are over according to university officials.

The campus has approximately 2 main entrances on the (North & South) side of Hempstead Turnpike but the interior footprint observes at least 20 entrances and exits from campus parking lots to maximize the flow of vehicular traffic within the facility; the issue of exterior pedestrian traffic on campus is minimal due to the suburban setting. I

only observed a few students walking to local eateries on Hempstead Turnpike. I also observed a few students entering the Netherlands freshman-housing complex off Oak Street during my daytime visit. Hofstra provides public transportation resources (the Blue Beetle School Shuttle) for students on campus, which helps students get around the Island. Having a shuttle service on this campus that takes students to several shopping malls, and railroad stations helps them experience socialization outside the boundaries of normal campus life, which I think is a very useful resource.

Community Profile

The Hempstead Village section of Long Island can be considered a small city due to its relatively large population of 52,526 residents in Nassau County New York. The area has been described as a family centered residential community within striking distance to New York City. This section of the island also has an intellectual side to it due to its historical neighborhood architecture, and community ties to Hofstra, University. The community has a real small city town feel to it when you are walking, and driving to neighborhood eateries. The village also has several community parks and ball fields in and around the area for people to enjoy. These parks, along with public tennis courts, swimming pools, outdoor skating rinks, and theatres make outside activities very enjoyable to everyone.

The Village of Hempstead itself is geographically located between New York City to the west, and several large suburban shore communities to the east, including Long Beach, making it an ideal commuter destination for both locations because they can be reached in relatively short period of time. The short distance to these areas from the school makes Long Island a student friendly destination throughout the year. The Long Island Railroad provides several types of public transit resources to NYC including express rail service throughout the year.

Local residents also have access to several major transportation hubs within the Long Island community including John F. Kennedy Airport, and countless roadway systems including the Long Island Expressway, and the Southern and Northern State Parkways, which provide a main east/west corridor in the area. The Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE) can also be used as a main roadway system to New York City's Boroughs including Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan to all points west including Staten Island.

Finally, Hofstra is close to several local avenues that links students and residents to a large number of restaurants and shops within a short drive from campus including Hempstead Turnpike. Hempstead residents also have numerous shopping, and dining options in the local communities of Garden City, Mineola, New Hyde Park, and Franklin Square. Hempstead residents can be in these areas in a matter of minutes, or they can be in New York because the village has several train stations and roadways within a 30-minute train ride or drive to the city.

Community demographics: The following demographics for the Village of Hempstead describe a culturally diverse community within a total population of 52,526 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 48% of residents are male, 52% are female. 25.7% of residents are white, 52.5% is African American, 20% are Hispanic or Latino, and 1% is Asian. The median age of population is 33 years old. 74% of residents are 18 years old, 65% over 21, and 9 % of village residents are over the age of 65. The issue of housing in Hempstead is also interesting. 97 % of all housing units within the village are occupied. 57 % of housing units are renter-occupied, while 43 % of units are owner-occupied. Only 3 % of total available housing was vacant according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Campus Life

Hofstra University is an active private campus environment that provides students with a full range of social, and educational activities within a reasonably large suburban campus within 45 minutes of New York City. The admissions demographics paint a picture of a local educational community with a relatively low number (65%) of in state residents on campus as full time students. The local communities of Garden City, and Mineola are very supportive of the schools mission to provide educational opportunities to local residents and on-campus students. These communities have several student friendly venues within driving distance to the campus including shopping malls, Movie Theatres, and Restaurants. The point is, Nassau County is small, compared to the other boroughs in greater New York. The size, population, and community resources give the island a main street feel to it due to the restaurants and shops along the main avenues. Having excellent beach areas within a short driving distance (Jones Beach) only helps campus life.

The emotional climate and culture of the entire community is social due to it's close relationship with community, and educational resources in my opinion. Hofstra is an attractive institution because it offers students a comfortable academic community within 45 minutes of New York City, while still providing student activities for everyone. Some of the activities include cultural, social, team athletics, and performing arts to enjoy throughout the year. This issue of school culture is also a very important part of campus life because everyone wants to have a connection and emotional fit to their new school and community. This type of process provides a foundation for learning and personal growth providing over 170 academic, athletic, and student organizations. Hofstra also has 18 NCAA Division I teams for men and women to participate in.

Hofstra also addresses the issue of ecology in a positive way. The physical environment is reasonably clean and well maintained and the economic conditions are favorable to students and local residents due to the available services in driving distance to the school. The university has been going through a growth period with construction of relatively new performing arts, and recreation facilities that provide scenic views of the entire campus from their locations. The university's landscape also provides students with a comfortable suburban setting for students to enjoy year round.

These internal, and external campus facilities helps students connect with each other in non-classroom environments by providing a central meeting place for students to work-out, or enjoy a natural setting, and participate in theatre productions. The Mack Student Center also provides commuter students with a relaxing environment where evening socialization can take place after classes are over.

The school has done a great job developing positive social systems with it's students by providing a series of coordinated programs including workshops and seminars for freshman students. The universities new student experience program within the Netherlands residence hall provides an excellent example of programs and services that help first year students by offering professional counselors that advise students on ways to explore their educational options to achieve personal academic goals. The down side of campus life is the number of students who go home on the weekends. Hofstra is working to improve it's commuter school reputation by providing weekend theatre, and concert performances in the Adam's Playhouse and the little theatre.

Local weather: Weather is also an issue to consider for students preparing for a college experience. The State of New York enjoys all four seasons of weather including rain and snow. Northeast weather patterns sometimes allow for temperatures to drop below 32 degrees for a considerable amount of time during the winter. Long Island also gets it's share of rain during the spring and summer months as well.

Student Housing: The purpose of student housing is to provide safe and reasonable accommodations for students living away from home. The issue of housing and dormitory life is a critical element of overall campus life because students spend a large amount of time in their rooms. Student housing units historically come in 3 different styles including traditional corridor, suite, and apartment style units.

Hofstra guarantees housing for undergraduate students who have filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students. The university uses a first come, first served system for housing selection, and they do retain rooms for out of state students. Currently, the university has 37 residence hall buildings including the Netherlands freshman complex, as well as the numerous high-rise housing facilities on campus. The facilities are a little outdated but the university is planning to build new units on the northeastern section of the campus in the near future. Information about student housing can be found within Hofstra's quick link page in the back of this document.

Off Campus Housing: Long Island New York has been described as a suburban community within driving, and commuter distance to New York City. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Long Island is to re-assert the point that Hofstra is situated in a suburban setting with a high number of homes that are privately owned. The university does provide off campus housing resources for students who request help, but a large number (50%) of students commute to school according to published resources. Information about services can be found on the quick links page.

Public Transportation: Public transportation resources for Hofstra students are limited due to the location of the suburban campus. Students who attend the university usually drive to campus because parking is readily available, but some students use the LIRR railroad to commute to school. The university has a high number of in-state students who know the streets and highways very well. Knowing the area is key because students who come from other states may not know the area as well and might opt to take a bus or train to their destination because they don't want to risk getting lost on local roads. Hofstra provides a campus shuttle for students who require daily service to the LIRR train station, and shopping resources to local food, and retail centers. Information about the service can be found on the quick links page.

Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures: Hofstra's public safety plans and procedures can be found in the emergency plan which gives students and employees a lists of instructions, procedures, codes of conduct, and response strategies to follow while on campus. The university also provides Clery Act safety tips and procedures to help educate students to potential risks on, and off campus. This information can be found in Hofstra's Annual Public Safety Report. The Emergency Plan can be found on the quick links page of this document.

Crisis Management Plans & Procedures Local Community: Nassau County New York has developed emergency management resources to help residents to prepare, respond, and recover from a host of natural, and man made events. The county agency responsible for emergency operations is the Office of Emergency Management. Hofstra has developed an emergency plan for students and employees to follow which highlights several potential manmade and weather related events. Public safety, along with several local Police Departments has developed a local crisis plan that can be found at: www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/OEM/index.html

Innovative Emergency Communications: Hofstra University has developed reverse 911 systems that sends several types of emergency notifications through e-mail and phone text message systems. Campus alerts, and weather related information is sent through this system. The university also has active shooter protocols for students to follow during an emergency including lock-down, and lockout procedures. These messages are usually received within 1-2 minutes of emergency broadcast and allow university officials to adhere to Clery Act requirements for timely warnings of emergency events.

Campus Access Control & Security Systems:

The design, and physical setting of a particular institution has elements relating to the overall culture and social system on campus. Since college and university campuses are designed to offer (open) movement of people through it's borders, the issue of design, along with effective use of space can reduce both the incidence, and fear of crime. The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life. The issues of identifying formal gathering and high- risk areas within a campus footprint are also critical to public safety resources because manpower must be observed in these areas.

The issue of high-risk areas on campus has been identified during annual risk assessments by security, and feedback by all intuitional stakeholders including local public safety officials. The public safety department maintains uniform patrol around the footprint in several different types of patrol vehicles including 4-wheel drive, and regular police patrol vehicles. These resources help officer's patrol around the campus 24-hours a day to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business on campus. Public safety also maintains visitor screening and CCTV resources to highlight the need for formal surveillance throughout the campus footprint.

Hofstra also has public safety guard stations at several locations on campus including the entrance to the Netherlands Complex, the Mack Student Center, and the Saltzman Community Services Center off Hempstead Turnpike with clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area within the Bernon Hall to improve physical security operations. Hofstra public safety closes several of it's gates to vehicle, and pedestrian traffic in the evening hours after classes are finished. The university also has several metal exterior turnstiles around the perimeter of the campus that require student I.D. cards for access to school grounds.

Formal gathering areas within Hofstra's campus are situated in, and around the Pratt Center (Physical Fitness Center), the Schwartz Library, and finally the Hillwood Commons Student Center. The residence halls are located on the western edge of the property for easy access to these school facilities. The campus has several pedestrian walkways that take you around to the above-mentioned areas in a short period of time. These are the main focal area of the campus because the walkway splits the campus in half with several large grassy areas in between the lecture, and residence halls. The sidewalk acts like a quad because you can access several areas of the campus in a textbook example of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design CPTED.

The campus high-risk areas including the residence halls require a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. The university uses Electronic Card Readers (Student I.D. Cards) for access to on campus residence facilities. Students attempting to enter a residence must swipe their student card for entry into the building while student employees observe the activity to maintain access control. The student card also has an additional security feature that only allows entry to each student's residence hall. Students can also use their student cards to enter several campus buildings after normal business hours including the recreation, and student centers. The main academic buildings also have card access procedures for after hour entry for students and authorized employees.

My student guide continued with her description of access control for students entering the residence halls with guests. Hofstra students must produce their student I.D card that are swiped through a card reader mechanism. In the evening and on the weekends "Resident Assistant" set up a table to authenticate visitors to the building. The RA's and the students in residence are responsible to sign in, and identify the person standing in front of them.

Types and Descriptions of Published Policies and Procedures to Comply with the Clery Act on Campus

The Clery Act. The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires all postsecondary institutions participating in the Title IV student financial aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics, university violations and disciplinary data, and finally security information to the U.S. Department of Education on an annual basis. The legislation also describes several required policy statements that address public safety and security issues. Below is a sample list of Clery Act Policy Statements for colleges and universities to publish each year within their prospective crime report/audits.

Required policy statements include: addressing timely warnings, disclosure of crime statistics, reporting criminal offenses, confidential reporting, security and access control, arrest authority, security awareness programs, crime prevention programs, sex offenses, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, substance abuse programs, and general codes of conduct. Hofstra University's Clery Act info can be found on the quick link page.

Caveat: Hofstra's public safety officers don't have formal arrest powers; but the school has retained several retired Nassau County Police Officers for their public safety department. Hofstra does call the Village of Hempstead Police Department to investigate criminal activity on campus, but the school does provide public safety resource through its experienced staff to reduce victimization off campus. Public Safety seems to have improved crime victimization on campus due to improved security resources but the following statement from the department education offers this advice. "The department data reported by the institutions have not been subjected to independent verification by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, the department cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data reported. Hofstra University Clery crime data can be found at: <http://ope.ed.gov/security/Index.aspx>

Local Crime Statistics: The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report for 2008 has developed crime statistics for the Village of Hempstead Long Island New York. In 2008 the village reported 341 Violent Crimes, 10 Murders, 10 Forcible Rapes, 192 Robberies, and 129 Aggravated Assaults. The village also reported 897 Property Crimes, 197 Burglaries, 469 Larceny Thefts, and finally 231 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson was reported 16 times.

Village of Hempstead (Nassau County) Community Quick Links:

Village of Hempstead: www.villageofhempstead.org

Hempstead Police Department: www.villageofhempstead.org/police.asp

Hempstead Fire Department:
www.villageofhempstead.org/government/fireDept.asp

Nassau County Police Department Home Page: www.police.nassaucountyny.gov/

Emergency Medical Technicians (Ambulance Service) for the Nassau County Community. The Nassau County Police Department handles calls for emergency medical services in the county. Below is the location, and phone number to the nearest hospital to the campus.

North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center
270-05 76th Avenue
New Hyde Park N.Y. 11040
(516) 470-7000
www.northshorelij.com/NSLIJ/lij

Hofstra University Quick Links Page

Home Page: www.hofstra.edu

Admissions: www.hofstra.edu/Admission

Maps & Directions: www.hofstra.edu/About/Infocenter/info_dirmaps.html

Financial Aid:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentServices/Financialaide/index.html

Student Activities: www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentActivities/index.html

Athletic Event Tickets: www.hofstra.edu/Athletics

Student Clubs & Organizations:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentActivities/stdact_clubs.html

Fraternity & Sorority Life:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentActivities/greek/index.html

School Newspaper: www.hofstrachronicle.com

Public Transportation Services:

www.hofstra.edu/About/InfoCenter/info_shuttle.html

Information Technology Center

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentServices/IT/telcom/telcom_studserv.html

Health Insurance:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentServices/welctr/welctr_insurance.html

Health Services:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentServices/welctr/welctr_services.html

Public Safety: www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/PublicSafety/index.html

Student Housing:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentServices/Reslife/index.html

University Meal Plan:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentServices/Dining/dining_mealplans.html

Off Campus Housing:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/commuting/comute_offcampus_housing.html

Campus Parking:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/PublicSafety/pubsaf_parking.html

Public Safety Plans & Procedures:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/PublicSafety/emproc/index.html

Clery Act Policies & Procedures:

www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/PublicSafety/pubsaf_csr.html

The Your College Profile web site also contains an “Everything in New York City” document for families who wish to explore the NYC while visiting Hofstra University. This site contains a full list of hotels, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment, and tourism resources for families enjoying the region. Below is a sample list of local hotels and restaurants in Hempstead Long Island.

Below is a list of hotels located in nearby Jamaica (Queens) N.Y. within the JFK Airport corridor.

Best Western/Airport
14425 153rd Lane, Jamaica N.Y.

Hampton Inn/Airport
14410 135th Avenue, Jamaica N.Y.

Days Inn/Airport
14426 153rd Court, Jamaica N.Y.

Holiday Inn Express/Airport
15370 South Conduit Ave, Jamaica N.Y.

Hilton Garden Inn/Airport
14818 134th Street, Jamaica N.Y.

Waterzooi Belgian Restaurant: 850 Franklin Ave, Garden City N.Y.

Grimaldi's Brick Oven Pizzeria: 980 Franklin Ave

BK Sweeney's Steak House: 636 Franklin Ave

Houlihan's (National Chain Restaurant) 630 Old Country Road

California Café: 666 Old Country Road

Newport Grill: 176 7th Street, Garden City N.Y.

Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizzeria (National Chain) 795 Merrick Ave, Westbury N.Y.

California Pizza Kitchen (National Chain) 1256 Old Country Road, Westbury N.Y.

