What is the B.S. Life Sciences/M.S. Physician Assistant Studies (BSMS) combined program?
A: The BSMS(PA Option) program is a 6-year combination of two programs. The student must complete 3 years in the BS Life Sciences (PA Option) undergraduate program, followed by 3 years in MS Physician Assistant Studies (MSPA) graduate program.

- This program is only open to exceptional students who have just graduated from high school.
- Students begin in their freshmen year in the BS Life Sciences (PA Option) program, where they must follow a 94-credit undergraduate curriculum. An advisor in the Life Sciences department will guide them in choosing courses to fulfill this curriculum.
- During that time, students must also meet every semester with a Life Sciences coordinator to show that they are progressing satisfactorily.
- Students who meet minimum standards* will qualify to enter the MSPA program, where they will have to successfully complete a 3-year (98-credit) graduate level curriculum. (*Please see further down on this page for a detailed explanation of the minimum standards)
- After completing the graduate-level curriculum, students will be qualified to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE) in order to practice as a certified PA (required in all US states).

Q: Do I qualify to apply to the BSMS program?
A: To be accepted you must be a recent high school graduate with a minimum SAT score of 1100 (math and verbal) or an ACT of 24 and a high school minimum cumulative average grade of 90. Applicants who have been to college are disqualified from entering the combined B.S./M.S. program. Those with a bachelor’s degree must apply directly to the MSPA program.

Q: Does the program accept transfer students?
A: No. The BSMS program is designed only for exceptional students entering directly from high school.

Q: My SAT scores and/or average high school grade are below the minimum requirement. Can I apply to another program and change my major to the BS Life Science (PA Option) if my grades improve?
A: No. The program does not accept change of majors from other programs. All students must enter as a first semester freshman in the BS Life Sciences (PA Option) program, upon fulfilling all requirements for entry. Candidates who do not fulfill the minimum requirements for entry must first complete a bachelor’s degree through any regionally-accredited college, before applying directly to the MS Physician Assistant Studies program.

Q: What degree will I receive?
A: Students receive two degrees: First, a BS in Life Sciences after completing their 4th year, and then, an MS in Physician Assistant Studies at the end of the 6-year study.

Q: What are the minimum standards I have to meet, in order to transition into the graduate phase?
A: After completing their fourth semester in the BS in Life Sciences (PA Option) program, students must receive permission from the PA program chair to start the process of entering the graduate phase of this combined program.

To advance to the graduate phase, students must submit a formal application through the Centralized Application Service.
Admissions criteria include:

- Completion of prerequisite undergraduate courses and minimum 3.0 overall cumulative GPA.
- No math or science grade lower than B-.
- Only one math or science course can be retaken one time to achieve the required grade.
- In-person progression evaluation and recommendation from the program director.
- Fulfillment of Technical Standards of the Physician Assistant Studies program www.nyit.edu/pa/academics/technical_standards/

Q: As a B.S. Life Sciences (PA Option) student, am I guaranteed entry into the graduate phase?
A: It is up to the student to guarantee their own progression by meeting ALL the minimum standards mentioned above. Students who do not meet one or more of these requirements will not be allowed to continue in the program. Therefore, students must meet with a Life Sciences coordinator (or designated advisor) every semester so their academic performance can be carefully tracked. Students who do meet these requirements will receive the PA Chair’s permission to progress into the graduate phase. Those who are not successful in entering the graduate phase will have to continue their undergraduate studies in another Life Sciences option (or through another NYIT program) to receive a bachelor’s degree in another discipline.

Q: What is the benefit of this combined program?
A: BS Life Sciences (PA Option) students do not have to complete a 4-year bachelor’s degree before entering the graduate PA program. If they meet all requirements, they have the benefit of beginning their graduate-level PA coursework after only 3 years of undergraduate study.

Q: When can I start working as a PA?
A: At the end of the 6-year study, after graduating with an MS degree in Physician Assistant Studies, students are eligible to sit for the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE). All US states require applicants to pass the certification examination in order to apply for a license to practice as a PA.

Q: How much is the tuition for the 6-years?
A: At the time of printing, the approximate cost of tuition for the 6-year program is $210,090. For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.nyit.edu and click on Admissions >> Financing Your Education >> Tuition and Fees.

Q: Can I get financial aid?
A: Most students receive financial aid in some form, which will cover tuition, room & board and other costs. Financial aid programs change from year to year, so please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information about programs and eligibility requirements. Please visit www.nyit.edu/financial_aid, or call 516.686.7680.

Q: How do I apply?
A: To apply for admission into the BS Life Sciences, PA Option program, please contact the NYIT Office of Admissions at 516.686.7520 or click on “First-Year Student” on the following Admissions website www.nyit.edu/admissions/apply/ and complete an online Common Application.

Q: Can I get further information?
A: Further information can be obtained from the following sources:

- Visit the following website: www.nyit.edu/pa
- Office of Admissions: 516.686.7520 / admissions@nyit.edu
- Department of Life Sciences: 516.686.3883
- Department of Physician Assistant Studies: 516.686.3881 / pa@nyit.edu

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).