



“THE Gap”

Houghton College requires completion of 124 semester hours for a Bachelor’s degree. The P.A.C.E. curriculum consists of 12, three-credit courses and 1 one-credit workshop, totaling 37 credits. So, any student earning their degree through P.A.C.E. must also have earned 87 credits outside of the core curriculum. While some students enroll without any additional credits to earn, most still have some additional course work to do. This is what we refer to as “The Gap.”

Houghton College is a liberal arts college; as such, anyone earning a degree from Houghton must satisfy requirements in a number of academic areas. For P.A.C.E. students, that means completion of a 36-credit general educational core as part of the 87 non-P.A.C.E. credits. That core breaks down as follows:

- (6) Religion/Philosophy
- (6) Communication (writing, English, speech)
- (18) Humanities/Social Sciences, including:
 - (6) Humanities (foreign language, history, literature, music, art, cross-cultural, religion, philosophy)
 - (3) Social Sciences (psychology, sociology, political science, economics, communication, anthropology)
 - (9) Additional Humanities OR Social Sciences
(Can have no more than six credit hours in one discipline)
- (3) Math/Computer Science
- (3) Science

Note that if you have earned either an AA or AS degree in the past, all of the above General Education requirements are considered complete with the exception of 3 credit hours in Religion/Philosophy.

As you know, P.A.C.E. is not a traditional program. The means available to fill credits in “The Gap” are also not the norm. A review of your college transcript(s) will determine those areas in which credit still needs to be earned. Following are some of the means our students use to earn needed credits.

DSST EXAMS

DSST exams are offered through the Department of Defense. Primarily used by those serving in the military, these exams are also available to civilians. There are currently 33 different subject examinations available that P.A.C.E. students are eligible to take, covering a number of areas. Each exam is worth three semester credits, so taking and passing a DSST is the equivalent of taking and passing a traditional college course.

Many of our students like the DSST exams for the flexibility offered; these are self-study exams, so for students who are already balancing P.A.C.E. with their careers, families, and other responsibilities, DSST allows students to prepare to earn credits on their own time, rather than adding another firm time commitment to an already busy schedule. DSST charges \$80 for a student to take an exam; Houghton charges \$35 per credit once an exam is passed. So, a student can earn credit equivalent to a traditional college course for a total of \$185, with study materials more than likely available through our library. The DSST website can be found at www.getcollegecredit.com. For tips on studying for an exam go to: <http://www.houghton.edu/pace/classes/DSST.htm>

OPTION COURSES

While many students enjoy the DSST exams, others prefer a classroom environment to a self-study format. Houghton offers several courses to students either online or in a format similar to P.A.C.E., in that they are accelerated courses meeting five times for three semester hours of credit. These courses meet typically on Saturday mornings, every other week or as an online course. Class sessions are spread out to give students more time to complete assignments and reading needed for the next class session. Each year there are four Option Course rounds. Spring Session 1 runs January – March, Spring Session 2 runs April – June, Fall Session 1 runs July – September, and Fall Session 2 runs October – December.

Students may take Option Courses while enrolled in P.A.C.E. Students wanting to earn credits prior to enrolling in P.A.C.E. may also enroll in a Pre-P.A.C.E. term (January – June or July – December) as a full-time student earning 12 credits. Full-time students are eligible to apply for financial aid.

Course offerings include, but are not limited to Biblical Literature, Introduction to Christianity, Masterworks of Sight and Sound, Leadership Development, Computer Applications and Issues, Marketing Principles, Conflict Management, and Business Ethics. For a complete list of Option courses along with course descriptions visit: www.houghton.edu/pace/options.htm. Most of these courses are offered several times during the year, and all will help meet minor, general education, and/or elective requirements. **While enrolled in the core program, students are eligible to take four Option Courses (12 credit hours) tuition FREE.** There is a \$50 non-refundable registration fee for each Option course taken.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ASSESSMENT (ELA)

Not all college-level learning must occur in a classroom. Through your experiences—work, volunteerism, extensive traveling, hobbies, and others—you may have learned the same things you would have learned if you had sat through some specific college courses. If you can show how those things learned through your experiences are what you would have learned in a classroom, it is possible to earn credit through those experiences. Also, your military training and/or work-related training programs may have been reviewed by organizations such as the American Council of Education and deemed worthy of college credit. Several online workshops are offered to P.A.C.E. students throughout the year to aid in the building of a Life Learning Portfolio in order to gain college credit. A P.A.C.E. staff member will help you through the whole process.

Houghton bills credits earned through an assessment of your life learning at \$50 per credit hour.

Houghton policy is that students can earn a maximum of 24 credit hours towards your degree requirements through experiential learning. In addition no more than a total of 32 credit hours can be earned through a combination of experiential learning and DSST exams.

CROSS-REGISTRATION

Although P.A.C.E. students come to class only one evening per week, they are considered full-time students. As a full-time student at Houghton College, the opportunity is available to cross-register for one course a semester at any of 20 schools which comprise the Western New York Consortium of Colleges and Universities. This offers students an extremely wide menu of college coursework.

Cross-registering students are able to do so under the tuition paid to their host school; in other words, there is no additional tuition expense necessary to take advantage of this opportunity. Books/materials expenses and associated fees may still apply.