

Amherst College is a small liberal arts institution with approximately 1,900 students hailing from all 50 states and 70 different countries. More than half of the student body identifies as people of color, and about 11% of the population comprises international students. Importantly, Amherst has no graduate students, so all resources, professors, and research opportunities are exclusively focused on the undergraduate students. This personalized attention is reflected in class sizes, with 83% of classes having fewer than 30 students, emphasizing small, discussion-based experiences tailored to individual interests.

Diverse Student Body

- Around **half** of Amherst's student body identifies as people of color.
- **12%** of the students are international, with an additional **11%** comprising U.S. citizens who attended high school abroad.
- **1 in 5** Amherst students comes from a low-income background.
- **18%** of the student population is the first in their family to attend college.
- Amherst is committed to financial access, offering **need-blind** admissions for all students, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.
- The college guarantees **full financial aid** without loans, ensuring that students' needs are met entirely through scholarships and grants.
- An impressive **91%** of international students receive financial aid.

Academic Structure & Faculty Engagement

Amherst's faculty is deeply involved in mentoring students, as professors teach a maximum of two courses per semester. This ensures they have the time and energy to engage closely with students both in and out of the classroom. Amherst's **student-to-faculty ratio is 7:1**, offering ample opportunity for personalized guidance, which is essential in helping students navigate their academic journey.

Open Curriculum

Amherst is known for its **open curriculum**, which allows students the freedom to craft their educational path. Aside from their major requirements and a mandatory first-year seminar, students are free to take any courses they choose. With no distribution or core curriculum requirements, students can explore various academic fields and pursue their interests without constraint. This flexibility encourages intellectual curiosity and personal growth, and around half of Amherst students double-major, taking advantage of the school's wide range of offerings across **42 majors**.

Study Abroad & Global Engagement

Amherst's commitment to global education is reflected in the fact that **45%** of students study abroad during their time at the college. The Center for International Student Engagement supports students from around the world, fostering a diverse and inclusive campus environment.

Research & Post-Graduate Success

Amherst is a leading producer of **Fulbright winners**, a prestigious U.S. government grant for international exchange in teaching and research. The college has consistently been recognized as a top Fulbright-producing institution since 2008. Amherst also ranks **#3 in law school placement per capita** in the U.S. and boasts a medical school acceptance rate that is double the national average.

5-College Consortium

Amherst students benefit from membership in the **5-College Consortium**, which includes Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. This consortium provides students access to **6,000 courses** across the five institutions, expanding academic opportunities while maintaining a close-knit community. Free shuttles run between campuses, allowing students to take courses or engage in extracurricular activities across the schools.

Campus Life & Financial Accessibility

Amherst ensures that students can fully participate in campus life without worrying about financial barriers. The college provides **free access** to supplies like hygiene products, academic materials, and even outdoor gear for activities like skiing and camping. With **98% of students living on campus**, the community is close-knit, and all students have unlimited access to meals in the dining halls without the need for meal plans. For students conducting research over the summer, Amherst covers housing and meal costs and pays students for their work.

Extracurriculars & Alumni Engagement

Amherst has a vibrant extracurricular scene, with groups like the **Outing Club**, which offers free equipment for activities like hiking and skiing. Career preparation is also a strong focus, and the college fully funds trips for students to meet alumni in various fields. For example, a recent trip to Washington D.C. allowed students to network with alums in government, with all expenses covered by the college.

Admissions Process

Amherst accepts the **Common Application**, **Coalition Application**, and **QuestBridge**. Applicants are evaluated need-blind, and two deans read each application before it is presented to the admissions committee. Test scores are optional, and for international students, the TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo English Test may be required. The college also offers a simple **fee waiver** process for students who may have financial barriers to applying.