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AMHERST COLLEGE
Amherst College

AmHERST COLLEGE looks, above all, for men and women of intellectual promise who have demonstrated qualities of mind and character that will enable them to take full advantage of the College’s curriculum. The College seeks qualified applicants from different races, classes, and ethnic groups, students whose several perspectives might contribute significantly to a process of mutual education within and outside the curriculum. Admission decisions aim to select from among the many qualified applicants those possessing the intellectual talent, mental discipline, and imagination that will allow them most fully to benefit from the curriculum and to contribute to the life of the College and of society. Grades, standardized test scores, essays, recommendations, independent work, the quality of the individual’s secondary school program and achievements outside the classroom are among the factors used to evaluate this promise, but no one of these measures is considered determinative.

Founded in 1821 as a non-sectarian institution for “the education of indigent young men of piety and talents for the Christian ministry,” Amherst today is an independent liberal arts college for men and women. Its approximately 1,700 students come from most of the fifty states and many foreign countries.

The campus is near the center of the town of Amherst, adjacent to the town common. A few miles away are four other institutions of higher learning—Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts—with which Amherst engages in a number of cooperative educational programs.

The College offers the bachelor of arts degree and cooperates with the University of Massachusetts in a Five College Ph.D. program. The College curriculum involves study in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences and combines a broad education with knowledge of some field in depth. Emphasis falls upon each student’s responsibility for the selection of an appropriate program.

Some students may engage in independent study free of formal courses in their junior and senior years; Honors work is encouraged and in recent years has been undertaken by nearly half of the graduating class.

Whatever the form of academic experience—lecture course, seminar, conference, studio, laboratory, independent study at various levels—intellectual competence and awareness of problems and methods are the goals of the Amherst program, rather than the direct preparation for a profession. The curriculum enables students to arrange programs for their own educational needs within established guidelines. Faculty advisors, representing all academic departments, assist undergraduates in their course selections; but the ultimate responsibility for a thoughtful program of study rests with the individual student.

The College’s Faculty is engaged in two primary activities: first, the education of undergraduates; and, second, research and writing. Its 167 full-time members hold degrees from colleges and universities throughout this country and abroad. Classes range in size from a few courses of two students to several lecture courses of more than 100 students; more than 80 percent of the classes and sections have 25 students or fewer.

Amherst has extensive physical resources: libraries with more than 1,000,000
volumes and over 29,000 other media materials, science laboratories, a mathematics and computer science building, theaters, gymnasium, swimming pool, skating rink, squash and tennis courts, playing fields, a museum of fine arts and another of natural history, a music center and concert hall, a dance studio, a central dining hall for all students, a campus social center that includes a snack bar and movie theater, dormitories, media center, and classroom buildings. There are a wildlife sanctuary and a forest for the study of ecology, an observatory and a planetarium, and varied equipment for specialized scientific research. At Amherst, and at its neighboring institutions, there are extensive offerings of lectures, concerts, plays, films, and many other events.

The College provides a variety of services to support the academic work of students. In addition to the advising and teaching support provided by the Faculty, the services include a tutorial program, reading and study skill classes, an Interterm pre-calculus course, a full-time writing counselor, and tutoring for students for whom English is a second language. For more details, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students.

Amherst has a full schedule of intercollegiate athletics for men and women in most sports. About 85 percent of all students participate in the physical education program or in organized intramural athletics.

Undergraduates may also take part in a variety of other extracurricular activities: journalism, public service, publishing, broadcasting, music, dramatics, student government, College committees, and a wide assortment of specialized interests. Religious groups, working independently or through the religious advisors, maintain a program of worship services, Bible study, community service projects, and other activities.

Most graduates continue their formal education to enter such professions as teaching, medicine, law, and business. At Amherst, presumably they have only begun their life-long education at “commencement,” but have developed attitudes and values that will encourage them to participate thoughtfully and generously in the service of humanity.

Amherst College is pleased to provide the following information regarding our institution’s graduation rates in compliance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The rates reflect the graduation status of students who enrolled during the 2005-06 school year and for whom 150% of the normal time-to-completion has elapsed.

During the fall semester of 2005, 431 first-time, full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students entered Amherst College. As of August 31, 2011, 96% of those students had graduated from our institution.

Questions related to this report should be directed to: Kathleen Goff, Registrar, Amherst College, Box 5000, Amherst, MA 01002-5000.

FIVE COLLEGE COOPERATION

Amherst is joined with Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts in a consortium that sponsors a variety of cooperative programs and enterprises. The goal of cooperation among the five colleges is to enrich the educational opportunities available to students by providing them with access to the resources of all five institutions.

Students are entitled to participate in a course interchange program which allows them to construct up to one half of their program from liberal arts courses at the four other colleges without additional cost. Also freely available
to students are the libraries of each institution. The present and continuing emphasis of the Five College Libraries is on the sharing and enhancement of total resources and services.

A monthly calendar of lectures, concerts and other cultural events on all five campuses is available online to the Five College community. Access to classes, libraries, and extracurricular activities is made feasible by a free transportation system connecting all five campuses.

An FM radio station (WFCR 88.5) is supported by all five colleges. It is managed by the University with the advice of a board made up of representatives of the cooperating institutions. The five colleges also cooperate in sponsoring *The Massachusetts Review*, a quarterly of literature, the arts, and public affairs.

Academic cooperation includes two joint departments—Astronomy and Dance—and coordinated programs in African-American Studies, East Asian Studies, Latin American Studies and Linguistics. Joint faculty appointments make possible the presence of talented professors in highly specialized areas. Five College senior appointments bring to the area distinguished international figures, listed on pages 506-527.

**AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS**

Amherst College offers interested students the opportunity to pursue a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force through an affiliation with the USAF ROTC Detachment 370 at University of Massachusetts—Amherst, located less than two miles from the Amherst College campus. The program combines traditional classroom instruction, hands-on leadership training and physical fitness training. Amherst College students do not receive degree credit for participation in the courses. For underclass students the combined mandatory requirements are five hours per week and six hours per week for upperclass students. Scholarship funding is available on a competitive basis for qualified applicants and “express” scholarship funding is available for qualified applicants in specific majors. Interested Amherst College students should explore the ROTC experience by seeking more information below:

- Phone: 413-545-2437/2451
- Email: afrotc@acad.umass.edu
- [http://www.umass.edu/afrotc/](http://www.umass.edu/afrotc/)

**AIR FORCE ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS**

Air Force ROTC one- to four-year college scholarships are available on a competitive basis to qualifying high school and college students. Scholarship recipients are selected using the whole person concept. This includes objective factors (grade point average) and subjective factors (interview evaluation). In selected academic areas, scholarships may be extended to meet a five-year degree program recognized by the college. Most scholarships cover full college tuition and most laboratory fees, and mandatory fees; plus a tax-free allowance during the school year ranging from $300 to $500 per month, and an annual $900 textbook stipend.
ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

Amherst College offers the opportunity to train to become an officer in the United States Army through the Department of Military Leadership at the University of Massachusetts. The Military Leadership curriculum provides leadership and management training experience and is open to any Amherst College student who wishes to participate. Amherst students do not receive degree credit for participation in the courses. While all students receive the same experience in using Army equipment, uniforms and training techniques, those students desiring a commission have scholarship opportunities available to them. Army ROTC scholarships are offered for periods of four, three and two years and are awarded on a merit basis to the most outstanding applicants. Interested students should call 413-545-2321 or 5364 for more information.

VETERANS

Eligible veterans may enroll in Air Force ROTC while in college, complete degree requirements and earn an Air Force Commission. Veterans can use their GI Bill or veterans’ benefits, receive the tax-free allowance and compete for other scholarship and financial aid programs.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND STUDY ABROAD

The College encourages students to participate in educational programs at other institutions in the United States and abroad. In addition to the following programs sponsored or co-sponsored by Amherst, students may participate in programs offered by other American or foreign institutions. For further information and guidelines concerning educational leave from the College, see page 65.

Selected students may participate in Independent Study projects under guidance from a teacher at Amherst College without enrollment at host institutions and may pursue their studies elsewhere in the United States or abroad.

The Twelve College Exchange

Within the Northeast, the College has special exchange arrangements with Bowdoin, Connecticut, Dartmouth, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Trinity, Vassar, Wellesley, and Wheaton Colleges, and Wesleyan University, which together form the Twelve College Exchange Program. This arrangement gives students who wish to take advantage of special programs not available in the Five College area, or who wish to experience a similar, but different, college environment, the opportunity to do so with the minimum of difficulty. Further information is available from the Twelve College Exchange coordinators of the participating colleges. The coordinator for Amherst College is Assistant Dean of Students and Director of International Experience Janna Behrens.

The Williams College—Mystic Seaport Program in American Maritime Studies

This program is available to undergraduate participants through the Twelve College Exchange program. Its purpose is to provide undergraduates with the opportunity to focus one semester of their studies on man’s relationship with the sea. Further information is available in the Career Center.

Dartmouth Dual Degree Engineering Program

Through the Twelve College Exchange, a student may spend junior year at Dartmouth College studying engineering. After graduating from Amherst, the
student would have the option to return to Dartmouth for an additional year to earn a Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) degree from Dartmouth College. Further information is available in the Career Center or from Professor William A. Loinaz. See http://engineering.dartmouth.edu/academics/undergraduate/dual/.

*The National Theatre Institute*

Through a Twelve College Exchange arrangement, undergraduate participation in the program of the National Theatre Institute, Waterford, Conn., is possible. Further information is available in the Career Center.

*The Associated Kyoto Program*

The Associated Kyoto Program, sponsored by Amherst and 15 other institutions, is hosted by Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. It emphasizes direct and intensive contact with the Japanese and aims to develop in students an understanding of Japan’s culture, history, language, and contemporary society. The program carries credit equivalent to a full academic year’s course work. About 50 students are admitted each year, with applicants from member institutions receiving priority. Information can be obtained from Professor Samuel C. Morse.

*Gottingen Exchange*

Amherst maintains a student exchange program with Göttingen University in Germany. Each year, upon application to the Department of German, two Amherst students are selected to attend Göttingen University. In return, Amherst accepts two Göttingen students to study at the College and to serve as Language Assistants in the German Department. Details about the exchange programs may be obtained from the Department of German.

**Doshisha University**

The College’s relationship with Doshisha University offers various opportunities for students and faculty to study, to research, and to teach in Japan. Located in Japan’s ancient imperial capital of Kyoto, The Doshisha was founded by Joseph Hardy Neesima of the Class of 1870, the first Japanese to graduate from a Western institution of higher learning. Neesima stowed away aboard a clipper ship from Japan while that country was still officially “closed.” From the China Coast he eventually arrived in 1865 aboard a ship owned by Alpheus Hardy, who was a trustee of both Phillips Academy, Andover, and Amherst College.

After graduating from both Andover and Amherst, Neesima returned to Japan to found a Christian college in Kyoto. From this modest start The Doshisha has developed into a complex of educational institutions: Doshisha University, a separate Women’s College, four senior and four junior high schools, an elementary school, and a kindergarten, with a total enrollment of approximately 32,000 on six different campuses. The Doshisha is one of the oldest and best known private educational institutions in Japan.

Scores of Amherst graduates have taught at The Doshisha, and since 1922, except for the war years, Amherst has maintained a resident instructor at Doshisha University. Since 1947 until his retirement in 1992, Professor Otis Cary of the Class of 1943 represented Amherst College at Doshisha, taught American
history at the University, and served in a number of other capacities. Currently, Professor Masanori Morita is acting as our Amherst representative. Professor Samuel Morse is our Doshisha representative at Amherst College.

Through the generosity of alumni and friends of the College, Amherst House was built on the Doshisha University campus in 1932 as a memorial to Neesima and to Stewart Burton Nichols of the Class of 1922, the first student representative. In 1962, the College, thanks to further generosity of friends and alumni, built a guest house of modern Japanese design, including quarters for the Representative, three guest suites, and dining facilities. In 1979 a traditional rustic teahouse, Muhinshuan, was donated by the family of a Japanese alumnus and rebuilt in a corner of the Amherst House grounds, lending cultural atmosphere appropriate to Kyoto.

In 1971 the College took the lead in organizing the Associated Kyoto Program (AKP), a junior-year program at Doshisha University for Amherst students and others who wish to pursue the study of Japanese language, culture, and history. This program offers the main avenue today for both student and faculty contact with Doshisha University. With offices on Doshisha’s main campus since 1971, the AKP, sponsored by Amherst College and 15 American liberal arts colleges, hosts American undergraduates for a year of study in Kyoto and awards fellowships to American and Japanese faculty to participate in educational exchange for periods of one or two semesters.

Amherst and Doshisha have a number of opportunities for faculty exchange. Since 1976 an arrangement with Doshisha University has permitted a member of one of the nine Doshisha Faculties (Theology, Letters, Law, Economics, Commerce, Engineering, Sociology, Policy Studies, Culture and Information Science) to spend up to a year’s leave at Amherst. Housing for that faculty member is provided by Amherst, and Doshisha also provides housing for a single Amherst faculty member on sabbatical leave. The Short-term Faculty Exchange supports a yearly lecture series by a faculty member from each institution.

Also, since 1958, a graduating Amherst College senior has been selected annually as the Amherst-Doshisha Fellow to spend a year at Doshisha University. A student exchange begun in 2009 permits up to two Amherst students to spend the fall semester at Doshisha. Two students are also eligible to attend the Japanese language summer program at Doshisha as well.

In 1971 the College took the lead in organizing the Associated Kyoto Program (AKP), a junior-year program at Doshisha University for Amherst students and others who wish to pursue the study of Japanese language, culture, and history. This program offers one avenue for both student and faculty contact with Doshisha University. With offices on Doshisha’s main campus since 1971, the AKP, sponsored by Amherst College and 15 American liberal arts colleges, hosts American undergraduates for a year of study in Kyoto and awards fellowships to American and Japanese faculty to participate in educational exchange for periods of one or two semesters.
The Folger Shakespeare Library

THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY in Washington, D.C., was established in 1932 under the governance of The Trustees of Amherst College by the will of Henry Clay Folger, Class of 1879, and his wife, Emily Jordan Folger. The Folgers’ original collection of Shakespeareana remains the largest and most complete in existence today. Subsequent acquisitions have enabled the Library now to claim the largest accumulation of English-language publications from 1475 to 1640 outside of England, as well as other important Continental Renaissance materials. Folger holdings span a broad range of subjects and include books, manuscripts, musical instruments, musical scores, and artifacts from the Renaissance and theater history.

In keeping with its founders’ intentions, the Folger Shakespeare Library is an educational and cultural center, with a mission inspired by its world-class collection “to advance understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare’s writing and of the culture of early modern Europe.” The Folger is an internationally recognized research library offering advanced scholarly programs in the humanities; an innovator in the preservation of rare materials; a national leader in how Shakespeare is taught in grades K-12; and an award-winning producer of cultural and arts programs—theater, music, readings, exhibitions, lectures, and family programs. Its commitment to learning extends to the seminars of the Folger Institute, a consortium of 40 universities and colleges—including Amherst, for whom the Folger offers special undergraduate research opportunities—and a wide array of publications, including Shakespeare Quarterly, a scholarly journal produced in cooperation with The George Washington University, the award-winning Folger Magazine for general audiences, and the Folger Shakespeare Library editions, the top-selling imprint of Shakespeare’s works in the United States.

Located one block from the U.S. Capitol, next to the Library of Congress, the Folger Shakespeare Library is housed in a landmark building widely considered among the loveliest in the nation’s capital. Inside its elegant art deco marble facade is an Elizabethan interior with vaulted ornamental plaster ceilings, richly paneled walls, terracotta and tile floors, and windows of leaded and stained glass. Its reading room is modeled after a Tudor banquet hall; the Great Hall suggests a Tudor-style gallery, and its theater is designed after the Elizabethan innyard playhouses so popular in Shakespeare’s time. The Folger welcomes more than 200,000 visitors each year, and millions more visit its informative website at www.folger.edu.

FOLGER LIBRARY OFFICERS

Michael Witmore, Ph.D., Director
Stephen Enniss, Ph.D., Eric Weinmann Librarian
David Schalkwyk, Ph.D., Director of Academic Programs
Janet Alexander Griffin, M.A., Director of Public Programs and Artistic Producer
Melody P. Fetske, C.P.A., Director of Finance and Administration
Essence Newhoff, Acting Director of Development
Robert G. Young, Ph.D., Director of Education
Paul T. Ruxin, Chair, Board of Governors