

Transferring to Amherst College

Amherst welcomes applications from talented students who have chosen to begin their higher education at other two-year and four-year institutions. The 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 our curriculum. We seek qualified applicants from different races, classes and ethnic groups – students whose several perspectives might contribute significantly to a process of mutual education within and beyond the curriculum.

This collaboration agreement serves as an outline of how most competitive applicants at Amherst may appear. Unlike an articulation agreement, all eligibility criteria are non-binding and do not guarantee and/or exclude applicants for admission.

Eligibility

- A student is eligible for transfer admission to Amherst if he/she has at least 30 transferable credits as a full-time college student in a liberal arts curriculum. Two years of college work is preferable for community college applicants. Any credit in progress is included in your transferrable credits. For more information, please refer to “Transfer of Credit” below.
- Amherst typically admits one out of every twenty students who apply for transfer. In previous years, competitive applicants have had at least an A- average in college coursework, and transferred from U.S. colleges and universities.
- While Amherst welcomes traditional- and non-traditional-aged applicants to apply, all applicants must be capable of enrolling as full-time students in the successive years needed to complete their degree. Due to the structure of our residential community, we do not have resources to house families on or off campus. Students are not required to live on campus.
- Any student who has completed college coursework is also eligible to apply as a first year student to Amherst College if they are willing to forfeit all credit accrued in college and spend four years as a full-time student at Amherst College.

Transfer of Credit

- Credit is granted only for courses in the Liberal Arts.
- Credit is not awarded for the following:
 - Courses in business, criminal justice, engineering, speech and communication, computer application, journalism or other pre-professional training courses.
 - Math courses below the level of calculus.
 - Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or collegiate coursework completed during secondary school; however, some Amherst departments will allow you to forego introductory-level courses in areas in which you have already completed rigorous work.
 - On-line courses.

- Amherst's open curriculum has no core or general education requirements beyond those courses required for your major. As a result, transfer students are not asked to take classes in specific disciplines prior to transferring as long as their classes meet the liberal arts requirement.
- If admitted, a transfer of credit evaluation from our registrar will be included with the letter of admission.
- Students who have had more than four semesters of full-time course work still must fulfill our two-year residency requirement by completing four full semesters at Amherst.

Admission and Financial Aid

For transfer applicants, close attention is paid to students':

- College transcript
- Recommendations
- Quality of writing as demonstrated in essays
- Extra – and co-extracurricular involvement and talents
- Standardized tests (not required for transfer admission, but may be submitted)

Transfer applicants are also welcomed to contact a member of the admissions staff to discuss opportunities at Amherst and the transfer process.

Additionally, Amherst College is need-blind and guarantees to meet one hundred percent of all students' demonstrated financial need. For more information, please visit the financial aid website at www.amherst.edu/~finaid. If you are receiving financial aid at your community college or have been nominated for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship you qualify for an application fee waiver, please visit our Financial Aid Quick Pass at www.amherst.edu/admission/financial_aid/quickpass