Amherst College Community College Transfer Collaboration Agreement

Amherst welcomes applications from talented students who have chosen to begin their higher education at two-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, 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 community college student in a liberal arts curriculum. Please note the following exceptions:
    - Students who have already obtained a bachelor's degree are not eligible to apply to Amherst College.
    - Students who are taking community college coursework as part of any program of early graduation from secondary school or other accelerated completion of secondary school should apply as first-year applicants.

- Two years of college work and full-time enrollment in a community college is strongly recommended before applying. Credit hours from courses in progress are included in student credit evaluations. 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 degrees. 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.

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 students to forego introductory-level courses in areas in which they have already completed rigorous work.
    - On-line courses.

- Amherst's open curriculum has no core or general education requirements beyond those courses required for a student's major. As a result, transfer students are not asked to take classes in specific disciplines prior to transferring as long as their classes meet our 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 must fulfill our two-year residency requirement by completing four full semesters at Amherst.

Admission and Financial Aid

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

- College and high school transcripts

- Professor recommendations

- Quality of writing as demonstrated in essays

- Extra – and co-extracurricular involvement and talents

Community college transfer applicants are welcome to contact a member of the admissions staff to discuss opportunities at Amherst and the transfer process.

Additionally, Amherst College is need-blind in admission and guarantees to meet one hundred percent of all students' demonstrated financial need. We also do not package loans as part of our financial aid awards. For U.S. veterans, we are a Yellow Ribbon school and have four endowed scholarship funds for those who qualify.

For more information, please visit the financial aid website at www.amherst.edu/~finaid. If a student is receiving financial aid at his/her community college, is a U.S. veteran, or is applying for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, he/she qualifies for an application fee waiver located here: www.amherst.edu/admission/financial_aid/quickpass.

Support for Community College Transfer Students

Because community college transfer students have different concerns than first-year students, we have developed a number of services to ease the transition to Amherst. These include:

- Special events for community college transfer students during orientation week
- Designated staff liaison in the Office of Student Affairs
- A Transfer Student Alliance group
- Targeted outreach from Amherst's Writing Center, Quantitative Skills Center, Library Resource, and Career Center