

# Amherst

## Seventy-Second Annual Report to Secondary Schools

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Welcome! You hold in your hands (or, perhaps more likely, on your digital screen) the 72nd Amherst College Annual Report to Secondary Schools. The reports were inaugurated by Amherst Dean of Admission Eugene “Bill” Wilson in 1947. Even though the internet has made such a report no longer necessary (Dean Wilson surely would have found it remarkable that all of the information in the report could be easily retrieved from anywhere in the world with a phone that fits in your pocket), we have continued with this format, now in its eighth decade.

Many of my predecessors in this role, including Deans Bill Wilson, Ed Wall, Henry “Ted” Bedford, Linda Davis Taylor, Jane Reynolds and Tom Parker, would always open the report with a letter to secondary-school colleagues, and I am happy to follow in this tradition. As I looked back at some of the “anniversary year” reports (from 10, 25 and 50 years ago) for inspiration, I found myself feeling even more connected to the values that the Amherst Admission Office has held for much of its history: openness and transparency; commitment to identifying those students who are the right fit for the College’s mission and culture; and dedication to holistic, need-blind admission.

In the report from 25 years ago, Dean Jane Reynolds observed, “In their best moments, Amherst College students are open-minded, free, feisty, and able to maneuver intelligently in society and the world of ideas.” Having arrived recently with fresh eyes, I see all of these qualities today as well—notably, that *feistiness* in conjunction with the excitement for the “world of ideas.”

While the students we seek have the same qualities now as then, the admission landscape certainly has evolved. For the class entering Amherst in 1993, the College received 4,302 applications, admitted 991 students (a 23% admission rate) and enrolled a class of 421. Fast-forward a quarter century, and you find last year 9,720 applications for admission, 1,240 admitted (13%) and an enrolled class of 492.

In the same 1993 report, Dean Reynolds spoke of the pending retirement of the 16th president of Amherst College, Peter Pouncey.

At the time of his arrival [in 1984], he saw incoming classes which did not fully represent the demographics of a changing American society; he puzzled over why the College was returning unspent resources to the financial aid budget year after year; and, most significantly, he argued that to be a truly great institution of national prominence, the College must bring “a full sample of the nation’s talent” to the campus.

In the course of Pouncey’s presidency, the dean reported, “the number of students of color entering Amherst each year has grown from 14% to 31.5% of the class.”

I am grateful to Pouncey and Reynolds, and their successors, for their efforts to diversify the College and bring it to a place of leadership among American higher education institutions. Today, nearly half of our incoming class identify as U.S. students of color. Most students receive need-based Amherst scholarships. Our student body includes students from more than 50 countries. Through those we admit, the Admission and Financial Aid Offices strive to uphold the College’s mission to educate students “of exceptional potential from all backgrounds so that they may seek, value, and advance knowledge, engage the world around them, and lead principled lives of consequence.”



I write to you today as a dean who is brand-new to Amherst College. I have big shoes to fill, as beloved Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Katie Fretwell retired in the summer of 2018. Many of you knew Dean Fretwell from her years of experience and wisdom in the profession. To me, the biggest proof of her remarkable work is our student body: I have

been so impressed with each student whom I have met. Their passion gives me much hope for a brighter future.

As has been the custom for decades of annual reports, I would also like to introduce our Admission and Financial Aid team for 2018–2019. First, the admission deans: Dean of Admission Cate Zolkos; Senior Associate Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Dale Hendricks; Associate Dean Will Cummins; Associate Dean Mandy Hart; Associate Dean Michael Hawkins; Associate Dean Lexi Hurd; Associate Dean Frances Tuleja; Associate Dean Xiaofeng Wan; Assistant Dean Mariesa Negosanti; Assistant Dean Hayley Nicholas; Admission Counselor Justin Barry; Admission Counselor Madeline Clyne; Admission Counselor Krista Goebel; and Admission Counselor Juan Valdés.

Behind the scenes, our fabulous operations team includes Director of Admission and Financial Aid Systems Bill Kopell; Assistant Director of Admission and Financial Aid Systems Kenzie Bruso; Office Manager Sue Geissler; Assistant to the Dean Marcy Dyer; Data and Event Support Coordinator Steph Bushee; Staff Assistant/Admission Specialist

Debbie Fuller; Campus Visit Assistant Donna Eaton; Admission Assistant Linda Rodriguez; Admission Processor/Event Coordinator Tara Tetrault; and Visitor Relations Assistant Anna Goudreau.

In our Office of Financial Aid, with its best-in-class aid programs, we have Dean of Financial Aid Gail Holt; Senior Associate Dean Kate Gentile; Associate Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Michael Ellison; Associate Dean Jennifer Christian Wright; Financial Aid Counselor Nancy Brownfield; Student Employment Coordinator Nancy Robinson; Financial Aid Assistant Leah Davis; and Financial Aid Assistant Jose Infante Buron.

I am happy to be in partnership with all of you as we strive toward providing an education for a more equitable and just world. If you are ever in the Amherst area, do not hesitate to reach out; I would love to chat about our shared goals.

Yours in education,

Matthew L. McGann, Ed.D.  
*Dean of Admission and Financial Aid*

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## Admission and Financial Aid Staff for 2018–2019

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Matthew McGann, *Dean of Admission & Financial Aid*

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### ADMISSION

Cate Granger Zolkos, *Dean of Admission*  
Dale Hendricks, *Senior Associate Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Outreach*  
Will Cummins, *Associate Dean*  
Mandy Hart, *Associate Dean*  
Michael Hawkins, *Associate Dean*  
Alexandra Hurd, *Associate Dean*  
Frances Tuleja, *Associate Dean*  
Xiaofeng Wan, *Associate Dean*  
Mariesa Negosanti, *Assistant Dean*  
Hayley Nicholas, *Assistant Dean*  
Justin Barry, *Admission Counselor*  
Madeline Clyne, *Admission Counselor*  
Krista Goebel, *Admission Counselor*  
Juan Valdés, *Admission Counselor*

William Kopell, *Director of Admission and Financial Aid Information Systems*  
Kenzie Bruso, *Assistant Director of Admission and Financial Aid Information Systems*

Susan Geissler, *Office Manager*  
Marcy Dyer, *Assistant to Dean of Admission & Financial Aid and Dean of Admission*  
Stephanie Bushee, *Data and Event Support Coordinator*  
Donna Eaton, *Campus Visit Assistant*  
Deborah Fuller, *Staff Assistant/Admission Specialist*  
Anna Goudreau, *Visitor Relations Assistant/Receptionist*  
Linda Rodriguez, *Admission Assistant*  
Tara Tetrault, *Admission Processor/Event Coordinator*

### FINANCIAL AID

Gail Holt, *Dean of Financial Aid*  
Kathleen Gentile, *Senior Associate Dean of Financial Aid*  
Michael Ellison, *Associate Dean of Admission and Financial Aid*  
Jennifer Christian Wright, *Associate Dean of Financial Aid*  
Nancy Brownfield, *Financial Aid Counselor*  
Leah Davis, *Financial Aid Assistant/Communications*  
Jose Infante, *Financial Aid Assistant/Records*  
Nancy Robinson, *Student Employment Coordinator*

# First-Year Students in the Class of 2022

A SNAPSHOT | JANUARY 1, 2019

## Student Background Profile

Gender identification:  
 48% male  
 51% female  
 1% another gender identity  
 62% are receiving scholarship or grant aid  
 30% are Pell Grant recipients  
 15% are first-generation college students  
 47% self-identify as U.S. students of color  
 7% are non-U.S. citizens  
 5% are citizens of the U.S. and another country  
 Students reside in 42 states, including  
 the District of Columbia, and  
 22 foreign countries

## Student Academic Profile

88% of those with reported class rank were in  
 the top 10% of their class  
 20% of those ranked are valedictorians  
 61% enrolled through Regular Decision  
 35% enrolled through Early Decision  
 4% enrolled through QuestBridge Match  
 Mean SAT scores: Evidence-Based Reading  
 and Writing 722, Math 737  
 Mean ACT scores: Composite 32, English 34,  
 Math 31  
 Secondary schools represented in the class: 417

## Statistics for the Past Decade

Year	Number of Students Applied	Number of Students Admitted	Number of Students Enrolled
2008	7,745	1,144 (15%)	438 (38%)
2009	7,679	1,227 (16%)	467 (38%)
2010	8,099	1,240 (15%)	490 (40%)
2011	8,461	1,127 (13%)	461 (41%)
2012	8,565	1,110 (13%)	463 (42%)
2013	7,927	1,132 (14%)	466 (41%)
2014	8,478	1,173 (14%)	469 (40%)
2015	8,568	1,210 (14%)	477 (39%)
2016	8,406	1,161 (14%)	471 (41%)
2017	9,285	1,198 (13%)	471 (39%)
2018	9,723	1,246 (13%)	492 (39%)

## Racial and Ethnic Identity

	Federal Reporting Guidelines	All Self-Reported Identities*
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3 (<1%)	14 (3%)
Asian American	75 (16%)	106 (23%)
Black or African American	49 (11%)	65 (14%)
Latinx	62 (14%)	62 (14%)
Multiracial	44 (10%)	N/A
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)
White	202 (44%)	274 (60%)
Did not report	22 (5%)	22 (5%)

\*Total percentage exceeds 100% because students may indicate more than one race and ethnicity.

Countries of citizenship with multiple international students: China, South Korea, Canada, Pakistan, Serbia, India and Tanzania.

## Distribution of SAT Scores

<b>EVIDENCE-BASED READING &amp; WRITING</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>
750–800	1779 (25%)	363 (46%)	104 (37%)
700–740	2115 (30%)	261 (33%)	98 (35%)
650–690	1642 (23%)	145 (18%)	65 (23%)
600–640	875 (12%)	21 (3%)	12 (4%)
550–590	372 (5%)	4 (1%)	3 (1%)
500–540	149 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
450–490	64 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
200–440	22 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mean	693	732	722
Mid 50%	650–750	700–770	690–760
<b>MATH</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>
750–800	3116 (44%)	483 (61%)	143 (51%)
700–740	1430 (20%)	181 (23%)	75 (27%)
650–690	1100 (16%)	94 (12%)	49 (17%)
600–640	671 (10%)	29 (4%)	12 (4%)
550–590	407 (6%)	6 (1%)	3 (1%)
500–540	196 (3%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
450–490	59 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
200–440	39 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mean	713	749	737
Mid 50%	670–780	720–790	700–780

## Distribution of ACT Scores

<b>ACT COMPOSITE</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>
34–36	1444 (34%)	351 (47%)	114 (39%)
30–33	1851 (44%)	317 (43%)	147 (50%)
27–29	562 (13%)	57 (8%)	25 (8%)
24–26	249 (6%)	16 (2%)	9 (3%)
21–23	91 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Below 21	36 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mean	32	33	32
Mid 50%	30–34	31–35	31–34
<b>ACT ENGLISH</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>
34–36	2677 (63%)	568 (77%)	213 (72%)
30–33	804 (19%)	126 (17%)	58 (20%)
27–29	336 (8%)	33 (4%)	18 (6%)
24–26	259 (6%)	12 (2%)	6 (2%)
21–23	112 (3%)	2 (0%)	0 (0%)
Below 21	45 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Mean	33	34	34
Mid 50%	32–35	34–36	33–35
<b>ACT MATH</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>
34–36	1296 (31%)	296 (40%)	88 (30%)
30–33	1310 (31%)	253 (34%)	121 (41%)
27–29	1004 (24%)	146 (20%)	69 (23%)
24–26	430 (10%)	42 (6%)	13 (4%)
21–23	96 (2%)	3 (0%)	3 (1%)
Below 21	97 (2%)	1 (0%)	1 (0%)
Mean	31	32	31
Mid 50%	28–34	29–35	29–34

## Secondary School Representation

	<b>Public</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Parochial</b>	<b>Home School</b>
Applied	6085 (63%)	2595 (27%)	964 (10%)	79 (1%)
Admitted	771 (62%)	354 (28%)	115 (9%)	6 (1%)
Enrolled	300 (61%)	143 (29%)	47 (10%)	2 (<1%)
Number of schools represented in the class	265	111	39	2

## Geographical Distribution of Residence

Alabama	1	Iowa	1	North Carolina	12	New England	18%
Alaska	1	Kansas	4	Ohio	9	Mid Atlantic	27%
Arizona	4	Kentucky	1	Oklahoma	1	Mid West	11%
California	62	Louisiana	1	Oregon	4	South S. East	13%
Colorado	9	Maine	1	Pennsylvania	22	West S. West	23%
Connecticut	23	Maryland	13	Rhode Island	6	International	7%
Delaware	1	Massachusetts	57	South Carolina	1		
District of Columbia	4	Michigan	10	Tennessee	4		
Florida	23	Minnesota	7	Texas	14		
Georgia	9	Mississippi	1	Utah	1		
Hawaii	4	Missouri	3	Vermont	2		
Idaho	1	Montana	1	Virginia	11		
Illinois	17	New Hampshire	2	Washington	10		
Indiana	2	New Jersey	33	West Virginia	1		
		New York	62				

## Financial Aid

	<b>2018 Class of 2022</b>	<b>2017 Class of 2021</b>	<b>2016 Class of 2020</b>
Admitted students who applied for scholarship and grant aid	936 (76%)	887 (74%)	850 (72%)
Admitted students who demonstrated need for scholarship and grant aid	698 (56%)	664 (55%)	652 (55%)
Of those, admitted students awarded scholarship and grant aid	698	664	652
Total amount offered	\$36,808,956	\$33,047,093	\$31,901,810
Average amount offered	\$52,735	\$49,769	\$47,837
Matriculating students who received scholarship and grant aid	305	265	245
Total amount	\$16,768,092	\$13,264,943	\$11,797,067
Average amount	\$54,977	\$50,056	\$48,151
Percentage of class receiving scholarship and grant aid	62%	56%	52%

## Fall Transfer Students

	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
Applied	241 (51%)	236 (49%)	477
Admitted	12 (57%)	9 (43%)	21
Enrolled	8 (73%)	3 (27%)	11

Forty-five percent of enrolled fall transfer students matriculated from a community college.  
 Fifty-five percent of enrolled fall transfer students previously served in the U.S. Armed Forces.  
 Seven transfer students enrolled in the spring of 2018.

## Senior Major Distribution of the Class of 2018

<b>SINGLE MAJORS</b>		Art & the History of Art and English	1	Chemistry and Spanish	1
American Studies	2	Art & the History of Art and Mathematics	1	Chemistry and Statistics	2
Anthropology	4	Art & the History of Art and Neuroscience	1	Classics and Economics	2
Architectural Studies	1	Art & the History of Art and Psychology	1	Computer Science and Economics	2
Art & the History of Art	5	Art & the History of Art and Russian	1	Computer Science and Environmental Studies	1
Asian Languages & Civilizations	6	Art & the History of Art and Spanish	1	Computer Science and Film & Media Studies	1
Biochemistry & Biophysics	3	Asian Languages & Civilizations and Biochemistry & Biophysics	1	Computer Science and History	2
Biology	17	Asian Languages & Civilizations and Computer Science	1	Computer Science and Mathematics	9
Black Studies	5	Asian Languages & Civilizations and English	1	Computer Science and Philosophy	2
Chemistry	5	Asian Languages & Civilizations and Political Science	1	Computer Science and Psychology	1
Classics	1	Asian Languages & Civilizations and Sociology	1	Computer Science and Theater & Dance	1
Computer Science	6	Asian Languages & Civilizations and Statistics	1	Economics and English	3
Economics	24	Astronomy and Chemistry	1	Economics and Environmental Studies	3
English	24	Astronomy and Computer Science	1	Economics and European Studies	1
Environmental Studies	8	Astronomy and History	1	Economics and French	1
Film & Media Studies	2	Astronomy and Physics	1	Economics and Geology	1
French	3	Biochemistry & Biophysics and French	1	Economics and History	2
Geology	7	Biochemistry & Biophysics and Mathematics	1	Economics and Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought	1
History	19	Biochemistry & Biophysics and Philosophy	1	Economics and Mathematics	9
Interdisciplinary	3	Biochemistry & Biophysics and Psychology	1	Economics and Music	1
Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought	11	Biochemistry & Biophysics and Sociology	1	Economics and Philosophy	3
Mathematics	28	Biochemistry & Biophysics and Statistics	1	Economics and Political Science	1
Music	4	Chemistry and Computer Science	1	Economics and Psychology	5
Neuroscience	20	Chemistry and French	1	Economics and Spanish	2
Philosophy	9	Chemistry and Mathematics	2	Economics and Statistics	1
Physics	2	Chemistry and Neuroscience	1	English and	
Political Science	21			English and Environmental Studies	1
Psychology	18			English and Film & Media Studies	2
Sociology	8			English and French	2
Spanish	2			English and History	1
Statistics	7			English and Interdisciplinary	1
Sexuality, Women's & Gender Studies	3			English and Latinx & Latin American Studies	1
Theater & Dance	1			English and Philosophy	1
<b>Total Single Majors</b>	<b>279</b>			English and Political Science	3
				English and Psychology	5
				English and Sexuality, Women's & Gender Studies	1
<b>DOUBLE MAJORS</b>				Environmental Studies and French	1
American Studies and French	1			Environmental Studies and History	1
American Studies and Political Science	1			Environmental Studies and Psychology	1
American Studies and Spanish	1				
Anthropology and Asian Languages & Civilizations	1				
Anthropology and Statistics	1				
Architectural Studies and Economics	1				
Architectural Studies and Environmental Studies	1				
Architectural Studies and French	1				
Art & the History of Art and Computer Science	2				
Art & the History of Art and Economics	1				

## Senior Major Distribution of the Class of 2018 (continued)

Film & Media Studies and Mathematics	1	Latinx & Latin American Studies and Sociology	1	Political Science and Statistics	1
French and History	1	Mathematics and Music	5	Psychology and Statistics	1
French and Interdisciplinary	1	Mathematics and Philosophy	1	Psychology and Sexuality, Women's & Gender Studies	1
French and Mathematics	1	Mathematics and Physics	1	Psychology and Theater & Dance	1
French and Philosophy	1	Mathematics and Political Science	1	<b>Total Double Majors</b>	<b>182</b>
French and Physics	1	Mathematics and Psychology	2	<b>TRIPLE MAJORS</b>	
French and Political Science	1	Mathematics and Russian	1	Asian Languages & Civilizations and Astronomy and Physics	1
French and Psychology	2	Mathematics and Sociology	1	Asian Languages & Civilizations and French and History	1
French and Sociology	1	Mathematics and Statistics	4	English and Music and Psychology	1
French and Spanish	1	Music and Neuroscience	1	French and Political Science and Psychology	1
German and Music	1	Music and Political Science	1	<b>Total Triple Majors</b>	<b>4</b>
German and Political Science	1	Music and Psychology	1		
History and Mathematics	4	Music and Statistics	1		
History and Philosophy	1	Neuroscience and Sexuality, Women's & Gender Studies	1		
History and Psychology	1	Philosophy and Physics	1		
History and Religion	1	Philosophy and Political Science	1		
History and Sexuality, Women's & Gender Studies	1	Political Science and Sociology	1		
Latinx & Latin American Studies and Political Science	1	Political Science and Spanish	2	<b>Total Class of 2018 Graduates</b>	<b>465</b>

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