

Transferring to Amherst College Additional Information

Amherst welcomes applications from talented students who have chosen to begin their higher education at two-year and other four-year institutions. The College looks, above all, for students 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 information sheet serves as an outline of how most competitive transfer applicants at Amherst may appear. Unlike an articulation agreement, eligibility criteria do not guarantee applicants for admission.

Eligibility

- Students are eligible for transfer admission to Amherst if they have at least 32 transferable credits as a college student in a liberal arts curriculum. Please note the following exceptions:
 - Students who have already obtained a bachelor's degree or equivalent are not eligible to apply to Amherst College.
 - Students who are taking 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.
- For students applying from two-year institutions, four semesters of work (including courses in progress at the time of application) and full-time enrollment in a community college are strongly recommended.
- 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. Most have 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. Students are not required to live on-campus and, due to the structure of our residential community, we do not currently have the capacity to house families in on-campus housing. Our local area has abundant off-campus rental options and free local public transportation.
- Students who have completed college coursework are also eligible to apply as first-year students to Amherst College if they are willing to forfeit all credit accrued in college and spend four years as full-time students at Amherst College. Students interested in this option should apply using the first-year application.

Transfer of Credit

- Credit is granted only for courses in the liberal arts. Please find a list of our current academic departments online: <https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments>. Most course credits within departments available at Amherst will be eligible for transfer.
- 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 or in lieu of a traditional high school experience; however, some Amherst departments will allow students to forego introductory-level courses in areas in which they have already completed rigorous work.
 - Online 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 or complete general education requirements prior to transferring as long as classes meet our liberal arts requirement.
 - If admitted, a transfer of credit evaluation from our registrar will be included with the letter of admission.
 - Credit hours from courses in progress are considered in student credit evaluations. Students who have more than 64 transferable semester hours (or the equivalent) must fulfill our two-year academic residency requirement by completing four full semesters at Amherst.

Admission and Financial Aid

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

- College and high school transcripts
- Academic instructor recommendations
- Quality of writing as demonstrated in essays
- Extra – and co-extracurricular involvements 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 at admission@amherst.edu.

Amherst College is need-blind and guarantees to meet one hundred percent of all students' demonstrated financial need. When awarding financial aid, Amherst does not ask students to take out undergraduate student loans. For U.S. service members and veterans, we are a Yellow Ribbon school and have four endowed scholarship funds for those who qualify. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces are also strongly encouraged to apply for Amherst's need-based financial aid. For more information, please visit the financial aid website at www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid or contact finaid@amherst.edu.

If students are receiving financial aid at their community college, are a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or are applying for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, they qualify for an application fee waiver located at: www.amherst.edu/admission/financial_aid/quickpass.

Campus Resources for Transfer Students

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

- Special events for transfer students during orientation week
- Designated staff liaison in the Center for Diversity & Student Leadership
- A Transfer Student Association
- Transfer Student Housing
- Outreach from Amherst's Writing Center, Quantitative Skills Center, Library Resource, and Career Centers