so why am i HERE?
Five Reasons Why You Should Be Here

- Get the scoop on getting a student job.
- You can see first-hand financial aid doesn’t have to be complicated.
- This is your education, how is it being paid for?
- Education is too expensive not to have a solid financial plan.
- You have to start sometime, why not now?
i’m not telling you it is going to be easy, i’m telling you it’s going to be worth it.
Your Opportunity

- Financial Independence
- Learn budgeting
Amherst College Financial Aid

Location  B-5 Converse Hall
          (garden level – on parking lot side)

Hours  Academic Year  Monday – Friday
       8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and
       1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Telephone  (413) 542-2296
Fax  (413) 542-2628
Web site  www.amherst.edu/go/financialaid
Email  finaid@amherst.edu
Converse Memorial Library
Who We Are

Office of Financial Aid
- Dean - Gail Holt
- Senior Associate Dean - Kathleen Gentile
- Associate Dean of Admission and Financial Aid - Michael Ellison
- Assistant Dean - Jennifer Christian Wright
- Student Employment Coordinator - Nancy Robinson
- Financial Aid Counselor - Nancy Brownfield
- Financial Aid Assistant / Receptionist - Leah Freeman
- Student Records Assistant - Paola Gallego
Roles We Serve

Financial Aid

Student and Parent Loans

Student Employment
Who Are You, Class of 2019?

- 56% of entering students eligible for Amherst College Grants/Scholarship
- 277 # of entering students that successfully filed a FAFSA
- 63 # of entering students that have applied for a student loan
- 14,726 $ Projected median student loan debt at graduation
Who Are You, Class of 2019?

- 159 # of entering students that have logged into Net Partner during the month of August
- 29 # of entering students that are currently have an outstanding item that we are waiting for
- 12 # of entering students that have not ever logged into Net Partner (and don’t know what they are missing)
How We Communicate

- No Paper
- Amherst Email
- Net Partner
- Walk-ins
- Welcome
- Holds
  - Your attention is needed
  - No course adjustments
  - No transcripts
Cost of Attendance:
- tuition
- fees
- books
- supplies
- room & board
- transportation
- personal expenses

minus

Family Contributions:
- parents income
- students income
- spouses income

Financial Need

Calculation of Financial Need
Online Tools and Self Service

AC Data
• Billing details
• Amount owed
• Can grant parental access

Net Partner
• Financial Aid details
• Budget and Family Contribution detail
• No parent access
Welcome Guest!

ACdata provides the Amherst College community with secure access to administrative information.

Screen reader friendly site is available here.

Please remember to log out and clear your browser's cache when you are finished. To learn how to clear your browser's cache, go to https://www.amherst.edu/offices/it/help/security/browser.

The best way to avoid "Too Many Cookies" is to use the CLOSE WINDOW button to close browser windows and not use the X.

Limited functionality is available to alumni for 1 year after graduation.

System Maintenance is performed Thursdays from 6AM-8AM. You may not be able to access the system during this time.

If you have not already logged in, click Log In the title bar above to begin.
Student Expense Budget

$68,843

Books and Supplies
(i.e. *course packets too)

Transportation
(round-trip home)

Personal Expenses
(living, necessities, local trans)

Health Insurance

Room and Board

Tuition and Fees

Not on
Student Billing
Statement

Listed on
Student Billing
Statement
(*course packets)

During
enrollment
periods only
AC Bill vs. Family Contribution

AC Bill $65,543
– Aid (credit on bill) $59,027
= Balance Due $6,516

$65,543

AC Scholarship $52,561
State Grants $1,500
Federal Grants $3,195
Health Scholarship $1,771
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Student Employment

- Information packet
  - Sent home – should have arrived the week of August 18th
- I-9 Form
  - Proof of identity
  - Documentation of ability to work in the U.S.
- W-4 and M-4 withholding authorization forms
  - Eligibility to “waive” withholding
- Earnings authorization
  - Earnings in excess of authorization
- Direct deposit available
Student Employment

- Looking for work
  - Off-campus opportunities including “America Reads” and “America Counts”
  - Priority for Work-Study (and other need-based work) in first two weeks of fall semester
  - [www.amherst.edu/campuslife/student_employment](http://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/student_employment)
  - If you haven’t found work after two weeks
Student Employment

- **Job Fair**
  - Friedmann Room, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Floor of the Keefe Campus Center
  - Tuesday, September 8th – 12:00-2:00 p.m.
  - Non-profit organizations (volunteer positions and off-campus Work-Study)

- **Center for Community Engagement**
  - Resource for information about non-profits
  - Federal Work-Study eligible
Seeing me leave home for college is difficult for my parents.

How are we going to pay for this?
Funding Partnership

- Must reapply annually
- Create a four-year plan
- Must reapply annually
- Deadlines critical – apply on time

Amherst College

Student & Family

Federal Government

Outside Agency

State Government

Must inform OFA
- Reduce work-study
What You Need to Do Now?

- Review Net Partner (regularly)
  - Document outstanding?
    - Endowed Application
  - Messages to explain aid
  - Detail of funds YOU are receiving
  - Personal educational budget and family contribution
- Loan must be actively accepted/requested
  - OFA Website – Forms and Helpful Links
  - Annual process
What You Need to Do Later?

- Application for renewal of financial aid
  - On-line through Net Partner
- CSS/Financial Aid Profile (on-line form)
  - Noncustodial Parent Profile, as applicable
- Income tax returns or income documentation
  - *U.S. students*: Submitted through IDOC service
  - *Others*: Submitted directly to Office of Financial Aid
- FAFSA (U.S. students)
- Applying for loan only? Must let us know
How Else Might We Be Helpful?

- **Music scholarships**
  - For-credit course work

- **Health insurance scholarships**
  - If no comparable coverage through family
  - Submit request form, signed by student and parent

- **Dean’s discretionary grants**
  - Aid for special circumstances

All forms and details available on the OFA website
What Happens If?

- Family contribution
  - Unemployment
  - Separation/divorce
  - Death
  - Financial reversals/improvements
  - Change in number in college

- “January Review”

- “Tentative” award letters
Got Cash?

- Short-term loans
  - Emergencies
- Refunds and advances
  - Plan for course packets
  - May have other expenses / charges during semester
- Computer purchases
  - Loan or Outside Scholarship, but not AC Grant
- Study abroad and domestic exchange
Lesser Known Amherst Tidbits

- All Students
  - Books and supplies – expenses in excess of standard budget covered by grant aid
  - Student Income Contribution Appeal
  - Replace student income contribution once in four years with grant aid if student was engaged in an unpaid internship or social service project
  - Dean’s discretionary grants (extraordinary situations)
  - Thesis expenses in excess of books and supplies allowance (maximum of $1,000)
  - Amherst Student Loan for “senior expenses” (maximum of $2,000)
Amherst Goes the Extra Mile

- Students with high financial need
  (Check with Financial Aid Office to see if you qualify.)
  - Start-up grant for first-year students
  - Expanded student expense budget for personal expenses
  - Reduced student income contribution (“summer savings”)
  - Coverage of uninsured medical and dental expenses ($5,000 a year maximum)
  - Dean’s discretionary grant for first $400 of “senior expenses”
  - Amherst Student Loan for summer or interterm make-up coursework
Taxability of Grant Aid

Information NOT to be Missed

- Scholarships and grants that exceed tuition, fees, required books, supplies and equipment
- Scholarships for specific “non-excludable” expenses
  - Health insurance scholarship
  - Dean’s discretionary grants
- Grant aid provided to cover tax attributable to scholarships and grants
Student Loans

- No initially packaged student loans
  - Includes study abroad and domestic exchange
  - Students may still borrow
    - Summer savings (student income contribution) shortfall
    - Replace work with loan in the aid package
    - Purchase a personal computer
    - Non-credit music coursework
  - Loan Fees change October 1st
What Do We Need From You?

- Check Net Partner
- Complete Student Employment Paperwork
  - When you have a job
- Complete Loan Paperwork
  - If applicable
Other Resources

- **Net Partner**
  - www.amherst.edu/go/NetPartner

- **Notes Concerning Your Financial Aid Award**
  - www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/Notes_Concerning

- **Disclosures and Further Information**
  - www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/Note_Concerning/disclosures

- **Federal Student Aid**

- **The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid**
  - http://www.finaid.org/
QUESTIONS

WHERE?

WHO?

WHAT?

WHEN?

HOW?