

Amherst College

PRESENTS

College, one on one.

Big questions and straightforward
answers about making college work.

Choosing a college can be a challenge.

Let's make it easier.

The conversation around college feels big, because it is big. But when you know which questions to ask, you can start finding answers that make it feel more manageable. Most conversations about college center on a few topics:

- Do you want to study a range of subjects or focus on one specific area?
- How will you pay for your college education, and what kind of financial aid is available?
- How will you make sure you're prepared to use your degree after graduation?
- Where do you want to study? A small town? A big city? Nearby or far away?

As one of the country's premier liberal arts colleges (and we'll talk more about what a liberal arts college is), Amherst College understands these big questions. We have experience helping people make the very most of college, and we're happy and honored to help you find the answers that are right for you.

Let's start now.

Statement of Non-Discrimination: Amherst College does not discriminate in admission, employment, or administration of its programs and activities on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex or gender (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity), age, disability, genetic information, military service, or any other characteristic or class protected under applicable federal, state, or local law. Amherst College complies with all state and federal laws that prohibit discrimination, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Equal Pay Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Amherst College, P.O. Box 5000, Amherst, MA 01002-5000.

Learning how to *learn*.

In almost every field, success is rooted in a strong love for learning. The liberal arts approach to education establishes a foundation for you to succeed in your life and your career.



A liberal arts education prepares you to explore deeply—not just in specific subjects, but also where different subjects overlap—which teaches you to address complex problems with creative solutions.

At big state universities, professors prioritize conducting and publishing research. Professors at smaller liberal arts colleges focus more on teaching and mentoring. Professors and students often partner on research, presenting and publishing it together, and building genuine connections along the way.

Most of all, a liberal arts approach gives you the skills to adapt to changing technology and new industries. In that way, a liberal arts education is the most practical option of all: it equips you to be successful today and in the future.

QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

Here are a few places to begin the conversation about whether a liberal arts education is right for you.

- 1 What subjects excite you most?
- 2 What subjects push you out of your comfort zone?
- 3 What are you curious about?
- 4 How do you like to learn?

Seek out answers worth knowing.

With Amherst's open curriculum, you're free to explore academic subjects deeply, broadly, and wherever intellect and curiosity lead.

Earning a liberal arts degree at Amherst looks a little different. Our open curriculum means that there are no core courses required of you, so from your very first semester, you can choose the classes that are most meaningful to you. You might study chemistry through the lens of art preservation. Your friend might conduct neuroscience research on another continent, while your roommate tutors children in a nearby town. Amherst's open curriculum gives you the support and freedom to explore your academic passions with flexibility, independence and creativity.



FLEXIBILITY

You can tailor the courses you choose to meet a diverse range of interests and career goals.



INDEPENDENCE

Coursework is guided by what best suits your personal and professional aspirations.



CREATIVITY

When you study established subjects in unexpected contexts, new ideas flourish and spread.

Through our open curriculum, your academic pathway is your own, and you can make profound contributions to your area of academic passion.



Explore the Amherst way of learning:
[AMHERST.EDU/ACADEMICLIFE](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife)

Graduate with a degree in *adaptability.*

The best education is one that prepares you to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Pursuing a degree in a high-paying profession makes sense. While a person with a degree can qualify for a great job right away, your education can also give you unique advantages.

With a liberal arts education, you learn how to think about things from different points of view. Beyond teaching you technical skills that can quickly grow outdated, a liberal arts education prepares you to collaborate with others, lead with confidence, and take on the most complex problems.

These qualities make a person highly adaptable. And being ready to change, grow and meet new demands is how to achieve career success—today, tomorrow and in the years to come.



An *Amherst* take on the world.

Preparing for your next step in life starts with your first step. And at Amherst College, that step happens at the Loeb Center.

The Loeb Center for Career Exploration and Planning is here to prepare students for everything beyond graduation. At the Loeb, you'll find personalized guidance to help you land an internship, break through on LinkedIn, nail the interview and negotiate the job offer.

SEE WHERE MAMMOTHS ROAM.*

Amherst graduates secure positions with a diverse range of notable employers.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Goldman Sachs

Microsoft

Deloitte

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

A sampling of graduate and professional schools attended by Amherst graduates.

Harvard University

Stanford University

Carnegie Mellon University

Northwestern University

University of Oxford

*Amherst's mascot is a Mammoth, by the way.

QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

Have a conversation about what you want out of a college degree. Let these questions get you started.

1 Who are some people you admire for the impact they've made in the world?

2 What step do you imagine next for yourself after college?

3 What contributions to your community are you most proud of?



See how the Loeb Center sets you up for life after Amherst: [CAREERS.AMHERST.EDU](https://careers.amherst.edu)

What you study in college can be just as important as how and where you study.

Study what matters to you in a place where you can feel at home.



**CHOOSING
WHERE TO STUDY**

Finding *your* place.

Where you study can be as important as what you study.

College settings can vary wildly, and all have different advantages. A small, rural town can help a student focus on their classes, but might feel isolating. An urban campus can be exciting, but might feel overwhelming. No location is right for everyone, but there are enough different colleges out there that there's most certainly a setting that's best for you.

**QUESTIONS
WORTH ASKING**

What kind of college location would be best for how you learn? Should it be:

- 1 Close to home or far away?
- 2 In a small town or an urban neighborhood?
- 3 Walkable or drivable?
- 4 Filled with activities or focused on studies?

Finding *your* way around Amherst.

A town, a college and a whole lot going on. Amherst is a place full of possibilities, and quite possibly something for everyone.

Amherst can feel like a place filled with contradictions. Historic buildings and modern facilities. An intimate campus that encompasses a 500-acre wildlife sanctuary. Face one way, and you'll see mountain and valley vistas. Turn around, and you're in a town full of shops and restaurants, all alive with a distinctive local culture.

Visit in person. You'll discover a town and a college so special, there's really no other way to say it: There's no place more Amherst than Amherst.

**FIVE THINGS YOU'LL LOVE ABOUT
LIVING IN AND LEARNING AT AMHERST:**

Study broadly in the Five College Consortium: fivecollege.edu.

Roam freely with free access to the PVTA bus system.

Pal around with 31,000 students at five colleges in a 10-mile radius.

Live local all four years, on a fully residential campus with every amenity.

Hang close: Downtown Amherst is a quick walk away.



Check out all there is to do when you're here:
AMHERST.EDU/CAMPUSLIFE/TOWN-LIFE

How to speak financial aid.



College is expensive, but most institutions will try to make it affordable.

When your application is accepted by a college, you'll typically receive an offer of financial aid. Here are some terms you'll likely encounter, and what they all mean:

COST OF ATTENDANCE: The total price — **tuition** plus **all other costs**.

<p>TUITION The cost of classes.</p>	<p>ALL OTHER COSTS Campus housing, books, class materials, fees and personal expenses.*</p>
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OFFER OF FINANCIAL AID: The college's offer to lower your cost of attendance, which may include loans, grants, scholarships or work study, all based on your family's calculated financial need.

<p>CALCULATED FINANCIAL NEED What a family can reasonably contribute to the cost of attendance, as determined by the college.</p>	<p>MERIT AID Discounts applied for reasons other than financial need, such as academic performance.</p>	<p>NEED-BASED AID Loans and grants based on a family's financial circumstances.</p>
<p>GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS Discounts to the cost of attendance that don't need to be repaid.</p>	<p>LOANS Money borrowed from government or private lenders.</p>	<p>WORK-STUDY A campus job that acts as a type of financial aid.</p>

Two other terms you might encounter.

<p>BILLED EXPENSES The costs that a college will bill you directly for—also the costs that loans and grants will pay first—such as tuition, fees, housing and a prepaid meal plan.</p>	<p>UNBILLED EXPENSES The other costs of going to college (such as books, class materials,* travel and personal expenses) that may or may not be covered by a grant or loan.</p>
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*At Amherst, course materials (including books) are part of your billed expenses, not an additional cost you have to work out once you're on campus.



Affording Amherst.

QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

Start the conversation about affording college with these questions.

- 1 What plans are in place for your family to pay for college?
- 2 How much debt are you willing or able to take on?
- 3 What resources are available to help you pay for college?
- 4 Do the schools you're applying to offer aid based on financial need, academic performance or both?

Here's how Amherst is committed to making college a manageable investment in a boundless future.

Amherst meets each student's full calculated financial need, regardless of citizenship status. Our goal is to help students graduate with minimal debt, and 78% of the Amherst class of 2023 graduated with no debt.

56% of students received financial aid.

\$68k was the average grant offered.

100% of calculated need was met with no required loans.

\$630k to \$900k On average, people with a college degree will earn this much more over their career, compared to people without a degree.*

*<https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/research-summaries/education-earnings.htm>



See how we can help your family afford an Amherst education:
AMHERST.EDU/ADMISSION/FINANCIAL_AID

Let's keep this conversation *going.*

College can be challenging and liberating. It can be expensive and priceless. But above all, it's a decision and a commitment that will impact the rest of your life.

We hope we've added insights and sparked some productive conversations for you. Most of all, we hope we've made this complicated topic just a little easier to talk about. Amherst College might be the right place for you, or there may be better options.

What's important to know is that there's an educational path that's right for you, and you're one step closer to finding where it begins. Ready?

Let's go.



P.S. If you're interested in Amherst, reach out to an admission counselor or student with your questions at

[AMHERST.EDU/GO/MEETSTUDENTS](https://amherst.edu/go/meetstudents)



Amherst
College

Office of Admission
P.O. Box 5000
Amherst, MA 01002-5000

COLLEGE IS A BIG THING.

You have big
questions.
*Let's find
answers.*



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