

IV

GENERAL REGULATIONS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS



General Regulations

This section includes a partial collection of Amherst College regulations and policies that apply to students. A complete set of regulations can be found in the *Student Handbook*. The *Student Handbook* includes the entire honor code, important information about sexual misconduct, college offices, the student government, extracurricular organizations, and various other regulations and policies. All new students are advised to read the full version of the *Handbook* upon entrance to the college in order to make themselves familiar with the resources that are available to them and the policies that apply to them throughout their time at Amherst. Other students should consult the online *Handbook* when needed. The *Student Handbook* is available online at: www.amherst.edu/campuslife/deanstudents/handbook.

TERMS AND VACATIONS

THE COLLEGE year 2015-16 includes two regular semesters, the first with 13 weeks and the second with 14 weeks of classes. In the fall semester are an October break and a Thanksgiving recess. After the winter recess, there is a January Interterm. In the spring semester there is a vacation of one week.

All official College vacations and holidays are announced on the College Calendar appearing at the beginning of this catalog.

The January Interterm is a three-week period between semesters free from the formal structures of regular classes, grades, and academic credit. It is, in essence, a time when each student may undertake independent study in a subject or area to which he or she might not have access during the normal course of the year.

Students may center their activities on the campus or elsewhere as they choose. They may read, write, paint, compose, or inquire into some question or concern as inclination, ingenuity, and resources permit. They may wish to explore further or more deeply a subject which has aroused their curiosity or about which they wish to know more.

CONDUCT

It is the belief of Amherst College that those engaged in education should be responsible for setting, maintaining, and supporting moral and intellectual standards. Those standards are assumed to be ones which will reflect credit on the College, its students, and its guests.

The College reserves the right to exclude at any time students whose conduct or academic standing it regards as unsatisfactory; in such cases fees are not refunded or remitted in whole or in part, and neither the College nor any of its officers consider themselves to be under any liability whatsoever for such exclusion.

All are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the principles set forth in the following three statements, which together comprise the Amherst College Honor Code. Failure to do so may in serious instances jeopardize the student's continued association with the College.

A. STATEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL RESPONSIBILITY AT AMHERST COLLEGE

Preamble

Every person's education is the product of his or her own intellectual effort and participation in a process of critical exchange. Amherst cannot educate those who are unwilling to submit their own work and ideas to critical assessment. Nor can it tolerate those who interfere with the participation of others in the critical process. Therefore, the College considers it a violation of the requirements of intellectual

responsibility to submit work that is not one's own or otherwise to subvert the conditions under which academic work is performed by oneself or by others.

Article I: Student Responsibility

Section 1. In undertaking studies at Amherst College every student agrees to abide by the above statement.

Section 2. Students must review the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility via the Registrar's Webpage at the beginning of each semester. It is the responsibility of each student to read and understand this Statement and to inquire as to its implications in his or her specific courses.

Section 3. Orderly and honorable conduct of examinations is the individual and collective responsibility of the students concerned in accordance with the above Statement and Article II, Section 3, below.

Article II: Faculty Responsibility

Section 1. Promotion of the aims of the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility is a general responsibility of the Faculty.

Section 2. Every member of the Faculty has a specific responsibility to explain the implications of the statement for each of his or her courses, including a specification of the conditions under which academic work in those courses is to be performed. At the beginning of each semester all members of the Faculty should review the Statement of Intellectual Responsibility via the Registrar's Webpage; they are reminded of their duty to explain its implications in each course.

Section 3. Examinations shall not be proctored unless an instructor judges that the integrity of the assessment process is clearly threatened. An instructor may be present at examinations at appropriate times to answer questions.

B. STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DISSENT

Amherst College prizes and defends freedom of speech and dissent. It affirms the right of teachers and students to teach and learn, free from coercive force and intimidation and subject only to the constraints of reasoned discourse and peaceful conduct. It also recognizes that such freedoms and rights entail responsibility for one's actions. Thus, every student bears the responsibility to protect the rights of all to express their views so long as there is neither use nor threat of force nor interference with the rights of others. Demonstrated cases of disruption of classes (whether, for example, by the abridgement of free expression in a class or by obstructing access to the place in which the class normally meets) or similarly of other academic activities will be regarded as serious breaches of this Statement and community standards and will receive appropriate sanctions.

C. STATEMENT OF RESPECT FOR PERSONS

Respect for the rights, dignity and integrity of others is essential for the well-being of a community. Actions by any person that do not reflect such respect for others are damaging to each member of the community and hence damaging to Amherst College. Each member of the community should be free from interference, discrimination, intimidation, sexual harassment or disparagement in the classroom; the social, recreational and residential environment; or the work place. Any behavior which constitutes sexual harassment or other verbal or physical abuse of any member of the community for reasons that include but are not limited to race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic identification, age, political affiliation or belief, sexual orientation, gender, economic status or physical or mental disability will be regarded as a serious violation of the Honor Code, and anyone found guilty of such behavior will be disciplined.

Harassment

Amherst College does not condone harassment of any kind, against any group or individual, because of race, religion, ethnic identification, age, handicap, gender or sexual orientation. Such harassment is clearly in conflict with the interests of the College as an educational community and in many cases with provisions of law.

The Title IX Committee, appointed by the President, completed a comprehensive review of College sexual harassment statements and definitions. Effective May 2013, a detailed Sexual Misconduct Policy, including conduct procedures, definitions and resources, can be found at <https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/deanstudents/handbook/studentrights#AppC>.

Sexual Harassment

Amherst College is committed to establishing and maintaining an environment free of all forms of harassment. Sexual harassment breaches the trust that is expected and required in order for members of an educational community to be free to learn and work. It is a form of discrimination because it unjustly deprives a person of equal treatment. Sexual harassment can injure anyone who is subjected to it, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

The College's policy on sexual harassment is directed towards behavior and does not purport to regulate beliefs, attitudes, or feelings. It is based on federal and state law, which prohibit certain specific forms of sexual harassment; on the College's Statement on Respect for Persons, which requires that a person's sex and sexual orientation be treated with respect; and on the following statement on sexual harassment passed by the Faculty on May 23, 1985:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic work, or participation in social or extracurricular activities; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting the individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or demeaning working, academic or social environment.

The College believes that sexual harassment, besides being intrinsically harmful and illegal, also corrupts the integrity of the educational process.

Because it is possible for one person to act unintentionally in a manner that sexually harasses another, it is imperative that all members of the College community understand what kinds of behavior constitute sexual harassment. Hence, we provide here a general description of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment occurs when one person attempts to coerce another into a sexual relationship, or to punish a refusal to respond to or comply with sexual advances. Attempts to subject a person to unwanted attention of a sexual character, sexual slurs or derogatory language directed at another person's sexuality or gender also can be forms of sexual harassment. Thus, sexual harassment can include a wide range of behavior, from the actual coercing of sexual relations to the forcing of sexual attentions, verbal or physical, on a non-consenting individual. It is also possible that sexual harassment can occur unintentionally when behavior of a sexual nature has the effect of creating a hostile environment. In some cases, sexual harassment is obvious and may involve an overt action, a threat, or reprisal. In other instances, sexual harassment is subtle and indirect, with a coercive aspect that is unstated.

Sexual harassment also occurs when a position of authority is used to threaten the imposition of penalty or the withholding of benefit unless sexual favors are granted, whether or not the threat is carried out. Sexual harassment, when it exploits the authority the institution gives its employees, or otherwise compromises the boundary between personal and professional roles, is an abuse of the power the College entrusts to them. The potential for sexual harassment exists in any sexual relationship between a student and a member of the faculty, administration or staff. Anyone in a position of authority should thoroughly understand the potential for coercion in sexual relationships between persons who are professionally affiliated. These relationships may involve persons in a position of authority over their colleagues (e.g., tenured faculty and non-tenured faculty; administrators and staff); or they may involve those who teach, advise or supervise students.

Sexual harassment also takes the form of unwanted attention among peers. Sexual harassment by peers may have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or demeaning environment. Sexual harassment by peers can occur between strangers, casual acquaintances, hall-mates, and even friends.

Because sexual harassment is a direct violation of the College's "Statement on Respect for Persons," Amherst College will seriously and thoroughly investigate any complaints of sexual harassment and will discipline those found guilty. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual harassment by a member of the faculty should consult the section on "Seeking Redress in Cases of Sexual Harassment" and "The Resolution of Student Grievances with Members of the Faculty or Administration" in the *Student Handbook*. The *Faculty Handbook* gives further information about grievance procedures. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual harassment by a peer should consult the student-student grievance procedures in the *Student Handbook*.

Consensual Sexual Relationships Between Faculty Members and Students

Experience has shown that consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and students can lead to harassment. Faculty members should understand the potential for coercion in sexual relationships with students with whom the faculty members also have instructional, advisory or supervisory relationships.

Even when such relationships do not lead to harassment, they can compromise the integrity of the educational process. The objectivity of evaluations which occur in making recommendations or assigning grades, honors, and fellowships may be called into question when a faculty member involved in those functions has or has had a sexual relationship with a student.

For these reasons, the College does not condone and, in fact, strongly discourages consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and students. The College requires a faculty member to remove himself or herself from any supervisory, evaluative, advisory, or other pedagogical role involving a student with whom he or she has had or currently has a sexual relationship. Since the absence of this person may deprive the student of educational, advising, or career opportunities, both parties should be mindful of the potential costs to the student before entering into a sexual relationship.

In cases in which it proves necessary, the Dean of the Faculty, in consultation with the Dean of Students and the Chair (or Head) of the relevant department, will evaluate the student's situation and take measures to prevent deprivation of educational and advising opportunities. The appropriate officers of the College will have the authority to make exceptions to normal academic rules and policies that are warranted by the circumstances.

ATTENDANCE AT COLLEGE EXERCISES

It is assumed that students will make the most of the educational opportunities available by regularly attending classes and laboratory periods. At the beginning of the semester, all instructors are free to state the policy with regard to absences from their courses. Thereafter, they may take such action as they deem appropriate, or report to the class deans the names of any students who disregard the regulations announced.

Students are asked to notify the Office of Student Affairs if they have been delayed at home by illness or family emergencies. They are also requested to report any unusual or unexplained absences from the College on the part of any fellow students.

Students who have received medical care at home should, as soon as possible, on or before the day of their return, report their absence to the Office of Student Affairs and submit a statement concerning their illness and any recommended treatment to Amherst College Health Services. Students who are ill at College will normally be attended at the College Health Service or will be referred to the University of Massachusetts University Health Services by the Staff Physician. It is assumed that all students not excused by the College physician are well enough to attend their regular classes.

The responsibility for any work missed due to an illness or other absence rests entirely upon the student.

Details about student health and medical programs are provided in the *Student Handbook*.

RECORDS AND REPORTS

Grades in courses are reported in three categories:

Passing Grades = A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, Pass

Failing Grade = F

Term averages and cumulative averages are reported on a 14-point scale rounded to the nearer whole number. The conversion equivalents are: A+ = 14, A = 13, A- = 12; B+ = 11, B = 10, B- = 9; C+ = 8, C = 7, C- = 6; D = 4, F = 1. A Pass does not affect a student's average.

Midterm warning letters are sent to students who receive grade of D or F after the end of the seventh week of classes each semester. Midterm warning grades are also available online. A report of all grades and averages is available online after the end of each semester.

Students may only retake courses for which they have received a failing grade or from which they have withdrawn in a prior semester.

The academic records and averages of Amherst College students completing Five College Interchange courses at Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts will include these courses and grades; no separate transcripts are maintained at the other institutions for Amherst College students.

"Rank in class" will not be used, but transcripts and grade reports will be accompanied by a profile showing the distribution of cumulative averages for students of the same class level in the current and in the previous two years.

Student academic records are maintained by the Registrar's Office and are confidential; information is released only at the request of the student. Partial transcripts are not issued; each transcript must include the student's complete record at Amherst College to date. An official transcript carries an authorized signature as well as the embossed seal of Amherst College.

Transcripts of credit earned at other institutions, which have been presented to Amherst College for admission or transfer of credit, become a part of the student's permanent record but are not issued, reissued, or copied for distribution. With the exception of Five College Interchange courses, grades for courses that were transferred from other institutions including study abroad are not recorded; credit only

is listed on the Amherst transcript. Transcripts for all academic work at other institutions of higher education, including summer schools, should be requested directly from those institutions.

PASS/FAIL OPTION

Amherst College students may choose, with the permission of the instructor, a pass/fail arrangement in two of the 32 courses required for the degree, but not in more than one course in any one semester. The choice of a pass/fail alternative must be made by the last day of add/drop at the beginning of the semester and must have the approval of the student's instructor and all major advisors. No grade-point equivalent will be assigned to a "Pass," but courses taken on this basis will receive either a "P" or an "F" from the instructor, although in the regular evaluation of work done during the semester the instructor may choose to assign the usual grades for work submitted by students exercising this option. First-year students, who have the privilege of withdrawing from one course without grade penalty, and transfer students, who have the privilege of withdrawing from one course during their first semester at Amherst, must take no less than three graded courses in each semester.

EXAMINATIONS AND EXTENSIONS

Examinations are held at the end of each semester and at intervals in the year in many courses. At the end of each semester, final grades are reported and the record for the semester is closed. In conformity with the practice established by the Faculty, no extension of time is allowed for intraterm papers, examinations and incomplete laboratory or other course work beyond the date of the last scheduled class period of the semester, unless an extension is granted in writing by both the instructor and the class dean. Students will not be allowed to register or participate in add/drop for the subsequent term until all grades from their last semester are recorded by the Registrar.

A student who is prevented by illness from attending a semester examination may be granted the privilege of a special examination by the instructor and the class dean, who will arrange the date of the examination with the instructor. There are no second or make-up semester examinations, unless a student is prevented by illness from taking such an examination at the scheduled time.

A semester examination may be postponed only by approval of the instructor and the class dean.

Only for medical reasons or those of grave personal emergency will extensions be granted beyond the second day after the examination period.

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWALS AND MEDICAL LEAVES

The College has traditionally recognized the educational and personal rewards that many students receive from a semester or two away from the campus. Occasionally, faculty members, advisors, or deans may suggest that students withdraw from formal studies to gain fresh perspectives on their intellectual commitments, career plans, or educational priorities. Family circumstances, medical problems, declining motivation, and other factors commonly encountered by students may require that they remain away from the College for more than the usual College vacation periods. The College, therefore, encourages students to consider carefully their situations, to clarify their objectives, and to decide for themselves whether they should temporarily interrupt their study at the College and take voluntary withdrawals or medical leaves.

Students who wish to explore the advantages and disadvantages of voluntary withdrawals or medical leaves should confer with the Office of Student Affairs, College and departmental advisors, resident counselors and parents. Some students

will also find it beneficial to discuss their situations and tentative plans with the Registrar, the Study Abroad Advisor, the foreign language departments, the Career Center and the Dean of Financial Aid.

To ensure that students have ample time for changing their status with the College and to allow the College to maintain full use of its educational facilities, all students considering voluntary withdrawals should speak with their class deans and advisors with as much advance notice as possible. Students who fail to give advance notice of their plans may not be guaranteed housing for the semester in which they prefer to return.

Prior to the seventh week of any semester, students may choose to withdraw voluntarily without their final grades being recorded. However, unless granted exemptions for medical reasons or grave personal emergencies by the Committee on Academic Standing or the Office of Student Affairs, students who withdraw after the seventh week of a semester will withdraw with penalty and have final grades for that semester recorded on their permanent academic records. Refunds of tuition, deposits and fees are treated according to the College policy stated on page 56 of this Catalog. When withdrawals have been approved by the class deans and faculty advisors, the deans will specify any readmission requirements in writing and will indicate what academic work, if any, must be completed prior to readmission. Sufficient medical documentation is required to support requests for medical leave and again prior to readmission to evaluate readiness to return to studies.

Students considering voluntary withdrawals or medical leaves should also read the section on Readmission. Information about educational leaves can be found on page 45.

INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWALS

The College reserves the right to exclude at any time students whose conduct it regards as unsatisfactory, or students who experience medical or behavioral needs requiring a level of support that cannot reasonably be provided while living in residence or participating in an academic program. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to: A student engages in, or is at significant risk of engaging in, behavior that could result in physical harm to self or other(s); manifests an inability to attend to personal needs related to food, shelter, personal safety and general well-being, such that there is a reasonable possibility of serious physical harm; behaves in a manner that interferes substantially with the rightful daily activities of members of the College or surrounding community, with the educational and/or residential environment, or with the orderly operation of the College, including behavior that imposes a significant burden on the College's human resources needed for continued management of such behavior; fails to pay term bill by the stated due date; fails to provide required immunization records by the stated deadline; fails to register as required at the beginning of each term or fails to have all course grades recorded for the prior term.

In addition, a student who has been granted make-up examinations or extensions of time beyond the end of the term in order to avoid failing those courses, may be required to take a withdrawal. In such cases, fees are not refunded or remitted in whole or in part and neither the College nor any of its officers will have any liability whatsoever for such exclusion. When withdrawals have been imposed by the class deans, the deans will specify any readmission requirements in writing and will indicate what academic work, if any, must be completed prior to readmission. All readmission requirements must be completed by August 15 for fall or January 5 for spring or the student will not be allowed to return and will need to begin the readmission process again for the next academic semester. Students may appeal an involuntary withdrawal to the Dean of Students or designee.

Students anticipating return from leave should also read the next section on Readmission.

READMISSION

All students requesting readmission after voluntary withdrawals, involuntary withdrawals, medical leaves, and academic dismissals and all students on educational leaves who wish to return for the fall semester should write to their class deans as early as possible, but before March 15. For students planning to return for the spring semester, the letters should be received by the College before November 1.

Provisional Administrative Readmission following leave may be offered by the Office of Student Affairs to facilitate processes such as pre-registration and housing where appropriate. However, students must complete all readmission requirements by August 15 for fall and January 5 for spring.

In some cases, additional information, such as an interview on-campus, may be requested. Readmission requests from students seeking to return from academic dismissals and, in some cases from medical leaves, voluntary and involuntary withdrawals, will be referred to the Committee on Academic Standing or the Office of Student Affairs. In these cases, detailed letters requesting readmission, accompanied by grade reports of courses taken at an approved college or university, letters from employers, medical documentation, and other documents supporting the readmission requests should be sent to the Office of Student Affairs. Students on educational leaves should simply confirm their intention of returning to the campus before the above stated dates. Failure to meet these deadlines will jeopardize students' opportunities to participate in the student residence room selection.

TRANSFER POLICY

Amherst College students who are considering transferring to other institutions should understand that the College will not readmit those who choose to become degree candidates at other colleges and universities. All Amherst College students who transfer to and enroll as degree candidates at other institutions will forfeit their opportunity to re-enroll in the College. Before arranging to transfer, students should discuss their plans and options with their class dean.

Students who plan to attend other colleges and universities while on educational leave or as participants in exchange programs must have explicit written understanding with Amherst College as well as confirmation from host schools that they will be enrolled as visitors, rather than as degree candidates. (See Academic Credit from Other Institutions.)

DELINQUENCIES

At the midpoint and end of each semester, the academic records of all students are reviewed by the class deans and the Committee on Academic Standing. Those students who have failed to meet minimum academic requirements are dismissed from the College. The academic records of others about whom the Committee has some concern are also carefully examined. Depending on the degree of difficulty a student has experienced, he/she may be regularly reviewed, issued an academic warning or placed on probation. Students who, by failing a course, incur a deficiency in the number of courses required for normal progress toward graduation are expected to make up that course deficiency before being permitted to register for the next academic year. (See Course Requirements.)

Students belonging to one or more of the following groups may not expect to continue at Amherst College:

- a. Those who in any semester fail in two or more courses. Withdrawal from a course while failing it shall count as a failure.*
- b. Those who in any semester fail a course and receive an average of less than 7 in courses passed.*
- c. Those who in any semester pass all courses but receive an average of less than 6.
- d. Those who have accumulated delinquencies in three or more courses during their college careers.
- e. Those who have been on probation and have failed to meet the conditions of their probation.

Normally, a student dismissed from the College for reasons of unsatisfactory academic performance, will not be eligible for readmission until he or she has been away from the College for two semesters. During the period of academic dismissal (separation from the College) the student is usually expected to demonstrate readiness to return by simultaneously completing and passing at least two liberal arts courses at another accredited college or university each with grades of C or higher (a C- is not satisfactory). The courses must be approved (in advance) by the Registrar and the class dean before the student enrolls. The student will be granted credit towards his/her Amherst degree for deficiencies only. Any remaining course deficiencies, after the two-course requirement has been met, must be completed before returning. Other conditions for readmission shall be set forth clearly in writing and must be met by the student before he or she can be considered for readmission to the College. (See section on Readmission.)

Students who have been suspended from their studies for an academic or disciplinary infraction may not participate in educational leave (see page 68). Academic or disciplinary warning may also prohibit a student from studying abroad until he or she is in good standing and can discuss this scenario with the Director of Education Abroad.

A student readmitted to the College following an academic dismissal returns on academic warning.

Students taking courses in a summer school to make up a deficiency incurred at Amherst College must have their summer school courses approved in advance by the Registrar. The College does not grant transfer credit for courses completed with a grade below "C".

HOUSING AND MEAL PLANS

Residence Hall and Theme House student rooms are equipped with a bed, mattress, bureau, desk, chairs, and a bookcase or shelves for students to utilize during the academic year. Occupants are responsible for linens and other personal needs. Students may not add personal beds, sofas, lounges, or other large furniture without approval from the Office of Residential Life. More complete regulations for housing are contained in the *Student Handbook*.

All students living on campus, except for those students living in the Humphries House Cooperative, are required to subscribe to a meal plan for use in Valentine Dining Hall. Valentine Hall is able and willing to accommodate students with special dietary needs.

Students with unique circumstances who want to live off campus should apply for permission to live off campus via the housing website. First-year students, unless specifically excused by the Dean of Students, are required to live in on campus or with relatives.

* See Degree Requirements.

Degree Requirements

BACHELOR OF ARTS

THE DEGREE Bachelor of Arts is conferred upon students who have satisfactorily met the requirements described below. The plan of studies leading to this degree is arranged on the basis of the equivalent of an eight-semester course of study to be pursued by students in residence at Amherst College.

The degree Bachelor of Arts *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude* (Degree with Honors) is awarded to students who have successfully completed an approved program of Honors work with a department or program.

Other students who satisfactorily meet requirements as indicated below receive the degree, Bachelor of Arts, *rite*.

REQUIREMENTS

Each student is responsible for meeting all degree requirements and for ensuring that the Registrar's Office has received all credentials.

The Bachelor of Arts degree is awarded to students who:

1. Complete 32 full semester courses *and* four years (eight semesters) of residence,* except that a student who has dropped a course without penalty during the first year, or who has failed a course during the first or second year, shall be allowed to graduate, provided he or she has been four years in residence at the College and has satisfactorily completed 31 full courses.

Transfer students must complete 32 full semester courses or their equivalent, at least 16 of them at Amherst, and at least two years of residence at Amherst, except that a transfer student who has dropped a course without penalty during his or her first semester at Amherst shall be allowed to graduate with one less full course.

2. Complete the requirements for a major in a department or a group of departments, including a satisfactory performance in the comprehensive evaluation. Standard full courses are equal to four semester credits each. Half courses are equal to two semester credits. Our course system considers all standard full courses to have equal weight toward completing the degree requirements. Courses typically meet for at least three hours a week, with the expectation that additional time may be spent in lab, discussion, studio, film viewing, or preparatory work.

3. Attain a general average of 6 in the courses completed at Amherst and a grade of at least C in every course completed at another institution for transfer credit to Amherst.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students except Independent Scholars are required to elect four full courses each semester and may elect an additional half course. The election of a half course in addition to the normal program is at the discretion of the student and without special permission. A student may not elect more than one half course in any semester

* In exceptional cases, a student with at least six semesters of residence at Amherst and at least 24 courses, excluding summer school courses not taken as make-up work or recognized as part of a transfer record, may apply for early graduation. Students seeking to graduate before they have satisfied the normal 32-course requirement will have the quality of their achievement thoroughly evaluated. The approval of the student's advisor, department, the Dean of Faculty, the Committee of Six, and finally the Faculty must be received to be granted the status of candidate for the degree.

except by consent of his or her class dean and the departments concerned. In such cases the student's program will be three full courses and two half courses. Half courses are not normally included in the 32-course requirement for graduation.

In exceptional cases a student may, with the permission of both his and her academic advisor and class dean, take five full courses for credit during a given semester. Such permission is normally granted only to students of demonstrated superior academic ability, responsibility, and will. Fifth courses cannot be used to accelerate graduation. On occasion, a student who has failed a course may be permitted to take a fifth course in a given semester if, in the judgment of the Committee on Academic Standing, this additional work can be undertaken without prejudice to the student's regular program. Students may only retake a course for which they have received a failing grade or from which they have withdrawn in a prior semester.

A student who by failing a course incurs a deficiency in the number of courses required for normal progress toward graduation is usually expected to make up that course deficiency by taking a three- or four-semester hour course at another approved institution during the summer prior to the first semester of the next academic year and no later than the semester prior to the student's last semester at Amherst.

A student may not add a course to his/her program after the last day of add/drop at the beginning of each semester or drop a course after this date except as follows:

First-year students who experience severe academic difficulty may petition the Dean of New Students for permission to drop one course without penalty during their first year. The Dean of New Students, in consultation with the instructor and advisor, will decide on the basis of the student's educational needs whether or not to grant the petition. Petitions to withdraw from a course will normally be accepted only during the sixth, seventh, and eighth weeks of either the first or the second semester. Exceptions to this rule shall be made only for disabling medical reasons or reasons of grave personal emergency, and shall be made only by the Dean of New Students.

Transfer students may petition their class dean to drop one course without penalty during the sixth, seventh, and eighth weeks of their first semester at Amherst. They must follow the petition procedure described above. The class dean, in consultation with the student's instructor and advisor, will decide whether or not to grant this petition.

For sophomores, juniors, and seniors, exceptions to the rule prohibiting the dropping of a course after the ninth calendar day of the semester shall be made only for disabling medical reasons or reasons of grave personal emergency, and shall be made only by the Dean of Student Affairs in consultation with the student's class dean.

Courses taken by a student after withdrawing from Amherst College, as part of a graduate or professional program in which that student is enrolled, are not applicable toward an Amherst College undergraduate degree.

THE LIBERAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Under the Liberal Studies Curriculum, the first-year students are required to take a First-Year Seminar. These courses are planned and taught by one or more members of the Faculty as a way to introduce students to liberal studies through a range of innovative and often interdisciplinary approaches. The subject matter of the courses varies, as do the capabilities they seek to encourage. Each seminar constitutes an inquiry-based introduction to critical thinking and active learning at the college level. To achieve this goal, all courses have an enrollment limit of approximately 15 students and provide discussion-based classes, writing attentive instruction with

frequent and varied assignments, close reading and critical interpretation of written texts, and careful attention to the analysis of argument in speech and writing. The courses offered for fall 2015 are described on pages 82-90.

Amherst's liberal studies curriculum is based on a concept of education as a process or activity rather than a form of production. The curriculum provides a structure within which each student may confront the meaning of his or her education, and does it without imposing a particular course or subject on all students. Students are encouraged to continue to seek diversity and attempt integration through their course selection and to discuss this with their advisors.

Under the curriculum, most members of the Faculty serve as academic advisors to students. Every student has a College Advisor until he or she declares a major, no later than the end of the sophomore year; thereafter each student will have a Major Advisor from the student's field of concentration. As student and advisor together plan a student's program, they should discuss whether the student has selected courses that:

- develop fundamental capabilities such as critical reading, written and oral expression, quantitative reasoning, and proficiency in using information resources;
- achieve breadth of understanding through study in a range of disciplines and modes of inquiry.

THE MAJOR REQUIREMENT

Liberal education seeks to develop the student's awareness and understanding of the individual and of the world's physical and social environments. If one essential object in the design of education at Amherst is breadth of understanding, another purpose, equally important, is mastery of one or more areas of knowledge in depth. Upperclassmen are required to concentrate their studies—to select and pursue a major—in order to deepen their understanding: to gain specific knowledge of a field and its special concerns, and to master and appreciate the skills needed in that disciplined effort.

A major normally consists of at least eight courses pursued under the direction of a department or special group. A major may begin in either the first or second year and must be declared by the end of the second year. Students may change their majors at any time, provided that they will be able to complete the new program before graduation.

The major program can be devised in accordance with either of two plans:

DEPARTMENTAL MAJORS

Students may complete the requirement of at least eight courses within one department. They must complete at least six courses within one department and the remaining two courses in related fields approved by the department.

Some Amherst students may wish to declare a major in more than one department or program. This curricular option is available, although it entails special responsibilities. At Amherst, departments are solely responsible for defining the content and structure of an acceptable program of study for majors. Students who elect a double major must present the signatures of both academic advisors when registering for each semester's courses and they must, of course, fulfill the graduation requirements and comprehensive examinations established by two academic programs. In addition, double majors may not credit courses approved for either major toward the other without the explicit consent of an announced departmental policy or the

signature of a departmental chairperson. In their senior year, students with a double major must verify their approved courses with both academic advisors *before* registering for their last semester at the College.

INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJORS

Students with special needs who desire to construct an interdisciplinary major will submit a proposed program, endorsed by one or more professors from each of the departments concerned, to the Committee on Academic Standing and Special Majors. Under ordinary circumstances, the proposal will be submitted during the first semester of the junior year and not under any circumstances later than the eighth week of the second junior semester. The program will include a minimum of six upper-level courses and a thesis plan. Upon approval of the program by the Committee on Academic Standing and Special Majors, an ad hoc advisory committee of three professors appointed by the Committee will have all further responsibility for approving any possible modifications in the program, administering an appropriate comprehensive examination, reviewing the thesis and making recommendations for the degree with or without Honors. Information on preparation, form, and submission of proposed interdisciplinary programs is available in the Office of Student Affairs.

A part of the major requirement in every department is an evaluation of the student's comprehension in his or her major field of study. This evaluation may be based on a special written examination or upon any other performance deemed appropriate by each department. The mode of the evaluation need not be the same for all the majors within a department, and, indeed, may be designed individually to test the skills each student has developed.

The evaluation should be completed by the seventh week of the second semester of the senior year. Any student whose comprehension is judged to be inadequate will have two opportunities for reevaluation: one not later than the last day of classes of the second semester of the senior year, and the other during the next college year.

DEGREE WITH HONORS

The requirements for graduation with a degree with honors are as follows:

The degree Bachelor of Arts with Honors is awarded at graduation to students whose academic records give evidence of particular merit. Latin Honors are awarded to students completing a thesis within their major department or program. English honors are awarded to students solely on the basis of performance in course work. The awarding of both Latin and English honors will be made by the Faculty of the College, and will appear on the diploma. In making such awards, the Faculty will observe the following guidelines:

Latin Honors

1. Candidates eligible for the degree *summa cum laude* must have a minimum overall grade point average in the top 25% of their class and have received a recommendation of *summa* based on a thesis or comparable work from a department or program in which they have majored. In addition, the theses of candidates for the degree *summa cum laude* will be reviewed by the Committee of Six, who will transmit its recommendation to the Faculty. Candidates will also have their entire records reviewed by the Dean of the Faculty and the Committee of Six, who will transmit their recommendations to the Faculty.

2. Candidates eligible for the degree *magna cum laude* must have a minimum overall grade point average in the top 25% of their class and have received a recommendation of *magna* based on a thesis or comparable work from a department or program in which they have majored. Although each department or program may define additional criteria upon which it will base its recommendation, the candidate must submit a thesis or comparable work that is judged by the department or program to be of *magna* quality. Candidates will also qualify for the degree *magna cum laude* if they have been recommended for *summa cum laude* and are in the top 40% but not the top 25% of their class and have otherwise met the requirements for the degree *summa cum laude*.

3. Candidates eligible for the degree *cum laude* must have received a recommendation of *cum* based on a thesis or comparable work from a department or program in which they have majored. Although each department or program may define additional criteria upon which it will base its recommendation, the candidate must submit a thesis or comparable work that is judged by the department or program to be of *cum* quality. Students recommended for *summa cum laude* who are not in the top 40% of their class will graduate *cum laude*. Student recommended for *magna cum laude* who are not in the top 25% of their class will graduate *cum laude*.

Distinction

Candidates eligible for a degree with Distinction must have an overall grade point average in the top 25% of their class.

INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

A limited number of students who elect to do so may participate in an Independent Scholar Program, usually in the junior or senior years in lieu of a traditional major program. Participants are chosen by the four-member Faculty Committee on Academic Standing and Special Majors, which includes the Dean of Student Affairs, after nomination for the program by a member of the Faculty. Independent Scholars are free to plan a personal program of study under the direction of a tutor, chosen by the student with the advice and consent of the Committee. The tutor provides the guidance and counsel necessary to help the student attain the educational objectives he or she has set. The tutor and one or more other members of the Faculty familiar with the student's work will ultimately assign a comprehensive grade and provide a detailed, written evaluation of the student's performance which will become part of the individual's formal record at Amherst College. Grades in such regular courses as the student may elect will be taken into account in assigning the comprehensive grade, and the student is eligible for a degree with Honors, as well as all other awards and distinctions. An Independent Scholar who studies away from the College may be eligible for a tuition reduction.

FIELD STUDY

The Faculty has instituted a program of Field Study under which students may pursue a course of study away from Amherst for either one or two semesters. Students are admitted to the program by the Committee on Academic Standing and Special Majors after approval of their written proposal and are assigned a Field Study Advisor chosen from the Faculty.

Upon being admitted to Field Study, students become candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Field Study, which is normally attained in four-and-one-half or five years. During the first semester in residence at Amherst after the period of Field Study, students must take a Special Topics course, normally with their Field Study Advisor, in which they draw on both their experience of Field Study and fur-

ther investigation relating to it. Students may also pursue a related Special Topics course in the semester before they enter their program of Field Study.

Students pursuing a two-semester plan of Field Study will be allowed to continue after the first semester only upon providing evidence to the Committee that they are satisfactorily carrying out their program. No student shall begin study in the field later than the first semester of the senior year.

Students pursuing Field Study shall maintain themselves financially in the field, and during the period shall pay a Field Study fee of \$50 to the College in lieu of tuition.

The transcript of a student who has undertaken Field Study shall include a short description and appraisal by the Field Advisor of the student's project and of the related Special Topics course.

FIVE COLLEGE COURSES

Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts have for some time combined their academic activities in selected areas for the purpose of extending and enriching their collective educational resources. Certain specialized courses not ordinarily available at the undergraduate level are operated jointly and open to all. In addition, students in good standing at any of the five institutions may take a course, without cost, at any of the other four if the course is significantly different from any offered on their own campus and they have the necessary qualifications.

The course must have a bearing on the educational plan arranged by the student and his or her advisor. Professional, technical and vocational courses are not generally open for Five College interchange credit. Those courses accrue credit toward degrees other than the Bachelor of Arts degree which is offered at Amherst College. Individual exceptions must be approved by both advisor and Dean of the Faculty on the basis of the student's complete academic program at the College.

The Premedical Committee reminds health pre-professional students that required courses (biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics) should normally be taken at Amherst College and not at other Five College institutions.

To enroll in a Five College course, an Amherst student must have the approval of his or her advisor and the Dean of the Faculty. Only under special circumstances will permission be granted by the advisor and the Dean of the Faculty for an Amherst student to enroll in more than two Five College courses per semester. If permission to enroll in a course is required for students of the institution at which the course is offered, students from the other Five Colleges must also obtain the instructor's permission to enroll.

Free bus transportation among the five institutions is available for interchange students.

Students interested in such courses will find more information on the Registrar's website. Lists of courses being offered by the other institutions are accessible there and on the other institutions' websites.

Other aspects of Five College cooperation are described in the *Student Handbook*.

ACADEMIC CREDIT FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Amherst College does not grant academic credit for work completed at other institutions of higher education unless it meets one of the following criteria: (1) each course offered as part of a transfer record has been completed and accepted by the College prior to matriculation at Amherst; (2) the work is part of an exchange program of study in the United States or abroad approved in advance by a class dean and the Registrar; or (3) the work has been approved by the Registrar as appropri-

ate to make up a deficiency deriving from work not completed or failed at Amherst College (see Delinquencies); (4) The work has been approved by the Registrar as appropriate to meet conditions of involuntary leave or medical withdrawal.

COOPERATIVE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

A cooperative Doctor of Philosophy program has been established by Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts. The degree is awarded by the University of Massachusetts, but some, perhaps much—and in a few exceptional cases even all—of the work leading to the degree might be done in one or more of the other institutions.

When a student has been awarded a degree under this program, the fact that it is a cooperative doctoral degree involving Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts will be indicated on the diploma, the permanent record, and all transcripts, as well as on the commencement program.

The requirements for the degree are identical to those for the Ph.D. degree at the University of Massachusetts except for the statement relating to “residence.” For the cooperative Ph.D. degree “residence” is defined as the institution where the dissertation is being done.

Students interested in this program should write to the Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts. However, a student who wishes to work under the direction of a member of the Amherst Faculty must have the proposal approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Amherst College and by the Amherst Faculty Committee of Six.

ENGINEERING EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH DARTMOUTH

Introduction. The engineering exchange (or dual degree) program with Dartmouth is an arrangement, offered through the Twelve College Exchange, under which eligible Amherst College students may attend Dartmouth College for a year to take engineering science courses (chosen to be eligible for credit at Amherst College), leading ultimately to both an A.B. from Amherst and a B.E. from Dartmouth in five years. A student spends his or her first two years at Amherst, followed by a junior year at Dartmouth for engineering science coursework. The student returns to Amherst for senior year and graduates from Amherst with an A.B. in an Amherst College major. The student then has the option to return to Dartmouth for an additional year to complete a B.E. degree. Applications to the program are due each year on February 1 of sophomore year to spend junior year at Dartmouth.

Requirements: Students must have completed the prerequisite courses to apply and must follow Amherst college policies regarding withdrawals and course load. Courses at Dartmouth must be pre-approved by the Amherst College Registrar. Students must receive a minimum grade of “C” in the Dartmouth courses to receive Amherst College credit.

Prerequisite courses:

1. Calculus through vector calculus (MATH 111, 121, and 211)
2. Two semesters of introductory physics (PHYS 123 and 124 preferred, PHYS 116 and 117 accepted)
3. One semester of introductory chemistry
4. One semester of introductory computer science

Courses at Dartmouth:

Students spend three quarters at Dartmouth, taking three courses each quarter, including three common core engineering courses, 1-2 distributive core engineering courses, 1-2 gateway engineering courses, and 3 courses in the humanities or social sciences. The Amherst College Registrar may consult with the Dean of the Faculty or Amherst College departments to confirm whether a course could qualify for credit at Amherst based on a criterion that the course is consistent with the liberal arts. Final approval is at the discretion of the Registrar.

Common core courses: ENGS 21 (Introduction to Engineering), ENGS 22 (Systems), ENGS 23 (Distributed Systems and Fields).

Distributive core courses: ENGS 24 (Science of materials), ENGS 25 (Introduction to Thermodynamics), ENGS 26 (Control theory), ENGS 27 (Discrete and probabilistic systems).

Gateway courses:

- a. ENGS 31 (Digital Electronics)
- b. ENGS 32 (Electronics: Introduction to linear and digital circuits)
- c. ENGS 33 (Solid mechanics)
- d. ENGS 34 (Fluid dynamics)
- e. ENGS 35 (Biotechnology and biochemical engineering)
- f. ENGS 36 (Chemical engineering)
- g. ENGS 37 (Introduction to environmental engineering)

Senior year at Amherst: Students return to Amherst to complete an Amherst College major and graduate with an Amherst College degree. Students are encouraged to take additional advanced science and math courses during this year.

Fifth year at Dartmouth: Students returning for the fifth year take additional technical engineering courses that lead to a B.E. from Dartmouth.

Pre-approved courses. Final approval of courses for Amherst College credit is at the discretion of the Registrar. The following Dartmouth engineering courses have been pre-approved by the Registrar for Amherst College credit. Departments should be consulted for advice on whether courses could be used to satisfy departmental requirements.

ENGS 20: Introduction to Scientific Computing

ENGS 21: Introduction to Engineering

ENGS 22: Systems

ENGS 23: Distributed Systems and Fields

ENGS 24: Science of Materials

ENGS 25: Introduction to Thermodynamics

ENGS 26: Control Theory

ENGS 27: Discrete and Probabilistic Systems

ENGS 30: Biological Physics

ENGS 31: Digital Electronics

ENGS 32: Electronics: Introduction to Linear and Digital Circuits

ENGS 33: Solid Mechanics

ENGS 34: Fluid Dynamics

ENGS 35: Biotechnology and Biochemical Engineering

ENGS 36: Chemical Engineering

ENGS 37: Introduction to Environmental Engineering

ENGS 41: Sustainability and Natural Resource Management

ENGS 42: Contaminant Hydrogeology

ENGS 43: Environmental Transport and Fate

ENGS 51: Principles of System Dynamics
ENGS 52: Introduction to Operations Research
ENGS 56: Introduction to Biomedical Engineering
ENGS 60: Introduction to Solid-State Electronic Devices
ENGS 61: Intermediate Electrical Circuits
ENGS 62: Microprocessors in Engineered Systems
ENGS 63: Introduction to VLSI Systems
ENGS 64: Cellular and Molecular Biomechanics
ENGS 65: Engineering Software Design
ENGS 66: Discrete Mathematics in Computer Science
ENGS 67: Programming Parallel Systems
ENGS 68: Introduction to Communication Systems
ENGS 71: Structural Analysis
ENGS 73: Materials Processing and Selection
ENGS 76: Machine Engineering
ENGS 80: Ethics and Engineering
ENGS 91: Numerical Methods in Computation
ENGS 92: Fourier Transforms and Complex Variables
ENGS 93: Statistical Methods in Engineering

Additional details, including admissions requirements and suggested courses of study, housing and financial aid during the fifth year are available at: <http://thayer.dartmouth.edu/academics/undergraduate/dual/>