

About the Commonwealth Honors College

Commonwealth Honors College provides a diverse community of academically talented students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst with extensive opportunities for analysis, research, leadership development and international experience.

Small honors classes foster intellectual exchange and close interaction with faculty, offering the advantages of a small college alongside all the resources of a nationally recognized research university.

The honors curriculum promotes education that is both broad and deep. Through honors general education courses, students reach beyond the boundaries of their academic major, while advanced scholarship tracks afford students opportunities to delve deeply into topics of interest and contribute new and original knowledge to their fields of study.

In addition, the honors college offers an array of leadership development opportunities, community-engaged research, entrepreneurial initiatives, and international programs—all designed to foster global perspectives, diverse viewpoints, dialogue on social justice, and responsible research skills.

Quick Facts

- Honors College opened: Fall 1999
- Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community opened: Fall 2013
- Commonwealth Honors College students: about 3,700
- Honors population at UMass Amherst: about 16%
- Entering honors students: average top 6% of high school class
- Honors alumni: about 13,000

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