About the Amherst Area

Welcome to one of the best college towns in America! Amherst, Massachusetts, offers the perfect blend of New England charm and cosmopolitan culture. The town of 36,000 has been named one of the greatest places to live and learn.

The downtown area flourishes with galleries, boutiques, and bookstores. Coffee shops and pubs feature music, literary readings, and more. Dozens of restaurants serve food from every corner of the globe. The campus itself hosts Broadway shows, popular music, and dance.

Hiking trails, swimming holes, and bike paths lace the Amherst countryside. Whether peeking at fall foliage from atop Mt. Sugarloaf, picking strawberries at a local farm, or kayaking on the Connecticut River, opportunities to embrace the picturesque beauty of the region abound.

Free buses and vans serve eight local communities and the Five Colleges. And all the buses have bike racks.

In addition to a quality education at the University of Massachusetts flagship campus, Amherst offers vast opportunities for community and culture—all within 2-3 hours of Boston and New York.

Places to Stay

There are a variety of guest accommodations in Amherst and the surrounding area, ranging from quaint Bed and Breakfast establishments to larger motels and hotels. Consult the The Robsham Memorial Center for Visitors for lodging suggestions.

Places to Eat

Award-winning UMass Dining Services uses fresh and local ingredients to offer some crazy good food that ranks second in the nation. Great food is easy to find off campus, too. The Pioneer Valley is known for its range of cuisine. Here's a sampling of local eateries.

In Town restaurants:

- Antonio's: Awesome pizza and crazy toppings. Open late!
- Amherst Brewing Company: Local brewery and restaurant on the edge of campus.
- Amherst Coffee: Inexpensive and relaxed.
- Lone Wolf: Breakfast at its best! (Next to Amherst Town Hall)
- Panda East: Excellent vegetarian options as well as classic Chinese and Japanese dishes.
On Campus:

- Franklin, Worcester, Berkshire, and Hampshire Dining Commons
- Student Union: EarthFoods Café, People's Market
- Campus Center: Blue Wall, Concourse People’s Organic Coffee
- Whitmore Administration Building: Whitmore Café
- Newman Center: Newman Center Café
- Commonwealth Honors College: Roots Café
- Greeno Sub Shop (in basement of Greenough Hall in the Central Residential Community)
- Sweets and More! (in Field Hall in the Orchard Hill Residential Community)

Recreation

- **Puffer's Pond**: Swimming, small beach, walking trails. It is located off of Pine Street in Amherst
- **Mount Holyoke Range**: Great hiking! Along Routes 116 and 47
- **Iron Horse Music Hall, Pearl Street Nightclub**, and **Calvin Theatre** are concert venues in nearby Northampton.
- **Look Park**: Bumper boats, paddle boats, tennis courts, a zoo and acres of room to run. Located in Northampton.
- **Rail Trail**: The former railroad right-of-way is now a bike path perfect for cycling, walking, running and skating.

Events

There are just too many things to list here! To find out what's going on on campus and in the area, visit:

- [Campus Pulse](https://www.honors.umass.edu/about-amherst-area)
- [UMass Amherst Events Calendar](https://www.honors.umass.edu/about-amherst-area)
- [Commonwealth Honors College Events Calendar](https://www.honors.umass.edu/about-amherst-area)
- [Five College Calendar](https://www.honors.umass.edu/about-amherst-area)
- [The Valley Advocate Events Calendar](https://www.honors.umass.edu/about-amherst-area)
- [Amherst Chamber of Commerce](https://www.honors.umass.edu/about-amherst-area)

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