

Central Records (Registrar)

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Transcript Explanation and Key

Hampshire College is a private four-year liberal arts college located in Western Massachusetts, distinguished among colleges for its non-traditional academic program designed to support students in pursuing a personalized program of study. Students progress through a three-tiered system of divisions rather than the traditional freshman through senior levels. [Division I](#) is Hampshire's first year program, designed to introduce students to a variety of liberal arts study areas. [Division II](#) is the middle two years of the education in which students complete a self-designed concentration of studies. In [Division III](#), the final year, students undertake an extensive independent project of their own design. In both Division II and III, students work under the supervision of a two-person faculty committee.

Hampshire College students receive narrative evaluations in lieu of grades for successfully completed courses. Upon completion of each Division, they also receive a comprehensive narrative evaluation of their work from the chairperson of their faculty committee. The Hampshire transcript consists primarily of these evaluations, but may also include documentation for study away from campus, internships, and other educational activities. **Because of Hampshire's method of evaluating student work, no grade point average (GPA) or class rank appears on the Hampshire transcript or any other official documentation produced by the College.**

Hampshire College is a member of the Five College Consortium, which includes Amherst, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Students attend classes at the other institutions and receive letter grades. They register for classes through an interchange process. The only permanent record of these courses is on the Hampshire transcript.

Hampshire College is fully accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) to award the Bachelor of Arts degree, which is equivalent to other four-year private liberal arts programs typically requiring a range of 120 to 128 credits. Because students pursue an individualized program of study, no major is identified on the diploma or transcript. In fall and spring terms, Hampshire students studying on campus, on field study, or participating in exchange programs are enrolled full-time. Enrollment in summer and January terms is optional.

Transcript Contents

The first page of the transcript lists Divisional requirements, courses and other activities attempted, completed, and in progress. This is followed by the student's course and Divisional evaluations. Additional documents may be included for field study, exchange programs and other evaluated activities. A course description section is included for students whose degree is not yet awarded, or upon student request.

Credit Recommendation

For the purpose of transcript evaluation, Hampshire recommends four credits for semester-long academic courses, independent studies, special projects and teaching assistantships; two credits for half-courses (identified in the title); and one credit for courses designated with "#" as co-curricular. For students who entered prior to fall 2017, Hampshire recommends four semester credits for academic Five College courses. For students who entered the institution fall 2017 and beyond, credit for Five College courses is included on the transcript. Hampshire does not recommend credit for learning activities. In addition to the work described above, students complete independent work in Division II and III for which we have no standard recommendation.

Note: The College recommends six semester credits for Division I projects completed by students who entered prior to fall 2002.

Explanation of Courses Header

Course	Course Number
Title	Title of the course or activity
CmplStat	Completion Status
Inst/Cred	Institution/Credit, Amherst College (AC)/(A); Mount Holyoke College (MC)/(M); Smith College (SC)/(S); University of Massachusetts (UM)/(U).
Div/Use	Indicates if the course or activity is used in Division I, II, or III.

Note: Only successfully completed co-curricular Hampshire courses are present on the transcript. Very few have narrative evaluations.

Explanation of completion status notations

EVL	Hampshire College course successfully completed and evaluated. The notation is present on transcripts for students who entered 2017 fall and beyond. Prior to that, the presence of an evaluation indicates successful completion of the course.
W	Withdrawal after the add/drop deadline at the beginning of the semester.
INC	Incomplete Course
NO	Hampshire College course not successfully completed and not evaluated.
TR	Transfer course
NR	Evaluation or grade not received, no credit recommended
AUD	Audit