

## **The Hampshire College Academic Program Summary**

*For the purpose of transcript review*

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.

Students at Hampshire 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 learning 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. Courses that are not successfully completed are notated as such.

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 and the only permanent record of these courses is on the Hampshire transcript.

For the purpose of external evaluation and documentation, Hampshire recommends four credits for semester-long academic Hampshire and Five College courses, and one credit for courses designated as co-curricular. Hampshire does not provide a standard credit recommendation for independent work completed in Division II and III. The College recommends six semester credits for Division I projects completed by students who entered prior to fall 2002. In fall and spring terms, Hampshire students are enrolled full-time, which is generally equivalent to 12-16 semester credit hours. Enrollment in summer and January terms is optional.

Hampshire College is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges to award the Bachelor of Arts degree, which is equivalent to other four-year private liberal arts programs requiring an average of one hundred and twenty eight credits. Because students pursue an individualized program of study, no major is identified on the diploma or transcript.