

Organization

Five College Cooperation

Five College cooperation is based on the principle that sharing information and resources helps each member institution – Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst – to offer the best possible education. Fundamental to that principle is the Five College interchange, which enables students to take courses for credit on any of the campuses at no additional charge. A fare-free bus service connecting the campuses provides easy access for courses as well as cultural and social activities, and a new Five College online course catalog offers current information about courses and faculty. Open library borrowing, aided by an automated Five College bibliographic search, gives faculty and students access to well over 8,000,000 print resources within the five main collections combined.

Cooperation within a number of disciplines makes possible shared academic departments and programs. In addition to the two Five College departments of Astronomy and Dance there are joint programs, which build on the faculty and curricular resources at the five campuses.

Five College Certificate Programs enable students to pursue a structured concentration in African Studies, Latin American Studies, International Relations, Middle East Studies and Culture, Health, and Science certificates.

- Coordination of course offerings in East Asian Languages ensures that students have access to beginning and advanced levels of study in Japanese and Chinese and to beginning and intermediate Korean.
- A Five College Self Instructional Language Program offers guided instruction in some eleven languages less commonly taught at the undergraduate level.
- Opportunities for undergraduate field research are greatly expanded through a joint program in Geology and an active Five College program in Coastal and Marine Sciences.
- The music departments mount joint concerts of the many choral groups and of new music by members of the faculty. They also host annually a distinguished composer or musicologist and support a Five College Early Music Program.
- A Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies (PAWSS) sponsors many forums for discussion of global concerns with government officials and international scholars.

Other forms of academic cooperation include various forms of faculty exchange and Five College faculty seminars, both of which bring faculty together over curricular and scholarly interests. The UMass/Five College Graduate Program in

History, for example, formalizes faculty exchanges between the University's department and those of the four liberal arts colleges, providing a course of study uniquely rich in range and diversity for undergraduates and graduate students alike.

Five College Joint Faculty Appointments enable the institutions to explore new areas of study by sharing scholars who come to teach specialized courses at all five campuses over a period of two or three years.

Other cooperatively funded activities include the public broadcasting station WFCR (Five College Radio at 88.5 FM); and The Massachusetts Review, a quarterly review of literature, arts, and public affairs. A new online Five College Calendar of Events complements the monthly printed calendar that announces many campus events. Other publications available from Five Colleges include: a student guide, an annual Five College Faculty Handbook, and a Five College magazine, INK, published fall and spring. For further information, contact the Five College center (413-256-8316) or consult the Five College homepage on the World Wide Web (<http://www.fivecolleges.edu>).