

OVERVIEW



This \$177 million residential and teaching complex in the heart of the UMA campus was built to provide a living and working environment exclusively to serve the Commonwealth Honors College. The facility is one of the best public university complexes of its kind in the nation, and includes 1,500 beds and nine classrooms and faculty residences, along with space for gathering, advising and program administration. The four to six story buildings that make up the living and learning facility are arranged around a series of courtyards.

Commonwealth Honors College serves about 3,000 students in 88 majors. It provides an intellectually challenging honors curriculum, fosters a community of scholars and helps prepare future leaders by providing an academic avenue for highly motivated students to delve deeply into their studies. The college plans to gradually increase its incoming classes from 485 to 600.

SUSTAINABLE SITES



Commonwealth Honors College sustainable site features positively impact the UMass campus' built environment in many ways, including:

- Building location is walkable to several area services on campus; bank, student union
- Easy and convenient access to campus and public transportation
- Bike racks provided for student residents, visitors and faculty
- The site master plan incorporates drought tolerant landscaping and creates vegetated outdoor gathering spaces for the students.
- The stormwater management plan addresses the rate and run off quantity of stormwater by increasing the pervious cover to decrease run off
- Increased landscaping on the developed site helps reduce heat island effect

WATER EFFICIENCY/ MATERIALS & RESOURCES



Consideration was made in the design and construction of this facility to ensure the responsible use, reuse and recycling of materials and resources, including:

- High efficiency/low flow plumbing fixtures are included throughout to reduce potable water use for sewage conveyance. Examples include 1.5gpm lavatory faucets, and 1.28gpf flush toilets.
- Provisions for collecting and storing recyclable materials are located throughout the buildings
- During construction demolition and construction, debris was diverted from area landfills to the greatest extent possible. The project achieved a diversion rate of over 75%.
- Specified materials and products included provisions for items with recycled content and sourced or manufactured regionally.

ENERGY + ATMOSPHERE/
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



UMass Amherst strives to reduce energy use on campus through sustainable design. The team employed many strategies, including:

- Energy recovery ventilation for mechanically ventilated spaces
- Natural ventilation in dorms and apartments
- High efficiency chillers with VFD
- Lighting power density designed to below code maximum levels to conserve energy
- Lighting design incorporates multi-level lighting in classrooms
- SRI compliant high performance building envelope with increased insulation
- High performance thermal windows, curtain wall and storefront systems
- The building and site are non-smoking
- Naturally ventilated dorms & apartments
- Flexible, modifiable lighting systems
- Dormitory rooms and classrooms/seminar rooms have ample windows to provide daylight and minimize the need for artificial lighting



COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE
RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX

<http://www.umass.edu/sustainability/green-campus/commonwealth-honors-college->

CAMPUS PLANNING DIVISION
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SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

GREEN BUILDING COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
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