



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS 2025-26 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Better Together

Five College academic programs and collaborations expand the curriculum, enhance the student experience, and sustain cross-campus scholarly communities.

The Marriage of Figaro, the first Five College Opera in 9 years, at UMass Amherst Bowker Auditorium in February. Photograph by Ben Barnhart



DataFest at the new UMass School of Public Health & Health Sciences Building.
Photograph by Ben Barnhart

Student Events

The American Statistical Association Five College DataFest took place at UMass Amherst April 10-12, bringing together students from across the consortium and the region. Twenty teams participated, and students presented their work to a panel of faculty judges, with the Mount Holyoke College team earning Best in Show.

The Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Certificate program celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, with a series of events occurring throughout the year, including a panel discussion in October and an end-of-year celebration in May.

The Five Colleges Coastal and Marine Sciences program supported five students in research internships during summer 2026: Sabrina Adams (Smith College), Emily Berg (Mount Holyoke College), Abhyuday Kiran Hadal (Hampshire College), Sara Martel (UMass Amherst), and Cami Nakagawa (Amherst College).

The Five College Jazz Festival took place at Amherst College on March 26 and UMass Amherst on March 27. Approximately 250 students performed, and more than 20 faculty served as directors or coaches.



*Sunday Cypher by Shakia Johnson, Mount Holyoke
Faculty Dance Concert, November 2025. Dancer
KC Johnson Erikson (AC/HC). Photo by Elle Visuals*

Student Events continued

Students from across the campuses presented a total of 23 research posters during the **Geology Undergraduate Research Symposium**, which took place at the Beneski Museum of Natural History at Amherst College on April 16.

Students, faculty, and staff of **Five College Dance** presented 11 fall and 14 spring performances and other events across the campuses this year, with about 5,100 students and community members in attendance.

During the annual **Five College Anthropology Undergraduate Conference** at Mount Holyoke College in April, approximately 50 students and 10 faculty participated in panels on topics such as Community and Placemaking and Technologies of Political Identity.

The Five College Architecture and Design Exhibition opened at the Hampshire College Art Gallery on May 13, with the work of 13 students on display.



Languages

The Center for World Languages offers more than 40 less-commonly taught languages as credit-bearing courses for Five College students. In the 2025-26 academic year, 238 students took courses in 35 languages, and 92% of students met or exceeded their target oral proficiency rating. Four students received scholarships totaling \$5,000 for immersive language study.

Three Center students were featured in the panel discussion “Student Perspectives on Self-Instructional Language Programs” at the Innovative Approaches to Language Education Conference at Colgate University in March.

Five Colleges also supports three language initiatives, as well as the **East Asian Languages Program**, which hosts events for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language students.

FIVE COLLEGE LANGUAGE INITIATIVES

The curricula are coordinated to enable students to progress seamlessly to the next level language course from one campus to another.

Korean—classes at Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass Amherst

Hebrew—classes at Smith College and UMass Amherst

American Sign Language—classes at UMass Amherst and through the Center for World Languages

Left: Hindi Conversation Partner, Ishita Panigrahi, in a Five College Center for World Languages session at Mount Holyoke College. Photograph by Noah Loving

Lynn Pasquerella, President of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, gives an overview of her leadership journey at the Building Academic Leaders retreat. Photograph by Candace Hope



Faculty Collaboration

Five Colleges facilitated a variety of faculty development activities throughout the year:

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded the **Building Academic Leaders in the Humanities** program for its fourth and final year. 170 faculty members participated in the program throughout its run, and at least a dozen have stepped into higher-level administrative roles as a result.

The Building Academic Leaders program and the UMass Office of Faculty Development co-sponsored a November 7 collaborative workshop on negotiation.

Five College AI Day took place on May 12 at Mount Holyoke College. At least 100 faculty attended the event, which explored the potential impact of AI on higher education through various panels and speakers.

The Five College New Faculty Reception was held at the Hampshire College Red Barn on March 2. Recently hired faculty from across the Five Colleges were given the opportunity to connect with each other and learn more about the Consortium as they began their careers in the Valley.

Faculty Collaboration continued

29 Faculty Seminar groups, including *Technology in Language Teaching and Learning*, *Physics Education Research*, and *International Relations*, engaged in discussions as a scholarly community, and occasionally hosted guest speakers

36 Faculty from the five campuses attended the **Five College New Faculty Reception** at Hampshire College

135 registrations in **American Sign Language** courses taught at UMass by Five College Lecturer in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Dana Hoover

21 Faculty from five campuses participated in the Mellon-funded **Building Academic Leaders in the Humanities Program**

26 **Jointly Appointed Faculty** teaching across the five campuses

16 Courses taught by faculty visiting at other campuses through the **Faculty Exchange/Borrow Program**

18 Events supported by the Five College Lecture Fund, including *Lebanon in Words and Music* at UMass Amherst, *The Fall of Affirmative Action* at Amherst College, and *Unseen Foodscapes: Fermented Traditions and Human-Microbe Interactions* at Mount Holyoke College and UMass Amherst

6 Events supported by the Five College Symposium Fund, such as the *57th Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association* and the upcoming *Northeast Law and Society Retreat*

24 Weekly write-on-site sessions hosted by the **Five College Women's Studies Research Center**, as well as a public film screening and panel, two lectures, and a three-day writing retreat

Right: Program Cover for 101st Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Carthusian Rules and Sermons for Visitations. Northeastern Italy, c. 1564. University of Massachusetts Amherst, MS 1286



Medieval Academy of America

101st Meeting



March 19-21, 2026

Five Colleges



About Five College Academic Programs

2 Five College Departments - Astronomy; Dance

1 Five College Major - Architectural Studies

18 Certificate Programs, including Native American and Indigenous Studies, Biomathematical Sciences, and a **brand new certificate program in Education Policy, Research, and Leadership (EPRL)**

118 Five College Certificates awarded this year, matching last year's total - the highest since 2020-21

2 Centers - Center for World Languages; Women's Studies Research Center

2 Sold-out performances of the Five College Opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, with approximately 55 students performing and working in production roles, 10 faculty involved in the collaborative work, and an orchestra of Five College students, alums, and staff

3110 Student Registrations for courses on other campuses

7000+ courses and **2100+ faculty** across five campuses



Left top: Still of June Millington from the FCWSRC screening of the film *Fanny: the Right to Rock*, which highlights the first all-female rock band signed to a major record label

Left bottom: Ann Hackler and June Millington, Co-Founders of the Institute for the Musical Arts (IMA) on a panel after the screening at Hampshire College



Audience members participate in a group activity at The Legacy of Katherine Dunham, Five College Dance Fall Lecture, with panelists Saroya Corbett, Yvonne Daniel, and Neri Torres, Kirby Theater, Amherst College, Photograph by Peter Raper

Five College Academic Programs Staff

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