



Application Guide for Students Applying to Merrimack

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Thank you for considering Merrimack College in your college application process. We understand that choosing a college can seem overwhelming at times and we hope that this guide is a helpful resource to you as you complete the Merrimack College application for Admission and the required forms for financial aid assistance.

Application Deadlines

Please refer to the dates below for important admission and financial aid deadlines and dates:

Freshman Admission	Fall Semester				Spring Semester
	<u>Early Action I</u>	<u>Early Decision</u>	<u>Early Action II</u>	<u>Regular Decision</u>	<u>Spring Term</u>
Application Deadline	November 15	November 15	January 15	February 15	January 6
Admission Notification	Late December	Late December	Late February	Late March	Rolling

Transfer Admission	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Regular Decision</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Regular Decision</u>
Application Deadline	March 15	August 15	November 15	January 6
Admission Notification	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling

International Admission	Fall Semester				Spring Semester
	<u>Early Action I</u>	<u>Early Decision</u>	<u>Early Action II</u>	<u>Regular Decision</u>	<u>Spring Term</u>
Application Deadline	November 15	November 15	January 15	February 15	December 15
Admission Notification	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling

Financial Aid Deadlines:

FAFSA applications should be submitted in conjunction with your Admission Application deadline. Merrimack's FAFSA code is 002120.

Types of Applications

Early Decision

Merrimack College offers an Early Decision program for freshman applicants who consider Merrimack their first choice college. The deadline for submitting an application under Early Decision is November 15 of their senior year. Early Decision candidates will receive formal notification of their admission decision by late December. Decisions include admission, deferral to the Regular Decision process and denial of admission. Students who are denied admission at Early Decision may not reapply at the Regular Decision deadline. *Students applying under early decision should be aware that this is a binding program and if offered admission the student must enroll at Merrimack College.*

Early Action I

Merrimack College offers an Early Action I program for freshman applicants who consider Merrimack among the colleges at the top of their list and wish to learn of their admission decision prior to December 25. The deadline for submitting an application under Early Action I is November 15 of their senior year. Decisions include admission, deferral to the Regular Decision process and denial of admission. Early Action I candidates will receive formal notification of their admission decision (admission, deferral, or denial) by late December. Students who are denied admission at Early Action I may not reapply at the Regular Decision deadline. *Early Action is a non-binding program.*

Early Action II

Like Early Action I, Early Action II is an option for applicants who wish to learn of their admission decision earlier than the Regular Decision process. The deadline for submitting an application under Early Action II is January 15 of their senior year. Decisions include admission, deferral to the Regular Decision process and denial of admission. Early Action II candidates will receive formal notification of their admission decision by late February.

Regular Decision

Merrimack also offers a Regular Decision process for freshman applicants. The application deadline for the Regular Decision program is February 15 and applicants will learn of their admission decision between March 15 and April 1. Decisions include admission, placement on the waitlist or denial of admission.

Rolling Admission

For transfer applicants, international applicants and freshman applicants for spring only, Merrimack offers a rolling admission process. The application deadlines are listed in the “Application Deadlines” section. Applicants will learn of their admission decision on a rolling basis once Merrimack has received all of the required documents. Decisions include admission, or denial of admission.

Application Procedures

Merrimack College offers two options for applying: the Common Application, and the Merrimack Application. The 2018-2019 application and instructions necessary to submit the application are currently available at www.merrimack.edu/admission/undergraduate/application-process.php. There are a number of supporting credentials that are required for an application to be completed. Almost all of these items are completed electronically. Merrimack College **does not** have an application fee.

In addition to the application, In order for a freshman application to be considered “complete” you must complete the following three items:

- Secondary school transcripts
- Secondary School Report (SSR)
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher or school counselor

For Nursing applicants, in order for a freshman application to be considered “complete you must complete the following five items:

- Official secondary school transcripts
- Secondary School Report (SSR)
- Letter of recommendation from school counselor
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher (preferably a science or math teacher)
- SAT or ACT test scores

Merrimack College is test optional (excluding nursing majors). Standardized test scores (such as the SAT or ACT) are not required for admission. However, we encourage you to submit your scores if you feel they will support or enhance your academic background. Merrimack’s College Board (SAT) code is 3525. Merrimack’s ACT code is 1864.

Merrimack College notifies students about the status of the application via email. Therefore, it is important to provide us with an email address which will be active throughout the entire application process.

Application Review

Admission to Merrimack College is competitive and selective. We seek to enroll students who are academically prepared and demonstrate the background, interest and willingness to contribute to advancing the Merrimack experience. When considering applicants for freshman admission, the admission committee considers whether the applicant’s secondary school transcript reflects the preparation and performance for the academic program for which they have applied.

Merrimack’s Augustinian heritage is reflected in our supportive community and we seek to enroll students who have positively contributed to their school and larger community.

Merrimack College admits students of any race, creed, color, handicap or disability, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, handicap or disability, age, sexual orientation, national ancestry or ethnic origin or any other lawfully protected categories in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Admission Requirements

Subject Requirements for Freshman Admission

The subject requirements listed below are expressed in terms of secondary school units. A unit represents one academic year of study.

Business Administration, Humanities, and Social Sciences

English	4
History, Government and Social Sciences	2-3
*Mathematics	3-4
Science (With Lab)	2-3
Foreign Language	2-4
Electives	

Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Health Science, Mathematics, Nursing, Physics, and Exercise Science

English	4
History, Government and Social Sciences	2-3
*Mathematics	4
**Science (With Lab)	3
Foreign Language	2-4
Electives	

* Mathematics subject matter should include the equivalent of Algebra I, II and Geometry. An additional, advanced mathematics course is required of all Science and Engineering applicants.

**Prospective Engineering students must have three units in the sciences including Physics.

**Prospective Nursing students must complete Biology and Chemistry prior to graduation from secondary school.

Admission Requirements for GED Candidates

Individuals without a high school diploma who wish to pursue post-secondary education may be admitted to Merrimack College. Candidates for admission must successfully complete the General Educational Development tests (GED) and submit the Official Report of Test Results with their completed application. Test results from the Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) of the College Entrance Examination Board or the American College Testing Program (ACT) are optional. Candidates who submit their GED test scores are required to follow the same admission procedures as those required of graduating seniors and high school graduates.

Admission Requirements for Home School Candidates

Merrimack College welcomes applications from students who have chosen homeschooling. In addition to completing the standard admission application, we require that students submit the following materials:

- State certificate of completion, or a high school diploma, or the GED
- List of coursework or transcript
- Test results of SAT, SAT II or ACT are optional.
- Admission Interview (highly recommended)
- Essay
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a parent/teacher and one from a person outside the home - e.g., tutor, employer, minister, priest, etc.) Each candidate will be assessed on an individual basis for college readiness and academic strength.

International Students

Merrimack College welcomes applications from international students. An international student is a student who is neither a citizen nor a permanent resident of the United States of America. Such students, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, “must have successfully completed a course of study equivalent to that normally required of an American applicant seeking admission to the school at the same level.”

English Proficiency Requirements

Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English by submitting an official score report from a test of English proficiency. Applicant must have one of the following:

- A minimum score of 79 with no single subset score lower than 18 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- A minimum score of 6.5 with no band below a 6.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Additional Required Documents

- Appropriate official transcripts, or certified copies of academic records and their English translations validated by an official public translator, must be forwarded to the Office of Admission.
- If the international student has completed college/university level coursework, official transcripts (translated into English) for all such coursework is required.
- As part of the application process, a Bank Statement and Certification of Finances must be completed which certifies that sufficient funds are on deposit/available to meet the cost of one year of academic study.

A Certificate of Eligibility (form I-20A) will be issued to the student after the student has been admitted.

Special Admission Programs

Honors Program

The Merrimack Honors Program strives to provide a rigorous and coherent experience for its students. Every aspect of Merrimack Honors—academic, extra-curricular, and social—is organized around what we call the Four Pillars of a Merrimack Honors Education: Community, Service, Research, and Leadership.

- **Community-** Learning is best and most lasting when it is done in the company of friends. Merrimack Honors seeks students who strive to excel, and who challenge, support, and celebrate one another in their efforts to do so.
- **Service-** What we learn finds its greatest value in the ways it benefits others. In a college nationally recognized for service, the students in Merrimack Honors participate in and often take the lead in service projects that enrich the classroom, the campus, and the larger community.
- **Research-** To effect meaningful change in today’s world requires a knowledge that is both deep (disciplinary expertise) and aware of connections to other fields (interdisciplinary competence). The Merrimack Honors curriculum is designed so that our students practice and master essential research skills in their chosen field, while always keeping in mind the larger picture—in all its scientific, social, and human complexity.
- **Leadership-** Merrimack Honors imparts the skills needed for true leadership. Through opportunities ranging from topics in classroom discussions (e.g., why is Socrates a charismatic leader even though he claims to know nothing?), to the Honors Student Council (the student governing body that has a voice in every aspect of the Program), to our emphasis on educating the whole person (with all the possibilities and limitations of being human that this implies), we strive to prepare students for when they will no longer be students, in whatever their chosen field and way of life.

There is no formal application process; all applications for admission are automatically considered. Competitive students for the Honors program are expected to have completed the most rigorous program of studies in their high school careers. Approximately the top 10% of the entering freshman class will be included in this program.

Dean's Forum

Developed by Dr. Peter Ellard, Dean of Student Success and Academic Support, Dean's Forum provides high-achieving, intellectually-curious students the ability to connect with the College's deans, vice provosts, and the provost in monthly meetings designed to create, promote, and foster intellectual exchange.

These monthly meetings, known as "The Dean's Lunch Group" involve deep and meaningful conversations than often take place around a shared meal or experience. Topics may include:

- The role of education in life
- Career and professional development
- Service to the greater good
- Living a life with meaning

Dean's Forum takes place outside the regular course schedule. It is not a requirement, but provides an invaluable opportunity for students to engage with an additional mentor at Merrimack College and with peers seeking a more interactive academic experience. Therefore, admitted students may elect to opt-out of this program and still enroll at Merrimack.

There is no formal application process; all applications for admission are automatically considered.

Promise Program

The Promise Program at Merrimack is designed to optimize a student's potential for academic and personal success in the transition to Merrimack, through the first year and on the path to graduation.

Promise offers students the opportunity to build the skills and network needed for success in freshman year while also completing coursework in their desired major and in the Core Curriculum in Liberal Studies - Merrimack's general education program. This will occur through personalized academic programming and guidance received in addition to what is provided in their academic majors. For example, first year courses will be carefully selected for students enrolled in the Promise Program to enhance their individual opportunity for success. Promise students will take these courses with both fellow Promise students and those in their area of study. Additional features of the Promise Program include:

- Frequent one-on-one academic counseling
- Mentoring and tutoring from upper-class student leaders
- Individualized referrals to other campus resources
- A specialized twice-a-week First Year Experience course that provides an enhanced academic skill development component (including time management and college-level study skills)

After the first year, students will be invited to continue to participate in Promise through ongoing academic counseling and programming for all four years.

There is no formal application process; all applications for admission are automatically considered.

Compass Program

The Compass Program at Merrimack College seeks goal-directed, hard-working students who, for whatever reason, find themselves less than fully prepared for college. Our goal is nothing less than to provide such students with a second chance. The Compass Program is successful in taking students who have promise –including those who may not know that they do – and arming them with the skills and knowledge they need to change their lot in life. We take this mission seriously. We do this by focusing not simply on providing academic support, but on fostering self-transformation. Through our guidance, students learn that when they are willing to persevere, seek direction and work hard, they will become more responsible, goal-directed and successful students and individuals. As long as students are willing to work hard and take direction, we keep teaching them until they learn. And they do.

There is no formal application process; all applications for admission are automatically considered. Approximately the bottom 10% of the entering freshman class will be included in this program.

Transfer Admission

Students wishing to transfer from another accredited college or university may be considered for admission to Merrimack College. We define a transfer student as any student who has earned a high school diploma or GED and has completed 12 credits or more in college-level courses. The transfer applicant must follow these guidelines:

Required Application Documents

- Completed transfer application and essay through the Common Application or the Merrimack Application
- College transcript from each college attended. International transfer applicants must submit post-secondary records which are original or certified copies of original documents. These must be translated into English.
- College catalog/course descriptions and course syllabi may be requested during the application review process, in order to evaluate and determine appropriate transfer credit. International students are required to submit college catalog/course descriptions translated into English.
- One letter of recommendation from a current professor or advisor or an employer
- Transfer College Report
- Midterm report, if final grades are not yet available
- Secondary school transcript is required if applicant has completed less than 30 college credits.
- Test results of SAT or ACT are optional
- A test of English proficiency is required of the applicant for whom English is not his/her native language. An official score report of either TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is required.

The applicant must be in good academic standing, with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. The student must not be under disciplinary censure and eligible to return to the institution he/she previously attended.

Transfer of Course Credits

- Transfer credit will be granted for courses having a grade of “C” or better from each institution(s). “C-” grades are not accepted in transfer. The institution(s) must hold accreditation from a major regional accrediting association. These courses also must meet the requirements of the curriculum selected by the applicant and be comparable in content and scope to courses offered by Merrimack College.
- Credit If a student has an earned Associate’s degree from a two-year College and meets admissions requirements, all courses and credits will be accepted in transfer.
- Credit for coursework taken 10 years or more prior to admission is subject to review to determine exactly how the courses will transfer in.
- Internships, cooperative education, courses taken pass/fail, and remedial or developmental courses do not transfer. Transfer credit Advanced Placement (AP) and/or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations will be determined provided the “official” examination score report/s are forwarded directly to the Office of Admission.
- The grades from other institutions do not enter into the computation of quality grade point average at Merrimack College.

- All credits to be transferred must be identified at the time of application for transfer admission to Merrimack. Merrimack College reserves the right to deny credit for coursework taken by the student prior to admission if it is identified and presented after transfer.
- Admission for transfer applicants currently enrolled at other institutions are made with the condition that courses will be completed successfully. Final and official transcripts of all completed courses must be forwarded to the Office of Admission.

A transfer credit evaluation of transferable courses is prepared and forwarded to the student at the time of admission. In some instances, the student may be asked to submit more detailed course descriptions or syllabi than that which appears in the catalog of the prior institution(s). Final determination of transferability of courses is made by the Registrar's Office at Merrimack College in conjunction with the appropriate academic departments.

Students may transfer up to a maximum of 76 credits from previous college or university coursework.

Students who transfer from other institutions must complete at least 48 credits at Merrimack College. Please refer to the Merrimack College catalog sections: "Requirements for Bachelor's Degree" and "Residence Requirements" for more detailed information.

General Enrollment Policies

Confirmation of Enrollment

Admitted freshman students must submit their enrollment deposit no later than May 1 for the fall term or by January 15 for the spring term. Admitted transfer students must submit their enrollment deposit by the date listed on their admission letter. Official Final transcript(s) indicating graduation or General Education Development (GED) test results and Health Forms must be submitted before matriculation. Merrimack also asks that students who have not submitted SAT or ACT test results as part of the admission process submit their scores for institutional research purposes.

Deferral of Admission

Merrimack College offers the option for students who wish to defer the offer for admission for up to one full year. The request for deferral must be submitted in writing to the Office of Admission. The letter must state the reason for the request and the specific term the student plans to enroll. The full enrollment deposit is required of the all students who wish to defer enrollment. The student must submit an intent to enroll form at least 30 days prior to reactivating their admission status. If a student who applied for freshman admission matriculates at another institution, the deferral will be void and the student will need to reapply as a transfer student. Students who defer will keep the merit scholarship offered during the admission process. The FAFSA must be filed for each academic year and any aid awarded is for a certain academic year only.

Refund of Deposit

Deposits for freshman entering for the fall semester are refundable until May 1 only. Transfer and spring term enrollment deposits are not refundable.

Financial Aid

Merrimack College is committed to assisting students in achieving their educational goals. Institutional, federal and state aid is available to full-time, undergraduate students demonstrating eligibility according to Merrimack's application procedures and funding policies.

Merrimack College believes the primary responsibility for a student's education belongs to the individual and his or her parent(s). However, the College recognizes that meeting the cost of a private education is a financial challenge for many students and families. Therefore, we have established a substantial program for financial aid designed to provide assistance to deserving students who desire to study at Merrimack.

Applying for Financial Aid

All students who wish to apply for financial aid should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.gov. To apply for need-based aid—grants, loans, and work programs—applicants must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), using the Merrimack College federal school code of 002120.

The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.gov beginning October 1. **The recommended deadline should correspond with your application deadline.** Continuing students must file the FAFSA renewal prior to April 1st and meet Merrimack's standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress for financial aid.

The Merrimack College Federal School Code is 002120 and must be included on your FAFSA.

Eligibility for Federal Financial Aid

To apply for federal financial aid at Merrimack a student must:

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Be a citizen of the United States, a permanent resident, or eligible non-citizen;
- Enroll in a degree-granting program of study;
- Have received their high school diploma or GED;
- Be registered with Selective Service, if required;
- Not be convicted of a drug-related crime in the last year;
- Not be in default from previous student loans; make satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of his or her course of study. The complete schedule of the College's statement on Satisfactory Academic Progress follows and is also available upon request from the Office of Financial Aid. Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards In order to receive financial aid from federal, state, institutional

Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

Students who wish to apply to Merrimack College must complete the Common Application. In order to receive financial aid from federal, state, institutional or any private funding which require satisfactory academic progress, a student must comply with the standards listed in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, or other financial aid publications. In accordance with federal regulations, Merrimack College has adopted the following statement of Satisfactory Academic Progress standards which students must meet in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid from the federal and state programs.

Types of Aid Grants

Grants are gift aid which do not have to be repaid.

Athletic Scholarship: Recipients are selected by the Merrimack Department of Athletics. All questions regarding this type of aid should be directed to the Coach and the Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance.

Endowed/Restricted Scholarships: A number of individuals, foundations and corporations have donated money to establish nearly 250 endowed/restricted scholarships to Merrimack College. These scholarships vary in character and purpose. Some support study in a particular field, others provide assistance to students from designated geographic areas. Endowed/Restricted scholarships are based on merit, leadership capability and financial need. Endowed/Restricted scholarships will be made during the academic year by the Office of Financial Aid. Scholarships designated for entering students do not require a separate application. If you are selected as a recipient, you will be notified of the award name and to whom a letter of thanks must be addressed. Your acceptance of these funds implies permission for the College to publicize the award.

Family Scholarship: If two children are enrolled at Merrimack College in a full-time, day degree program, each child receives a 10% reduction in tuition. Three children receive 13 1/3% and four children receive 15% (reduction is taken after institutional aid is applied).

Federal Pell Grant: Pell Grants are awarded to students who have filed the FAFSA and whose Expected Family Contribution falls within federal guidelines. Award amounts for full-time students in 2016-17 range from \$590 to \$5,815 per year.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant: Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants are awarded on a very limited basis first to Pell Grant recipients with the lowest Expected Family Contribution (EFC), pending federal funding. We have a limited amount of SEOG funds, so not all Pell Grant recipients will receive SEOG funds. The priority deadline to be considered is February 15 for freshmen and April 1 for returning students, after which, funds will be awarded based on Pell Grant recipients and their corresponding unmet need.

Gilbert Grant: Gilbert Grants are one-year grants made available by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to eligible Massachusetts residents. Awards are determined annually pending state funding.

MASSGrant: Massachusetts provides educational grants to qualified students who have completed the FAFSA. Eligibility is based on residency, financial need according to the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and enrollment status. For the 2016-2017 academic year, MASSGrant awards will range from \$600 to \$1,700. The MASSGrant is not automatically renewed as students must file the FAFSA before May 1 to determine eligibility. If you have received state notification you may deduct the state scholarship from your bill only with the understanding that you are responsible for any balance due if the state subsequently adjusts or cancels your award.

Merit Scholarships: Scholarships are renewable for four years or eight semesters as long as the student maintains good academic standing as defined in the Merrimack College catalog. All undergraduate full-time applicants (freshman, transfer, international) are automatically considered for merit scholarships.

Merrimack Need-Based Grant: In order to be considered for need-based aid, a student must file the FAFSA and demonstrate financial need. The award amount in subsequent years will be determined by the demonstrated level of financial need.

Other State Grants: Your state agency will notify you directly of your tentative award. Your state will also notify Merrimack once they have confirmed your award for the academic year. States which have reciprocal agreements with the Commonwealth are: Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and the District of Columbia. Available funding each year is determined by your state. If you have received state notification, you may deduct the state scholarship from your bill only with the understanding that you are responsible for any balance due if the state subsequently adjusts or cancels your award.

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding your application, please do not hesitate to call the Office of Admission at 1-978-837-5100 or visit us online at www.merrimack.edu/admission.

For additional information and a complete list of required forms about financial aid programs, policies and procedures, please call the Office of Financial Aid at 1-978-837-5186. Feel free to visit our website at www.merrimack.edu/financial-aid.

Incoming Class Profile

Enrolled Freshman	1130
Enrolled Transfer	100
Male	50%
Female	50%
Resident	83%
Commuter	17%
	% of Entering Class
GPA	
3.5 and Above	30%
3.0 – 3.4	35%
2.5 – 2.9	28%
Below 2.5	7%
School Origin	
Public	77%
Private	23%
Academic Majors	
Business	23%
Education	15%
Engineering	7%
Health Sciences	14%
Liberal Arts	12%
Other Sciences	8%
Undecided	21%
Test Scores (Apps)	
SAT Math & CR (middle 50%)	1050-1220
SAT Critical Reading (middle 50%)	520-610
SAT Math (middle 50%)	520-610
ACT (middle 50%)	21-27
Ethnic Profile (Not including Non-Resident Aliens)	
White	78%
Hispanic	8%
Black	3%
Missing	7%
Asian	2%
Multi-Racial	2%
Native American	0%
Pacific Islander	0%
Geographic Profile	

Massachusetts	69%
New England	20%
Other States	9%
International	2%

Co-curricular Activities

Athletics	74%
Part-time work	48%
Community service	47%
Music/dance/theater	16%

Undergraduate Student Body Profile

Total	3800
Female	50%
Male	50%
Resident	75%
Commuter	25%
First Year Retention	85%
Four Year Graduation	65.0%
Six Year Graduation	73.0%

Ethnic Profile

American Indian/Alaskan	0.1%
Asian	1.5%
Black/African American	3.4%
Hispanic	5.9%
Pacific Islander	0.1%
White	78.6%
Two or more races	1.7%
Unknown	5.5%
Non Resident Alien	3.4%

Geographic Profile

New England	87.6%
Mid-Atlantic	6.5%
Other State/International	5.9%

Academic Profile

Business	28.2%
Education & Social Policy	19.2%
Liberal Arts	21.8%
Science & Engineering	30.8%

Academic Profile

FT Faculty	211
PT Faculty	
Student Ratio	14:1

Classroom Information

Average Class Size	22	(Includes directed studies and labs)
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