



WILLISTON
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE

2019–20

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The Williston Northampton School inspires students to live with purpose, passion, and integrity.

Now in its 179th year, Williston is shaped by its location in the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, an area defined by natural beauty, prestigious colleges and universities, and rich intellectual and cultural history. We benefit from academic and cultural collaboration with the nearby Five Colleges to offer a holistic, rigorous education that integrates academics, athletics, and community life to promote high achievement for all our students according to their individual strengths, interests, and goals. In all grades, students work with committed and enthusiastic faculty to hone skills in conducting research, thinking critically, and becoming leaders. The 125-acre Williston campus, less than three hours from New York City and two hours from Boston, is located in the vibrant arts town of Easthampton.

ENROLLMENT

The 2019-20 student body (as of 8/23/2019):

Total upper school students: 425

Boarding students: 251

Day students: 174

Domestic students of color: 17 percent

International students: 24 percent

Class of 2020: 118 seniors; 14 PGs

Students hail from 22 states and 30 countries

Williston is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. It is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the National Association of College Admission Counseling, and the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools.

FACULTY AND ADVISORS

Williston has 96 faculty members, of which 75 percent hold advanced degrees. The advisor to student ratio is 6:1. The average class size is 12.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

One academic credit is assigned per class per trimester. Students generally take five courses per trimester, and must complete a minimum of 57 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 to receive a diploma.

These requirements allow for considerable choice while ensuring a rigorous and balanced academic environment.

Credits must include:

English Language and Literature: 12

History and Global Studies: 8

Foreign Language: 6

Mathematics: 9

Science: 6

Visual and Performing Arts: 3

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Williston does not rank its students. The grade distribution below reflects grades that are not weighted. Grade point averages are weighted for Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses including Williston Scholars and Writers' Workshop.

Grades are determined as follows:

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69

Grades of 87 and above are considered honors; grades of 92 and above are considered high honors. A grade of below 60 is a failing grade.

Junior year averages for the 116-member Class of 2020 are listed below.

	A	B	C	D	F
English	65	56	8	2	0
Visual & Performing Arts	59	7	1	0	0
History & Global Studies	72	57	15	5	1
Language	94	32	4	2	0
Mathematics	84	56	19	3	3
Science	77	77	10	2	1

ADVANCED COURSES

Of the 145 courses offered at the school in 2018-19, 52 were designated as Honors or Advanced Placement (AP). These work at an accelerated pace and go beyond normal curriculum requirements. The AP courses are comparable to introductory offerings at the college level. In 2018-19, Williston offered 26 AP courses and 201 students completed 429 AP exams.

English

AP English Language 11
AP English Literature 12
Honors Williston Scholars English
Honors Writers' Workshop

History & Global Studies

AP Comparative Government
AP European History
AP Macroeconomics
AP Microeconomics
AP United States Government and Politics
AP United States History
AP World History
Honors Williston Scholars History and Global Studies

Language

AP Chinese Language: Culture and Literacy
Honors Chinese IV
Honors French II
Honors French III
Honors French V
AP French Language
Honors Latin II
Honors Latin III
Honors Latin IV
AP Latin
Honors Spanish II
Honors Spanish III
Honors Spanish V
AP Spanish Language
Honors Williston Scholars Language

Mathematics

AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC and Multivariable Calculus
AP Computer Science
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Statistics
Honors Geometry
Honors Algebra II
Honors Precalculus
Honors Discrete Mathematics
Honors Williston Scholars Mathematics

Science

AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics I
AP Physics II
AP Physics C
AP Psychology
Honors Williston Scholars Science
Honors Chemistry
Honors Physics
Honors Biology

Visual & Performing Arts

AP Music Theory
AP Studio Art
Honors Williston Scholars Visual Arts
Honors Williston Scholars Performing Arts

CAMPUS STATS

125 acres

7 residence halls

Technology center

Professional theater and costume shop

Dance studio, music lab, photo studio

Student center

Center for Academic Success

- Math Center
- Writing Center
- Science Center

6 art studios and gallery

34 student clubs

Athletic facilities

- 12 tennis courts
- Enclosed ice rink
- 4 international squash courts
- 6-lane pool
- All-weather 8-lane track
- Cross-country course
- 9 state-of-the-art playing fields, including two synthetic turf fields, one with lights

New residence hall under construction is due to open in fall 2020.

SIGNATURE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND POINTS OF DISTINCTION

WILLISTON SCHOLARS

The Williston Scholars honors program allows students to pursue their individual academic and creative passions through a trimester of directed project work. Students engage in research projects they choose, under the close mentorship and instruction of a faculty member, and are guided through the steps of project development, research, implementation, and presentation. They connect with content experts both inside the school and out, drawing upon the intellectual resources of the Pioneer Valley's colleges and universities. Participation is by application. Students with exemplary projects are eligible for special recognition and departmental honors. In the 2018-19 school year, 47 students participated in this offering. Roughly 10 students were named Williston Scholars with Distinction for going beyond expectations with their project.

WE THE PEOPLE

In conjunction with the year-long AP United States Government class, Williston offers students the opportunity to participate in the We the People program offered by the Center for Civic Education. Students compete in local, state, and national academic competitions that assess their understanding of governmental institutions and their ability to apply their knowledge in the format of a congressional hearing. For two consecutive years, Williston's AP U.S. Government class placed first in Massachusetts and travelled to Washington, D.C., to compete at the national level. For the past seven years, an average of 27 students participated in We the People each year.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Writers' Workshop is an honors level two-trimester class where students gain insight into the creative process of writing fiction and nonfiction and engage with accomplished authors. Four prominent authors read from their work, speak about the creative process, and then teach a master class on the craft of writing. Participation is by application. Ten students were part of the Writers' Workshop Program in 2018-19.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Participation in athletics or afternoon activities is required in all three trimesters. Students may choose from 35 interscholastic sports offered at the varsity, junior varsity, and beginner levels, as well as the arts (visual, music, performance, theater production), community service, and robotics. In the past two years, 30 percent (total of 71) of our graduating student athletes were recruited to play in college with 51 percent of these athletes signing with NCAA Division 1 or 2 schools.

ARTS CONCENTRATION

Students who are engaged in the arts at a deep level, participating in both curricular and co-curricular components, may be recognized for completing a Williston Arts Concentration. This offering supports those students who are committed to pursuing their passion for the arts (Visual or Performing) by investing extra time, effort, and energy that far exceeds academic or school requirements. These students (nine of them in 2018-19) work closely with Arts faculty mentors to develop a program of study that includes a variety of arts practices, experiences, and activities.

CORE PROGRAM

Williston's CORE Program is a scaffolded, four-year life and leadership curriculum that engages students with relevant, developmentally-appropriate learning about themselves and others. Focusing on unique themes for each class each year, students learn skills that build organization, self-awareness, character, decision-making, responsibility, and leadership through class assemblies, discussions in advisories, dedicated classroom sessions, and all-school discussions. A cornerstone of our residential life program, the CORE Program helps all our students live healthier lives filled with purpose, passion, and integrity.

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

The highest honor for a student is election to the Cum Laude Society, a national organization modeled after Phi Beta Kappa. Students eligible for election are those seniors in the top 10 percent of their class who, in the judgment of the faculty membership, combine academic excellence and achievement with honorable citizenship, sound character, and active participation in school life.

CURRICULAR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The Curricular Technology Program (CTP) reflects Williston's commitment to prepare students for success in the high school and college classroom through information technology. Each student and faculty member receives a Microsoft Surface Pro and access to tools such as OneDrive, OneNote, and video and audio conferencing, allowing for new levels of collaboration and productivity, in and out of the classroom. For the sixth year in a row, Williston has been named a Microsoft Showcase School.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Williston offers significant leadership development through its most senior leadership positions, including proctor, discipline committee member, admission intern, and international mentor. Leaders are chosen through an application process and those selected (roughly 100 each year) undergo leadership training monthly on topics such as emotional health, conflict resolution, goal-setting, problem-solving, and communication skills.

ROBOTICS AND STEM

Students may participate in an extensive program of computer science and engineering courses in Williston's math department. Entry level courses are available in circuitry, app programming, and robotics. More experienced students may pursue intermediate and advanced classes or opt into AP Computer Science Principles or AP Computer Science Courses. A competitive VEX robotics team is also offered as part of the afternoon program.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION (2017–2019)

The list below shows the college matriculation patterns for the classes of 2017 to 2019. In that time period, students have matriculated to 164 different institutions.

The University of Arizona (2)	University of Dayton	Michigan State University	University of Southern California
Assumption College (5)	Dickinson College	Middlebury College (3)	Southern New Hampshire University
Babson College (2)	Drew University	Mount Holyoke College	Springfield College (2)
Bard College	Drexel University (6)	Nazareth College	Springfield Technical Community College
Barnard College	Elmira College	University of New England	St. John Fisher College
Bates College (3)	Elon University (5)	University of New Hampshire (2)	St. Lawrence University (2)
Baylor University	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	New York School of Interior Design	St. Olaf College
Bentley University (7)	Emerson College (3)	New York University (6)	Stanford University (2)
Berklee College of Music (3)	Emory University	Northeastern University (7)	Stonehill College (2)
Boston College (5)	Endicott College (3)	Northwestern University	Stony Brook University
Boston University (6)	Fairfield University (3)	Norwich University	Syracuse University (7)
Bowdoin College (5)	Fitchburg State University	Otis College of Art and Design	The University of Tampa
Bowling Green State University	Fordham University (2)	Peking University	Texas Christian University
Brandeis University	Framingham State University	Pennsylvania State University	The University of Texas, Austin
University of British Columbia (3)	Franklin & Marshall College	University of Pennsylvania (4)	University of Toronto (2)
Brown University	Furman University	Pepperdine University	Trinity College (3)
Bryant University (3)	The George Washington University (3)	University of Pittsburgh (2)	Tufts University (3)
Bucknell University (3)	Georgetown University (2)	Pomona College (2)	Tulane University (3)
University of California, Davis	Gettysburg College (4)	Pratt Institute	Union College (4)
University of California, Los Angeles	Hamilton College (3)	University of Prince Edward Island	U.S. Air Force Academy
University of California, San Diego (4)	Hampshire College	Princeton University	Ursinus College
Carleton College	Haverford College	Providence College (5)	Utah State University
University of Central Florida	High Point University	Purdue University (2)	Vanderbilt University
Chapman University	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Quinnipiac University (5)	Vassar College
Charleston Southern University	College of the Holy Cross	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)	University of Vermont (2)
College of Charleston (2)	Indiana University at Bloomington	University of Rhode Island	Waseda University School of International Liberal Studies
University of Chicago	Ithaca College (2)	Rice University	Washington and Lee University
University of Cincinnati	Jacksonville University	University of Richmond	University of Washington
Claremont McKenna College	Keio University, GIGA program	University of Rochester (3)	Wellesley College
Clarkson University (3)	Kenyon College (3)	Roger Williams University (2)	Wentworth Institute of Technology (2)
Colby College	Lafayette College	Rollins College	Wesleyan University
Colby-Sawyer College	Lasell College (2)	Sacred Heart University (7)	Wheaton College, Massachusetts (3)
Colgate University	Lehigh University (2)	Saint Anselm College (2)	Williams College (2)
The College of Saint Rose	Lesley University	Saint Joseph's College of Maine	University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Colorado at Boulder (3)	Loyola University Maryland	Saint Louis University	Wofford College
Colorado College	Loyola University New Orleans	Saint Michael's College	The College of Wooster (3)
Columbia University (2)	Lynn University	Salve Regina University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Connecticut College (5)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst (13)	Sarah Lawrence College (2)	Yale University
University of Connecticut (2)	Merrimack College (6)	Skidmore College (5)	
Cornell University (3)	University of Miami (2)	Smith College	
Dartmouth College (2)		Sophia University	