



“I think what’s important to underscore is that this program really is for everyone. There are history majors, biology majors, classics majors. It’s for everyone because the ocean necessarily creates the connection between all these fields that society tells us are different.”

— Alex, Williams-Mystic S’19

Williams-Mystic at a Glance

A collaboration of **Williams College and the Mystic Seaport Museum**, Williams-Mystic educates undergraduates in a semester-long investigation of the sea accompanied by research and travel throughout the United States.

Williams-Mystic offers fall and spring semester programs. Each semester, up to 24 students from an array of colleges and majors join the program for a hands-on exploration of our oceans and coasts. Our curriculum integrates travel to each of the country’s three coasts with **original research and interdisciplinary engagement**, equipping students to address real-world issues in any field.

No matter your background, interests, or aspirations, Williams-Mystic can strengthen your career path, propel you in a new direction, and connect you with long-lasting mentors and friends. As you explore the **literature, history, policy, and science** of our country’s oceans and coasts, you will craft research projects in all four of your classes, allowing you to tailor each class to your goals.



At Williams-Mystic, your home base is Mystic Seaport Museum, the nation's largest maritime museum. You will live in houses on the grounds of the Museum, building a cooperative, inclusive community with classmates from a dozen or more colleges and universities. You'll also explore the Museum's world-class collection of more than two million items and learn historical maritime skills from master craftspeople, allowing you to engage with history firsthand.

Join the Adventure

Williams-Mystic encourages engaged, motivated, and adventurous students of **all majors and backgrounds** to apply. We seek intellectually curious students with a strong sense of community, and we welcome students with no prior experience studying our oceans and coasts. Students do not need to have any boating experience or swimming ability to participate.

Williams-Mystic has a **need-blind admissions process**. Upon acceptance, all students are automatically considered for Williams-Mystic scholarships. Williams-Mystic works with every admitted student to ensure their Williams-Mystic semester costs no more out of pocket than a semester at their home college or university.

We have had students join us from community colleges, public universities, and private colleges across the country. Whatever kind of institution you attend, we are committed to working with you to ensure that a semester at Williams-Mystic is affordable.



Photography by Haley Kardek (F'17) and Jesse Edwards

Rolling Admissions Process

Priority Application Deadlines:
October 15 for Spring Semester
April 15 for Fall Semester

Average Class Size: 20
Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 4:1
Sophomores–seniors welcome



Williams-Mystic · The Maritime Studies Semester of Williams College and Mystic Seaport Museum

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