

# DR. ALFRED L. ARCIDI CENTER IMPACT REPORT

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE





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## Transforming the Student Experience

The Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center has transformed Merrimack College's ability to connect with prospective students, prepare our graduates for lifelong success in their post-graduate lives and bring together members of the Merrimack community. The Arcidi Center may be a building on campus, but it is what goes on inside that is transforming lives.

Home to both the Office of Undergraduate Admission and the O'Brien Center for Career Development, the Arcidi Center has become the new front door for Merrimack. From prospective students coming for a tour, to undergraduate students visiting the Arcidi Center throughout their four years to receive counseling and to build crucial competencies, life-skills and specialized career skills, your support has helped to make this journey possible.

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## Undergraduate Admission

This year, in surveys with prospective students and their families, the Arcidi Center and the warm welcome students receive has been top of the list of comments. The new space has improved the ability for staff to customize the visitor experience. Admission team members remark on the private yet comfortable setting in which guests meet with admission staff and their ability to offer applicants a highly individualized introduction to Merrimack. The admission team has seen a rise in the average number of visits per day — especially during the busy fall and spring seasons.

The size of the Arcidi Center's welcome area and the flexible seating makes planning grand-scale events possible. The admission team's open house and admitted student days are among the largest events, attracting thousands of prospective students and their families. This year, the Welcome Center space also hosted a ceremony for the College's Pioneer Scholars and the Annual Research Recognition Ceremony.

**"Merrimack has been my favorite college tour. From the moment I arrived on campus, it was a great experience. No other colleges I visited compared to my first impression at the Arcidi Center. The Welcome Center staff was so friendly and everything was very organized — our ambassador was great too. I completely fell in love with Merrimack on my tour!"**  
— Prospective Student



Dr. Arcidi and the Arcidi family's legacy at Merrimack is more than a beautifully designed new space — it also provides important experiences that students feel from their first moments on campus to their departure as graduates. Dr. Arcidi's belief that "you get out what you put in" is a sentiment embraced at the Arcidi Center by students who are ready to make the most of the resources, opportunities and comprehensive support system the College can offer to its students.

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## O'Brien Center for Career Development

This past year has seen tremendous growth for the O'Brien Center for Career Development. The team began piloting new programs and initiatives, and improving existing programs like the Professional Development Retreat, now in its fifth year.

Research and data are revolutionizing the way the O'Brien Center advises its students. Tools like Burning Glass give advisors real-time data on the specialized skills and experience employers are seeking in new hires and projections for salaries and career paths. This research informs the co-curricular opportunities we develop to help our students stand out.

Also new, The Internship Institute launched this semester with an initial cohort of 56 students. A career readiness program, the Institute immerses students in "boot camp" style activities focused on building critical competencies. The Institute will run each semester and guarantees an internship to student participants within one year of completion.

The O'Brien Center is raising awareness on campus about its career advising services via a peer-to-peer campaign, Get Hired Up. In its second year, the program has grown to 30 student interns who use social media and personal outreach, host events and make in-class presentations to their peers about the Center's services. Student attendance at these events is strong with 472 attendees across 20 events during the fall of 2019 alone.

## Your Investment at Work

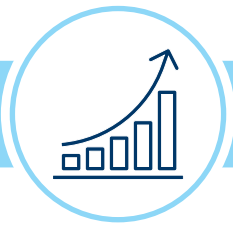
Thanks to your investment in Merrimack College, the Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi Center touches every student's life. With the new addition of the Arcidi Center, Merrimack has been able to:

- » Transform the visitor experience with the Center as the new "front door" to campus
- » Dedicate rooms for admission interviews and advising meetings
- » Accommodate larger numbers of admission visitors for open houses, admitted student's days and daily tours
- » Host large scale special events including the Pioneer Scholars ceremony and the Annual Research Recognition ceremony
- » Link students to campus resources like the Academic Success Center, the Tutoring and Math Center and the Writing Center
- » Facilitate networking opportunities with alumni
- » Connect students to skill-building tools with platforms, such as LinkedIn Learning
- » Connect students with employers in their field



**71%**

of prospective student visitors in 2019 applied for admission to Merrimack



**22%**

increase in prospective student visitors from 2017-18 to 2018-19 when the Arcidi Center opened



**49%**

increase in student paid-internships from 2017-18 to 2018-19



**20%**

increase in career advising appointments from 2017-18 to 2018-19

## Student Spotlight: Anna Gilboard '20

Anna Gilboard is a senior at Merrimack majoring in criminology. In addition to her coursework, she's completed two professional internships — one with a family law firm in the Prudential Center and the other as a victim-witness advocate at the Newburyport Courthouse. Additionally, as a senior with four years of experience, she is an executive board member of the admission ambassador program in Merrimack's Welcome Center. Reflecting on the new space she says, "I don't know how we functioned in the old Welcome Center. It's great that we have a new space, as the College is rapidly evolving and growing." Through her role as an ambassador and as a senior preparing to graduate, Anna has seen her experience come full circle in the Arcidi Center. "The Arcidi Center," she says, "is the place where students begin their time at Merrimack and end their time here — it's great!"



Anna credits many of her accomplishments at Merrimack to her time as an ambassador. "My experiences with the Office of Admission and Welcome Center along with the O'Brien Center allowed me to come out of my shell and become the confident leader I am today."



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**The Arcidi Center has been one of the most influential parts of my Merrimack experience.** Whether during an information session, getting ready for a tour or during other events hosted in the Arcidi Center, I know we are giving our guests an excellent experience and impression of Merrimack. The Arcidi Center also serves as a great resource for current students as well with the O'Brien Center for Career Development. As a senior and an admission ambassador for four years, I have utilized many resources from this new space. I have attended the Professional Development Retreat, individual career advising sessions, and other networking events. Being able to utilize the Arcidi Center in many ways and be a part of the operations that go on daily in the Welcome Center makes me not only proud to be a part of the Merrimack community, but also very excited for all of the great experiences I know it will continue to provide prospective and current students.”

— David Lambrou '20  
Major: mechanical engineering



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