

GRADUATE WORK IN THE PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Programs of Study

The Psychology and Education Department at Mount Holyoke College offers courses and research opportunities leading to the Master of Arts degree in Psychology. Some opportunities are also available for students who wish to do interdisciplinary work in Neuroscience & Behavior. The academic year runs from September to May, with two semesters and January term. No evening or summer courses are offered.

Requirements for the Masters of Arts in Psychology degree include 28 credits at the graduate (300-400) level (16 of which must be taken as courses rather than independent work or research), the writing of a thesis, a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language, and a final examination. Most students complete the requirements for the degree in two years. The department has research in several areas according to the interests of faculty members. These include, but are not limited to, developmental, social, cognitive, personality, educational psychology, and neuroscience & behavior; the Department does not offer a Master's degree in clinical psychology.

Library and Research Facilities

The current collection in the main and departmental libraries numbers 742,000 volumes, and 3,958 current periodical and serial subscriptions. The library is part of an automated system connecting the five Colleges: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; the resources of all five institutions are freely available to students and faculty. The science department laboratories are extremely well-equipped, and include a solar greenhouse, electron microscopes, ultra centrifuges, gas and liquid chromatographs, tissue culture and controlled-spectrometer, and a Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer. The Gorse Child Study Center, the laboratory for child psychology courses, is equipped with observation booths and consultation rooms. An Education Curriculum Library including texts, mathematics materials, science equipment, audio-visuals, software and an adult education collection is available in the Psychology and Education Department for students and cooperating teachers. Numerous computer laboratories, in the Dwight Computing Center, other academic buildings, and most dormitories, provide Macintosh and PC computers for word processing, statistics, programming languages and many other applications. A campus network allows easy access from academic buildings and dormitories to host machines for statistical analysis, computation, electronic mail and the Internet.

Mount Holyoke is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, one of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States. The College has chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and Psi Chi.

Five Colleges

Under Five College Cooperation, Mount Holyoke students may take courses at no additional charge at Amherst, Hampshire, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts, thus having access to their libraries and laboratory facilities as well. With the approval of the department concerned, up to eight credits of the 28 required for the M.A. degree may be taken at the other institutions. The Five Colleges are located within ten miles of each other and are linked by free and frequent bus services during the academic year. Students may also participate in social and cultural events at the other institutions.

The College and the Community

Mount Holyoke is an independent, nonsectarian, liberal arts college founded in 1837; it has a graduate student body of approximately 10 and a total undergraduate enrollment just over 2,000. Mount Holyoke remains a college for women at the undergraduate level, but the graduate program is open to men. All regions of the U.S. and more than forty other countries are represented in the student body. Mount Holyoke has always sought and welcomed students of all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, handicap, national or ethnic origin, or sexual preference in its admissions, financial aid and employment policies, or any of its programs or activities.

South Hadley was first settled more than 200 years ago and is located in the Connecticut River Valley, near the small cities of Holyoke and Springfield, and near the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts. Situated in the Pioneer Valley, in the shadow of the Holyoke Range, the 800-acre campus with two lakes includes squash, basketball, racquetball, and tennis courts, a swimming pool and a diving pool, a well-equipped field house, indoor and outdoor tracks, an equestrian center, and a golf course.

All campus activities are open to graduate students, and include lectures and seminars by distinguished scholars and public figures, a concert series, films, an active laboratory theatre, and art exhibits.

Fees

Graduate tuition is \$1,120 per credit in 2007-2008; there is also a Student Activities fee of \$180 for the year. Most graduate students are enrolled in a minimum of two 4 credit courses each semester. Graduate students are required to have health insurance; the Health Insurance Plan available through Mount Holyoke College is \$1,730 for 2007-2008.

Housing

Finding housing is the responsibility of the student. There are apartment complexes available in the area.

Financial Aid

The Psychology Department offers a limited number of graduate teaching assistantships, for which students are expected to devote approximately 20 hours a week to assisting in undergraduate courses. The stipend is \$11,000, plus a waiver of tuition. No separate application for the assistantship is required. In addition, Mount Holyoke participates in the subsidized Federal Direct Student Loan and the unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan.

Application

Completed applications are due in the office of the administrative assistant of the Psychology and Education department by **February 15** each year. Late applications may be considered at the discretion of the department. New students generally begin the program in the fall; there may be admission opportunities for students who wish to enter in the spring, but it is unlikely that assistantships would be available.

Admission is based on evidence of the ability to pursue work on the graduate level as presented in the undergraduate record, recommendations, and other credentials. All international applicants must submit their scores for the GRE General Test and TOEFL.

Mail Application To:

Senior Administrative Assistant
Psychology and Education
Mount Holyoke College
South Hadley, MA 01075-1462