



Mount Holyoke College  
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and Dean of Students  
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Dear New Student,

Welcome to Mount Holyoke College! During your time here we will challenge you to grow, to reflect, and to excel, all in the context of a diverse educational community that is based on a system of honor and cooperation. The primary purpose of this letter is to give you information that will help you navigate your first few days on campus and prepare you for your Orientation experience.

MHC Student Handbook

In addition to the information in this mailing, you are also expected to familiarize yourself with *The Mount Holyoke College Student Handbook* which can be found on the college's website. The handbook contains definitive information on everything from the Honor Code and college policies, to services, opportunities, and cultural traditions at Mount Holyoke. If you would like to familiarize yourself with its contents over the summer, the 2009-2010 updated version will be available on the web beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.mtholyoke.edu/cic/stulife/handbook/](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/cic/stulife/handbook/)

New Student Orientation

Our Orientation theme this year is "Women Leading, Leading Women" which reflects our commitment to empowering women to work in cooperation as a community of diverse leaders. I hope that the Orientation program will help you begin the exciting process of discovering the many ways that you can realize your goals, uncover new passions, and make connections with your fellow students.

Pre-Orientation Program: "Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and Creating Inclusion"

New students participating in pre-orientation will receive individual information about their check-in process. For more information about pre-orientation, please visit <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/dos/12606.shtml>

## Orientation Arrival Information

General Orientation for all new students including transfer and guest students begins on Sunday, September 6th at 8:00 a.m.

All **residential students** should report directly to their assigned residence hall (you will receive this information from the Residential Life Office via email in late July). There will be Orientation Leaders there to welcome you and help you unload your vehicle. As soon as your car is unloaded, you will be directed to one of several parking lots. Inside the residence hall there will be Residential Life staff available to check you into the building.

**Commuter Students** should check-in between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at the Commuter Student Lounge in Blanchard Campus Center where you will be welcomed and given information on Orientation and events for the first few days of the semester. You should plan to attend the picnic lunch on Pageant Green as a group at 11:30 am.

## Orientation Program Overview

All new students are strongly encouraged to participate fully and substantively in the Orientation program; its many elements have been thoughtfully planned to provide you with a strong foundation for your future success at Mount Holyoke. When you receive your orientation schedule you will find that there are several events that we have identified as “small group” events. Each new student will be assigned to a small group consisting of 10-15 new students led by two upperclass students who have been selected to be Orientation Leaders. The small group experience will give you the opportunity to make connections with several of your new classmates and to have upperclass students at your disposal to answer questions and provide assistance to you throughout the orientation program.

The Orientation program includes a combination of required and optional events. The required events include everything from a session on how to excel academically (“Making Connections: Your Academic Experience at MHC”), to an interactive program where you will explore becoming a member of our diverse community (“Intersections: Identity and Community”). In addition you will have a one-on-one meeting with your faculty advisor to discuss your academic program and interests, a panel discussion of faculty members on this year’s common reading, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman. There will also be a variety of optional social events, open houses and tours all designed to help you feel welcomed and a part of the Mount Holyoke community.

## Questions? How to Contact Us.

Orientation is the time to begin exploring all that Mount Holyoke has to offer, make new connections, and begin what is bound to be an exciting journey. I hope the rest of your summer goes well and I look forward to welcoming you personally in September. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to contact my office at 413-538-2550 or via email at deanstudent-orient-c@mtholyoke.edu if you have any questions about your transition to Mount Holyoke. I would also encourage you to explore our orientation website at [www.mtholyoke.edu/go/orientation](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/go/orientation) .

Yours sincerely,

Liz Braun  
Dean of Students