

Special Programs and Resources

The Harriet L. and Paul M. Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts

The Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts is grounded in the conviction that ideas passionately pursued and eloquently expressed contribute significantly to leadership. The center creates and sponsors programs and activities that enhance students' abilities to think independently and analytically, to become effective speakers and writers, and to connect their academic work purposefully with the world. For more information, call 413-538-3071 or visit www.mtholyoke.edu/wcl.

Annual Series of Lectures, Seminars, and Exhibits

The Weissman Center offers multifaceted programs that relate to contemporary and historical events, focus on significant intellectual issues, and provide meaningful opportunities for the College community to think and to work together. Public lectures, discussions, symposia, and workshops feature distinguished and engaged speakers whose scholarship, activism, and ideas are making a difference in the world. These known and emerging leaders serve as impressive models and offer valuable examples to students of how they might develop their own approaches to effective, creative leadership. Student leadership seminars and faculty development workshops and events generate intensive exchanges and discussion that impact directly courses and classroom interactions.

Speaking, Arguing, and Writing Program (SAW)

SAW is known internationally for the innovative ways it provides resources to empower students to be leaders who can think critically and creatively and speak and write persuasively. SAW student staff members are educated in theories and practices of peer mentoring in order to work collaboratively with fellow students to improve in both written and oral communication. SAW peer mentors partner with faculty in designated courses to develop students as speakers, arguers, and writers in the context of specific course material. SAW peer mentors also staff the SAW Center, where they are available to students from across the disciplines for individual sessions. The SAW program hosts campus-wide workshops and conferences; collaborates with other college offices to support writing, speaking, and leadership-related activities; offers a library of print resources and materials for students and faculty; and provides pedagogy resources for faculty. The SAW program administrative offices are in the Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts in Dwight Hall. The SAW Center is located in the Williston Library. For more information about the SAW program, call 413-538-3428 or visit www.mtholyoke.edu/saw. To schedule an appointment at the SAW Center, call 413-538-2651 or visit www.rich65.com/mtholyoke.

Community-Based Learning (CBL)

Community-based learning is an educational approach that links Mount Holyoke students with local communities in courses, fellowships, and independent study projects that combine analysis and action. CBL enhances understanding of public concerns and fosters leadership, citizenship, and organizing and advocacy skills. CBL courses and independent studies bring together students, faculty, and area community organizations to work on projects that provide intellectually rigorous experiences for students and tangible benefits for community partners. Working as interns with area organizations, CBL fellows work 8–10 hours/week to apply academic knowledge to concrete community challenges and offer creative solutions. CBL mentors, like SAW mentors, support faculty teaching CBL courses by facilitating their community partnerships, monitoring field sites and providing in-class support to students. Students also pursue CBL research projects as credit-bearing independent studies in area communities. CBL fellows, mentors, and independent study/volunteer students enroll in concurrent 1-credit CUSP courses that facilitate reflection, networking, and skill building to build community and enhance impact. For more information, call 413-538-3072 or visit www.mtholyoke.edu/cbl.

Student Leadership Opportunities

Students can participate in a range of Weissman Center leadership activities and initiatives. These include: presenting at Senior Symposium; winning leadership grants; joining the student staff of the center; becoming a part of the student advisory committee; participating in our leadership conferences, leadership seminars, and leadership and career events at which they can meet prominent leaders in a variety of fields; and being a part of the SAW and CBL programs. These leadership opportunities are united by our “Passport to Leadership” program. See www.mtholyoke.edu/wcl/passport.html.

The Dorothy R. and Norman E. McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives

We live in a world where capital and information cross national borders at growing speed, where unprecedented human development and technological achievements exist hand-in-hand with abject poverty, deprivation, and inequality within and among countries, where unchecked economic growth is posing a growing threat to the environmental balance sustaining human livelihood, and where homogenizing global forces draw into sharper relief cross-national and cultural differences in understanding the world and its challenges.

A liberal arts education has to prepare students for these challenges of the twenty-first century. Building on Mount Holyoke College’s long tradition of international engagement, the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives was founded in 2004 to unite Mount Holyoke’s wealth of international programs and people and advance a coherent vision for education for global competence and citizenship. Through its far-reaching initiatives, the center aims to weave engagement with a global world into the very fabric of a Mount Holyoke education. Some of the main initiatives are described below; more information is available at www.mtholyoke.edu/go/global.

Engagement with Global Issues on Campus

Many departments and programs are already offering courses which investigate—from their own disciplinary vantage points—different dimensions of globalization and ask questions whose scope reaches beyond national boundaries. The center complements these offerings with initiatives that explore global issues, their origins, and their legacies from cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and cross-national perspectives.

Global Scholar-in-Residence Program

The Carol Hoffmann Collins '63 Global Scholar-in-Residence program brings to campus renowned international experts who engage the community in dialogue on important issues through public lectures, classes, and informal gatherings. The Global Scholar-in-Residence in 2011–2012 is Kishore Mahbubani, an internationally renowned scholar/politician/public intellectual from Singapore.

Biennial Conference on Global Challenges

Each conference focuses on a specific global challenge, bringing together scholars and practitioners from around the world to analyze global challenges from cross-disciplinary and cross-national perspectives. The McCulloch Center also offers a team-taught 2-credit interdisciplinary course on the topic, leading up to the conference. In March 2012, the center hosts *Getting Development Right: The Great Challenge of the Twenty-first Century*. Several faculty members team teach an accompanying course exploring the conference topic.

Learning Experiences Abroad

Learning abroad proves to be a transformative experience for many students. Immersion in another country and culture encourages students to understand the world through a different lens and to question their own assumptions and beliefs. The McCulloch Center aggressively expands learning opportunities abroad for all Mount Holyoke students, through traditional study abroad as well as summer internships and research.

Study Abroad

Each year more than 200 Mount Holyoke students, representing approximately 40 percent of the junior class, study for a semester or academic year at universities and programs around the world. Students may choose to study with a Mount Holyoke-sponsored or affiliated program or exchange, or with one of the many other programs that we approve, covering more than 50 countries. MHC currently offers programs and exchanges for full year or semester study in China, France, Senegal, Costa Rica, Chile, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Germany, Spain, and the UK, along with a summer program in China.

We expect each student to work closely with her faculty advisor in choosing the country and program that best fit into her plan of study. The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives facilitates the application and approval process so that students are assured of receiving credit upon the successful completion of their program of study abroad. Though most students study abroad as juniors, study abroad in the sophomore year,

or even the fall of senior year, is possible and sometimes fits better into a student's overall program.

Mount Holyoke does not charge home school fees. Except for Mount Holyoke's own programs and exchanges, students pay program costs directly to their host university or program sponsor. Mount Holyoke charges an administrative fee of \$850 per semester of study abroad. Eligible students may use federal and state loans and grants toward the cost of study abroad. Because many programs abroad cost less than a semester or year at Mount Holyoke, many students will find that those resources, in addition to their family contribution, will be sufficient to cover their costs. For students in need of financial assistance, Mount Holyoke offers the Laurel Fellowships for Off-Campus Study. While Laurel Fellowships are guaranteed for designated Mount Holyoke programs and exchanges (though spaces may be limited), they are also awarded for study abroad with any approved program. Mount Holyoke typically funds 95-98 percent of qualified applicants.

International Internships

The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives promotes opportunities for students to participate in international internships. The center maintains resources on experiential learning opportunities abroad and advises students on strategies for designing their own international internship. Additionally, the center sponsors the Mount Holyoke College International Internship Program (MHC-IIP), a network of funded internship opportunities available exclusively for Mount Holyoke College sophomores and juniors. Established through contacts of the Mount Holyoke community (alumnae, faculty, parents and friends of the College), these competitive internships provide students with unique connections and the opportunity to apply their analytical skills in a cross-cultural context. In the summer of 2010, 26 students were funded for internships in 14 countries.

Student Research Abroad

The center encourages students to pursue summer research projects abroad. Through the competitive Global Studies Summer Fellowship (GSSF), the center provides financial support for collaborative student-mentor research projects abroad during the summer.

International Diversity on Campus

Mount Holyoke College boasts a uniquely diverse international faculty and student body, which provides a powerful setting for education for global citizenship, in and out of the classroom, on a personal and intellectual level. For more than 150 years, Mount Holyoke College has attracted students from many backgrounds and cultures. Today nearly 550 international students from 70 countries attend Mount Holyoke. Most are studying toward a bachelor's degree and enter as first-year, transfer, or Frances Perkins students. The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives provides orientation, advising, special programming, and information about immigration regulations to international students. The center also administers a special program for students who are selected to spend a year at the College as Foreign Fellows, international exchange students, or international guest students.

Foreign Fellowship Program

Each year the Foreign Fellowship Program supports 13 international students who assist in the modern language departments (Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish) while studying for the Certificate for International Students. Most of the foreign fellowships are connected to direct exchanges with partner universities abroad. The fellowships are awarded to students who are native speakers of one of the languages listed above, who have completed at least one year of university study in their home country, and who expect to return home after one year.

Foreign Languages at Mount Holyoke College

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.” —Wittgenstein

Encouraging Mount Holyoke students to become proficient in languages other than English is an essential part of the College’s goal of fostering engaged, global citizenship, both abroad and in the U.S. As one professor explains, “By laying down your native language and picking up one that is ‘foreign’ to you, you learn how linguistic and cultural differences affect everything having to do with human encounters.” Consequently, although students can learn about a different culture in many courses across the curriculum, in language courses they actively participate in it.

Mount Holyoke has responded to the realities of today’s world by maintaining its strong commitment to the study of languages. This commitment is reflected in the variety of opportunities we offer for study abroad (see above), our long-standing language requirement, and the foreign fellow exchange, which brings to the College international students who conduct informal conversation sessions and arrange cocurricular events. In addition, departments offer a broad range of courses emphasizing cultures and literatures of communities in which languages other than English are central.

On the Mount Holyoke campus, we teach a dozen languages (modern and ancient) representing all the continents of the globe: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, ancient Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Sanskrit, and Spanish. Through the Five College Supervised Independent Language Program at the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, students can also learn less commonly taught languages (for example, Czech, modern Greek, Swahili, Turkish, Urdu, and Wolof). For more information, see the Five College Consortium chapter.

The Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Center for the Environment

The Miller Worley Center for the Environment (formerly the Center for Environmental Literacy) was established in 1998. Its goal was to make environmental literacy a central part of students’ education at Mount Holyoke by using our campus as a natural laboratory for the study of landscape ecology and ecological processes. The center’s current mission is to enable our students and community to work toward environmentally responsible, just, and equitable societies by bridging diverse interests and backgrounds, and by deepening the connections between people, community, and the Earth.

We imagine “environment” broadly—not just as surroundings, not just as the air, water, and land on which we depend, or that we pollute—but as sets of circumstances, conditions, and contexts in which we live, work, and develop. We seek common ground where edges have separated us—by discipline, by lifeways, by points of view, by structures that may have kept us from engaging in dialogue about “environment” in our work and lives.

The center’s programs seek to offer frames for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural dialogue and partnerships, which recognize shared responsibility and interdependence. Our programs seek to increase awareness of local, national, and global realities and to encourage leadership within all of us to reflect, communicate, and act as responsible citizens of the Earth.

A guiding principle of the Miller Worley Center for the Environment is the *integration of teaching, research, and community service* such that activities and programs positively reinforce each other. The center serves as a forum that brings together people from diverse backgrounds—faculty, students, staff, and members of the wider community—to discuss and collaborate on issues of mutual concern. The center is also a resource for students interested in ecology and environmental studies, faculty developing new courses, facilities planners managing the campus, and thoughtful individuals who want to learn how to live in more environmentally responsible ways.

More than 300 acres of Mount Holyoke’s 800-acre campus are an undeveloped nature preserve—of lakes, streams, forests, marsh, shrub wetlands, forested wetlands, and vernal pools—that is home to hundreds of animal species, including beavers, otters, American eel, and coyotes. This remarkable diversity of environments and life forms exists in close proximity to areas of rapid development, providing Mount Holyoke students with opportunities to study a variety of ecological processes and their responses to human activities. The center collects data on the rich array of environmental phenomena that occur in the College’s undeveloped and built environments. Various science courses use the data sets to study subjects ranging from weather and water quality to biodiversity and community structure. Students can also use the center’s data for independent research.

Outside the classroom, the Miller Worley Center for the Environment works to heighten environmental awareness within the community at large. Each semester, the center presents lectures on important environmental issues. Recent guest speakers have included Barbara Bloch, one of the world’s leading marine biologists; Anna Lappé, best-selling author and cofounder of the Small Planet Institute; and Bill McKibben, environmental activist and author. The center has organized discussion series on local natural history and faith and the environment; panels on careers in the environment; and environmental workshops, nature walks, and hands-on experiences for children.

The Miller Worley Center for the Environment is located in Dwight Hall. For more information, call 413-538-3091, email center-environment@mtholyoke.edu, or visit www.mtholyoke.edu/go/ce.

Library, Information, and Technology Services (LITS)

LITS offers the MHC community a premier research library and an award-winning teaching and learning facility with a dedicated team to assist students, faculty, and staff in their academic pursuits.

Housed in the Williston-Miles-Smith-Dwight complex, LITS is both a physical place and virtual gateway to information and technology resources, services, and spaces critical to student success. The physical library collection of more than 700,000 volumes, including an internationally known collection of archival records, manuscripts, and rare books, is enormously enriched through a shared Five College library catalog and delivery system. Mount Holyoke students have direct access to the eight million volumes in the Five College library system at their fingertips, as well as a global library network.

Complementing the physical library collection is a rich selection of digital information sources, such as art images, electronic books and journals, digital music recordings, and more.

Teaching and learning happen in the classroom and lab but are increasingly complemented and enriched through ella (the campus learning management system), electronic portfolios of student work, and other means. Many classes utilize ella websites to facilitate sharing of reading materials and to foster virtual connections and conversations between students and faculty members.

Computer labs across campus offer students high-end software and computer hardware. Students may also borrow a wealth of computer and media equipment, such as digital cameras, projectors, and laptops.

Student research and technology skill development is supported through a robust array of course-integrated instruction; help services in person, over the phone, via email, and in electronic chat sessions; noncredit workshops; and individual in-depth appointments.

The campus wireless network blankets the residence halls and LITS spaces, in addition to key portions of most other buildings. The wired network covers the entire campus. Underlying the campus network is the shared Five College optical fiber network that connects the schools to each other and the world. This nationally recognized initiative enables the Five Colleges to more effectively meet ever-increasing bandwidth needs.

To protect student computers and the campus network, the College provides antivirus software free to all students. Specially trained LITS student peer consultants and staff are available to assist students with loading and running it, connecting to the campus network, and resolving operating system issues.

The LITS buildings include many great places to study and work, outfitted with a wide range of instructional technologies and comfy furniture: quiet nooks, places to meet with small groups, and the Library Courtyard coffeeshop to grab a snack and meet with a faculty member or friends.

Please visit the LITS website for more information:

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/lits/index.shtml>. LITS is also on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MountHolyokeLITS.

Internships

The Career Development Center (CDC) offers individual advising, workshops, networking, and other opportunities for students to develop rewarding internship experiences.

Through the Universal Application Form (UAF) process coordinated by the Career Development Center, students may apply for funding to support their participation in unpaid summer internships. Students must apply by the published deadline each spring semester in order to be considered for UAF support.

Beginning in summer 2006, new College legislation enabled students to receive credit for independent work with a practicum or internship component (295P or 395P). Please refer to the “Independent Study” section in this chapter for further information or the “Guide to Developing Your Independent Study,” available at the Career Development Center.

Students are encouraged to enroll in the pre-internship and post-internship courses offered by the College in order to better integrate internship and research experiences with their academic and career goals. These courses are offered through the Nexus program, but any student may enroll whether or not they have declared a Nexus minor.

COLL 210: Ready for the World (2 credits) is normally offered in the spring semester.

COLL 211: Tying it All Together (2 credits) is normally offered in the fall semester.

Exchanges and Semester Programs

Twelve College Exchange Program

Mount Holyoke College maintains a residential exchange program with Amherst, Bowdoin, Connecticut, Dartmouth, Smith, Trinity, Vassar, Wellesley, and Wheaton Colleges, and Wesleyan University. The exchange also includes the Williams/Mystic Program in Maritime Studies and the O’Neill National Theater Institute Program (NTI). For more information, see

www.mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/twelve_college.html or contact Cherie Phillips in the Office of Academic Deans at 413-538-2855.

Women’s College Exchange Programs

Mills-Mount Holyoke Exchange

Students may apply to study for a semester on exchange at Mills College, a distinguished college for women in Oakland, California. For more information, see www.mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/women_exchange.html or contact Cherie Phillips in the Office of Academic Deans at 413-538-2855.

Spelman-Mount Holyoke Exchange

Students may apply to study for a semester on exchange at Spelman College, the premiere historically black women's college in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, see www.mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/women_exchange.html or contact Cherie Phillips in the Office of Academic Deans at 413-538-2855.

American University Washington Semester Program

American University's Washington Semester Program offers more than a dozen distinct programs that cover such topics as American politics, justice, journalism, public law, and peace and conflict studies. Students participate in an intensive internship and seminar related to the program focus while living in Washington, D.C. Students apply directly to American University for admission to the program. For more information, see www.mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/washington_semester.html or contact Cherie Phillips in the Office of Academic Deans at 413-538-2855.

Semester in Environmental Science Program

The Semester in Environmental Science (SES) is an intensive, 15-week program that immerses students in rigorous field and laboratory work, lectures, and independent research in environmental and ecosystems sciences at one of the world's leading marine laboratories. SES is primarily for juniors, and is offered only in the fall semester. For more information about the program, see www.mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/ses_program.html or contact Thomas Millette, Associate Professor of Geography, or Jill Bubier, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies.

Intersession (formerly January Term)

Intersession, formerly known as January Term or J-Term, is an optional period in the first half of January during which students may pursue independent research on campus or explore new interests through nonacademic courses and workshops organized by the College. Other students use Intersession to engage in volunteer work or to complete an intensive two- to three-week internship off-campus (see "Internships" in this chapter for more information).

Noncredit courses and workshops, which vary from year to year, can focus on topics ranging from AutoCad to yoga. Some noncredit offerings are taught by students who share their expertise with peers. Faculty and staff are also encouraged to propose noncredit courses and workshops.

Students who are enrolled at Mount Holyoke for the full year, or who will be on leave in the fall but living on campus for the spring semester, are eligible for on-campus housing during Intersession. Students entering Mount Holyoke for the first time in the spring semester are not eligible to arrive early for Intersession. While there may be nominal fees for supplies in some noncredit programs or program fees for special off-campus programs in Intersession, there are no tuition or room charges for Intersession for eligible students. Such students also are not charged for board, as long as they are participate in Mount Holyoke's full board plan for the spring semester.

Independent Study

Mount Holyoke values independent-minded students who seek to develop and pursue a course of study that satisfies a particular intellectual curiosity. Projects may range from independent research in areas as diverse as protein folding, copyright law, rural development, literary analysis, and second language acquisition to original compositions in music, sculpture, and fiction.

All requests to undertake independent study are rigorously assessed and must be approved by the student's independent study faculty advisor.

A maximum of 16 credits of independent study and honors work may be used toward the 128 credits required for graduation. A maximum total of 8 credits of independent study may be elected in the sophomore and junior years.

Independent work with a practicum component in a professional or volunteer setting, and a substantial academic component supervised by a Mount Holyoke faculty member, may be designated 295P (Practicum) or 395P (Practicum). When the practicum takes place during the summer or January, the bulk of the credit-bearing work will normally take place during the following semester. Practicum designation ordinarily requires consultation with a faculty member prior to commencement of the practicum. Independent work with a practicum component is governed by the same policies as all other independent work.

Courses with practicum components bearing the word Practicum in their title may qualify international students with an F-1 visa for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Students seeking CPT should contact the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives.

Honors Thesis

During the senior year, qualified students can elect to write an honors thesis based on research and in-depth study of a particular subject. Ordinarily, a student writes an honors thesis in her major department. She may write an honors thesis in another field with the approval of that department and the dean of the College. To qualify to write an honors thesis, a student must have maintained a cumulative average of 3.00 in her College work or a 3.00 average in her major field prior to the senior year. The thesis must be approved by the department concerned. Students who write an honors thesis must earn 8 credits in independent study over two semesters.

An honors thesis or project that does not culminate in a recommendation for a degree with honor is recorded on the transcript as independent study.