

Academic and Career Advising

At Mount Holyoke, academic and career advising go hand-in-hand. Starting from their first year, students are encouraged to connect their academic interests with cocurricular learning opportunities. These opportunities may include research, internship, community-based learning, and many other possibilities.

Academic Advising

All first-year students and sophomores are assigned a faculty advisor who offers guidance about everything from course selection to meeting requirements and planning a major. The dean of first-year students is the principal advisor on curricular matters for all first-year students.

Midway through the second semester of their sophomore year, students declare their major. From that point on, they work with a faculty advisor in their major or interdisciplinary department. Students who pursue a special major work with a faculty committee of advisors. In addition to offering advice about the major, advisors offer valuable counsel about Five College study, other off-campus study options, and preparation for graduate and professional school.

Career Advising

The Career Development Center (CDC) offers a variety of career exploration, networking, internship, and job search services as well as prelaw advising. These programs and services are designed to assist students in connecting their education in the liberal arts with long-term success in the professional world.

The CDC provides individual career advising to all students throughout each stage of the career development process, from self-assessment and information gathering to exploration and decision making. The CDC maintains a helpful career resource library and a variety of online information sources.

Students are encouraged to explore career options through internship and research opportunities. Funding is available to students for unpaid summer internships through the Universal Application Form (UAF) process. To be considered for UAF funding, a student must apply by the published deadlines in the spring of each academic year.

Within the CDC, students will find the student employment office, which serves as a clearinghouse for all on-campus jobs for students, off-campus federal work-study opportunities, and local part-time jobs. The student employment office also serves as a resource to students and supervisors in making on-campus employment a valuable learning experience.

The CDC's recruiting program provides students with access to hundreds of employers in a wide variety of fields through its on-line job search and recruiting system. Re-

cruiting programs include interviews, information sessions, and job fairs on-campus and those shared with other institutions among the Five Colleges as well as other consortia such as the Liberal Arts Recruiting Connection.

Premedical and Prehealth Advising

Pre-health advising is available to all interested students, primarily through the Office of Pre-Health Programs. The Dean of Pre-Health Programs and the Chair of the Committee on the Health Professions cosponsor information sessions early every fall semester for students interested in learning about careers in the health professions and to describe the advising system, answer questions, and assist in course selection. Other programming offered throughout the year includes assistance with developing clinical internships, information sessions and alumnae panels, and visits by admission staff from health professions programs throughout the country.

The Dean of Pre-Health Programs serves as the advisor to all pre-health students through the sophomore year. During spring of sophomore year a student may request to be formally assigned an advisor from among the faculty who serve on the Committee on the Health Professions. For sophomores, the request must be received by March 11. Juniors and seniors may request a health advisor during the fall or spring semester, with forms due by October 15 or March 11, respectively. The advisor works closely with the student and the Office of Pre-Health Programs in an advisory role and, once students begin the process of applying, to assist with various aspects of the application process including selecting schools, preparing for standardized entrance exams, editing essays, and conducting mock interviews. The committee will also write a composite letter of recommendation, which provides a comprehensive summary of all aspects of the student's preparation, including course work, internships, research, entrance exam scores, and comments contained in individual recommendation letters.

In the year in which they are planning to begin their application to postgraduate programs in the health professions, all students must formally declare their intentions to the committee by completing a pre-application packet no later than April 1. This pre-application is intended to help optimize the student's efforts in completing an application that will be successful and to aid the committee in supporting the student's application. Students who fail to submit a pre-application packet by the deadline may not receive the full support of the committee.

Engineering Advising

Students interested in pursuing a career in engineering should contact a member of the Committee on Engineering as soon as possible after arriving on campus. The College offers three dual-degree programs (see the Other Degree and Certificate Programs chapter for details). These programs all have a large number of required courses, so it is in a student's best interest to take both a math and a physics course in each of her first three semesters.

Graduate School Advising

Each year, approximately 25 percent of graduating seniors go directly to graduate or professional school. The remaining 75 percent, with few exceptions, join the labor force. Within five years of graduating, about 40 percent of graduates have matriculated in graduate or professional school.

Throughout the academic year, faculty advise students about graduate study in specific fields and about ways to meet graduate admission requirements. The Career Development Center library assists students in obtaining information about graduate and professional programs across the country, and counselors advise students about preparing applications through workshops and individual appointments.

Advising for Scholarships and Fellowships

For a school of its size, Mount Holyoke boasts an unusual number of students who have won top national and international scholarships, including Marshall, Fulbright, Luce, Goldwater, and Truman awards.

While demonstrating Mount Holyoke students' high abilities, the large number of awards also reflects the College's exceptional support system for students who apply. Students receive regular award updates and may attend workshops on how to locate and apply for awards. They can use the College's extensive collection of up-to-date award directories. Students also receive office services, at no charge, which can mean the difference between meeting a deadline and not. Most important, the CDC has a dedicated fellowship coordinator who oversees the application process for awards that require official nomination and endorsement by the College.