

Family & Friends Weekend

Mount Holyoke College | Fall 2026



Welcome Family and Friends!

Enjoy connecting with your student's life and experiences. Choose one or two events or choose them all! Visit events.mtholyoke.edu/family_friends for a full list of events, additional event details, guest information and more.

OPEN HOURS

WELCOME CENTER

Blanchard Hall, Main Level

Friday: noon–8 pm
Saturday: 8 am–6 pm

DINING COMMONS

Friday and Saturday
Breakfast: 7:15–10 am
Continental breakfast: 10–11 am
Lunch: 11 am–4 pm
Dinner: 5 pm–midnight

Sunday
Breakfast: 7:15–10 am
Continental breakfast: 10–11 am
Lunch: 11 am–4 pm
Dinner: 5 pm–10 pm

ADMISSION TOURS

Guided tours of the Mount Holyoke College campus. Tours last 75 minutes. Meet at the Office of Admission, Harriet Newhall Center, Route 116.

Friday: 10 am, 1 pm and 2 pm
Saturday: 10 am and 11 am

OFFICE OF ADMISSION

Friday: 9 am–4 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am–1 pm

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–5 pm

BALFOUR CLASS RINGS

Community Center, Dining Commons vestibule

Friday and Saturday: noon–5 pm

KENDALL SPORTS & DANCE COMPLEX

Friday: 7 am–9 pm
Saturday: 8 am–6 pm
Sunday: noon–8 pm

TALCOTT GREENHOUSE

Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 9 am–4 pm

WILLISTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Friday: 8 am–10 pm
Saturday: 9 am–10 pm
Sunday: 9 am–midnight

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Friday and Saturday: 9 am–5 pm

THE VILLAGE COMMONS: RESTAURANTS, SHOPS AND LOCAL RESOURCES

Go to: thevillagecommons.com

ODYSSEY BOOKSHOP

The Village Commons, 9 College Street

Friday: 11 am–5:30 pm
Saturday: 10 am–8 pm
Sunday: 11 am–5 pm

LOCAL AA MEETINGS

Go to:
tinyurl.com/2ejscask



Guest meal rates

Breakfast: $10.25 plus tax
Brunch/lunch: $13.80 plus tax
Dinner: $15.85 plus tax
Late night: $11.00 plus tax

FRIDAY, OCT. 16

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Visit the College Archives and Special Collections to learn more about the history of Mount Holyoke. Also, view our new exhibit about the 150th anniversary of the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, which was created in collaboration with the Art Museum. Questions? Email archives@mtholyoke.edu or call 413-538-2013.

Archives and Special Collections, Dwight Hall
9 am–5 pm

PROCESS/PROGRESS: A GROUP SHOW OF FOUNDATIONS AND DRAWING CLASSES

"Process/Progress" showcases work created at the start of the semester by students in 100-level introductory art studio classes taught by Xuân Pham, Yaning Xing, Pasqualina Azzarello and Amanda Maciuba.

Blanchard Art Gallery
9 am–9 pm

ADMISSION TOUR

A guided tour of the Mount Holyoke College campus. Tours last 75 minutes.

Meet at the Office of Admission, Harriet Newhall Center, Route 116
10 am, 1 pm or 2 pm

NATIVE PLANTS AND POLLINATORS TOUR

Connect with nature on a guided walk led by Botanic Garden Horticulturist Alison Costello, focused on the rich array of plants in the Botanic Garden's outdoor gardens. Learn about the pollinator garden, see the rich diversity of plants growing in our woodland beds and sunny borders, and learn about the importance and benefits of native plants. **Space is limited to 25 participants, and preregistration is required. This tour will take place rain or shine!**

Meet at the main entrance to Eliot House (west side)
10 am

MHC COUNSELING SERVICE: FAMILY AND FRIENDS CONSULTATIONS

It can be challenging to navigate changes in your relationship with your student or negotiate across differing perspectives — from "How often can I expect a phone call?" to conversations about identity, values, major/career, goals, future plans and other life choices … and beyond. The Counseling Service will offer a limited number of family and friend consultations that will focus on ways to support your student's growing independence while maintaining connection.

To reserve an appointment, call 413-538-2037 and request a Family and Friends Weekend consultation; families and friends must be accompanied by their MHC student.

Groves Health Center
11 am–3 pm

WELCOME TABLE

Stop by to ask questions and pick up a map or schedule.

Blanchard Hall, Main Level
Noon–8 pm

LEARNING FROM APPLICATION (LEAP) SYMPOSIUM

Each fall at the LEAP Symposium, Mount Holyoke students reflect critically on how learning experiences outside the classroom — summer internships and research — connect to their coursework and help shape their academic, professional and personal goals. More than 200 students will be presenting.

Kendade Hall, Marion Craig Potter '49 Atrium
Noon–5 pm

PUMPKIN DECORATING FOR THE FALL FEST CONTEST

Paint or decorate a pumpkin for Saturday's Fall Fest Pumpkin Decorating Contest.

Great Room, Community Center
6:30–8 pm

JAZZ CONCERT: "MOVIN' AND GROOVIN'!"

Come hear the jazz ensembles of Mount Holyoke. Join the Big Band, Chamber Jazz and Vocal Jazz Ensembles as they present swingin' tunes from Ray Charles, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin and Queen. Directed by Mark Gionfriddo.

Chapin Auditorium
7:30–9 pm

S'MORES UNDER THE STARS

Come out and enjoy s'mores at the fire pit to chase away the autumn evening chill. (Event will be canceled in the event of rain.)

Fire pit by the lake, next to Pratt Music Hall
8–9:30 pm

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

WELCOME CENTER

Stop by to ask questions and pick up a map or schedule.

Blanchard Hall, Main Level
8 am–6 pm

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Visit the College Archives and Special Collections to learn more about the history of Mount Holyoke. Also, view our new exhibit about the 150th anniversary of the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, which was created in collaboration with the Art Museum. Questions? Email archives@mtholyoke.edu or call 413-538-2013.

Archives and Special Collections, Dwight Hall
9 am–5 pm

SWIMMING AND DIVING ALUM MEET

Kendall Sports & Dance Complex
10 am

ADMISSION TOUR

A guided tour of the Mount Holyoke College campus. Tours last 75 minutes.

Meet at the Office of Admission, Harriet Newhall Center, Route 116
10 am or 11 am

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CHORAL/ ORCHESTRAL REHEARSAL

Family and friends of the choirs and orchestra are invited to join us for a combined rehearsal. You'll be invited to sing in a performance of "Verleih uns Frieden" ("Grant Us Peace") by Felix Mendelssohn.

McCulloch Auditorium, Pratt Music Hall
10–10:45 am

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER OPEN HOURS

Stop in to explore resources related to career readiness and ask quick questions.

Jones Career Development Center
10 am–noon

CANOEING ON UPPER LAKE

All are welcome to paddle on Upper Lake. An adult must accompany children. Life jackets are required and provided to all participants. Weather permitting. Hosted by the Outing Club.

Canoe House on Upper Lake, beyond Kendall Complex
10 am–2 pm

MEET PRESIDENT DANIELLE R. HOLLEY AND THE SENIOR TEAM

Join President Holley and her leadership team for an update on exciting initiatives and activities at the College, followed by an audience Q&A. There will be coffee beginning at 10 am.

Gamble Auditorium
10:30–11:30 am

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE ART MUSEUM: STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Experience the Art Museum's newly renovated and reinstalled galleries, and hear from student guides about their favorite works of art in MHCAM's renowned collection.

Art Museum lobby
Please note that our tour capacity is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
10:30–11 am or 11:15–11:45 am

CAMPUS TREE TOUR — EVOLUTION TO THE REVOLUTION AND BEYOND

Trees are fascinating and have so many stories to tell. Join Botanic Garden Director and Curator Tom Clark for a walking tour, where he will share some of these engaging stories — touching on evolution, campus history, climate change, the American Revolution and much more — as he reveals the diversity of trees that comprise this arboreal asset. **The tour begins outside the south end of Talcott Greenhouse and ends at the north end of Skinner Hall. Preregistration is required. The event will run rain or shine.**

Meet outdoors at the south end of Talcott Greenhouse
11 am–noon

LUNCH IN THE DINING COMMONS

Guests are invited to purchase lunch in the Dining Commons.

Lunch is available from 11 am to 4 pm and costs $13.80 plus tax.

PRE-LAW 101

Join MHC's Pre-Law Advisor Tyler McFarland to learn about all things pre-law and how to prepare a timely, tailored and thorough law school application. The discussion will include a 30-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session.

Dwight Hall Room 101
11:30 am–12:30 pm

PROCESS/PROGRESS: A GROUP SHOW OF FOUNDATIONS AND DRAWING CLASSES

"Process/Progress" showcases work created at the start of the semester by students in 100-level introductory art studio classes taught by Xuân Pham, Yaning Xing, Pasqualina Azzarello and Amanda Maciuba.

Blanchard Art Gallery
Noon–9 pm

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHT: TAKE A CLOSER LOOK: SCIENCE AND RESEARCH AT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Visit a poster session to learn more about the original independent research being conducted by Mount Holyoke students. A number of ongoing projects pursued on campus during the academic year, or over the summer, with our own faculty will be presented, alongside work from student summer internships in research university laboratories. A guide will lead groups from Skinner Green in front of Blanchard Hall to the Science Center every half hour from 12:30 to 2 pm.

Kendade Hall, Marion Craig Potter '49 Atrium and Clapp Laboratory Basement
12:30-2:30 pm

SOCCER GAME: MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE VS. EMERSON COLLEGE

Kendall Sports & Dance Complex
1 pm

TALCOTT GREENHOUSE TOUR

Did you know that vanilla comes from an orchid? Or that cycads saw the rise and fall of the dinosaurs and are still with us today? These stories, along with many more, highlight the wealth of plant diversity just waiting to be discovered within the indoor collection. Join Greenhouse Supervisor Jessie Blum for a tour highlighting some of the unique and fascinating plants in the Botanic Garden's Talcott Greenhouse. **Space is limited to 15 participants per tour, and preregistration is required.**

Talcott Greenhouse
1 pm or 1:45 pm

LITS WELCOME TABLE

Library, Information, and Technology Services (LITS) staff welcome you to campus. Stop by the Library Atrium to learn about LITS and to ask your library and technology questions.

Williston Memorial Library, Atrium
1–5 pm

FALL FEST!

Join us for an afternoon of fall activities and food, and vote for your favorite decorated pumpkin. This fun and interactive event for all will include a DJ and photobooth, as well as representatives from various departments, including Student Affairs, Athletics, the Art Museum and more.

Pageant Green
2–4 pm

PAIRING PROJECT RECEPTION

Alum and student participants in the Mount Holyoke Pairing Project and their guests are invited to a reception to celebrate connection, community and friendship. Light refreshments will be served. Accommodation contact: alumassociation@mtholyoke.edu

Cassani Lounge, Shattuck Hall (Room 102)
3:30–5:30 pm

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CONCERT: CHORAL ENSEMBLES AND ORCHESTRA

Join friends and family at this time-honored MHC tradition. The MHC Glee Club, Chorale and Chamber Singers present the annual Family and Friends Concert, featuring music by Zoltán Kodály, Stephen Paulus, Dolly Parton, A.R. Rahman, Andrea Ramsey, Richard Smallwood, Hristo Todorov and Chen Yi. The Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra previews the upcoming Monsters Ball with Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake." During the concert, the Family and Friends Choir will join forces with all the performers to sing in a performance of "Verleih uns Frieden" ("Grant Us Peace") by Felix Mendelssohn. To sing in the Family and Friends Choir, join us for a short rehearsal from 10-10:45 am in McCulloch Auditorium in Pratt Music Hall. A modest breakfast will be provided at 9 am for singers in the choir.

Abbey Memorial Chapel
4–5:30 pm

FACULTY RECEPTION

Join us and connect with the dedicated professors and scholars who shape our students' academic journeys. This reception offers a relaxed setting for families to meet faculty members, discuss academic programs and faculty scholarship, and gain insight into classroom life and research opportunities.

McCulloch Auditorium, Pratt Music Hall
4:30 pm

SATURDAY, OCT. 17 (CONT.)

M&CS AT THE ODYSSEY BOOKSHOP

The bookstore will have extended open hours on Saturday, 10 am–8 pm, with milk and cookies from 6 to 8 pm.

Odyssey Bookshop, The Village Commons
6–8 pm

"FALL JAM" A CAPPELLA PERFORMANCE

Experience a Mount Holyoke tradition. Enjoy talented and diverse a cappella voices with artful intersections.

Chapin Auditorium
8 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm)

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHT: OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE

Mount Holyoke College astronomy club (ASTRO) members welcome you to the oldest academic building on campus to look through the school's various telescopes. Faculty and ASTRO members will be there to give short tours and answer questions.

Williston Observatory
8–10 pm

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

BEAN & BISCUIT COFFEE CO.

Bean & Biscuit Coffee Co. is a local, family-owned mobile coffee trailer serving handcrafted espresso drinks, lattes, cold brew and more. Come grab a drink, say hello and enjoy a little pick-me-up while on campus. We can't wait to serve the Mount Holyoke community.

Skinner Green
9 am–noon

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHT: FIMBEL MAKER & INNOVATION LAB AND MHC'S MAKER CULTURE

The student staff of the Fimbel Maker & Innovation Lab will introduce participants to the space. The Fimbel Maker & Innovation Lab provides the resources to support novices and experts alike as they turn their ideas into tangible reality, fostering collaboration across the College and inspiring students to pursue careers and projects they might never have considered. The physical space brings together tools, people and resources to support the expanding maker culture on campus from a central hub. Please note: Space is limited.

Prospect Hall, First Floor
10 am–noon

PROCESS/PROGRESS: A GROUP SHOW OF FOUNDATIONS AND DRAWING CLASSES

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Blanchard Art Gallery
Noon–9 pm

LEARN MORE AND VIEW THE SCHEDULE ONLINE

MOUNT HOLYOKE

mtholyoke.edu

Please contact us at **family-weekend@mtholyoke.edu** or **413-538-2478** for additional Family and Friends information, if you have questions regarding the accessibility of a venue or an event, or if you have suggestions on how to improve access to College programs, activities and services.