



Student Handbook

2026-2027

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Preface

The Student Handbook is a compilation of campus policies, procedures and practices that have been created to foster a social and living environment that is respectful, accountable and responsive to the College's diverse community. The Student Handbook is one of many good sources of information about the College. Students should also consult the Bulletin and Course Catalog for the academic regulations of the College and the Residence License Agreement for general standards and expectations of living in any student housing owned and provided by Mount Holyoke College.

This handbook is an official notification of cocurricular policies, regulations and standards of conduct. Enrolled Mount Holyoke College students are responsible for knowing, understanding and abiding by the policies, regulations and standards of conduct described here. A student's enrollment is considered to be their acceptance of all conditions specified in this handbook.

It is not feasible for the College to list every policy and protocol on campus, as the College is a dynamic enterprise evolving in response to the needs of students. Students must take the responsibility to reach out to the appropriate office should they have questions regarding use of departmental services, facilities or programs.

The College reserves the right to change any of the policies, rules, regulations and standards of conduct at any time as necessary in the interest of the College. The College also reserves the right to modify or discontinue any of the services, programs or activities described in this handbook.

This handbook is maintained and updated by the Division of Student Affairs. The PDF version of this document is a point-in-time reference to the College's policies and procedures. Consult the online version of this handbook for the most up-to-date listing of policies and procedures at the [Mount Holyoke Student Handbook](#).

Please note: The information in this handbook is generated based on normal college operations. In the event of a crisis, pandemic or other emergency, policies and procedures may be modified or eliminated to accommodate the needs of the College. New documents or policies based on emergency needs will supersede any policies or procedures outlined in this student handbook.

Introduction to Mount Holyoke College

Letter from Marcella Runell

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of Students

Dear student,

Welcome to the Mount Holyoke College Community! Whether you are beginning your first year, transferring, joining as a Frances Perkins Scholar or returning to campus, I am so glad you are here. Mount Holyoke is a special place, with a tremendous legacy of promoting equity and inclusion, gender-inclusive leadership, civic engagement and academic excellence.

The Student Handbook serves as a guidepost regarding important aspects of the community and what makes Mount Holyoke unique. As a residential college, learning and growing happen everywhere. Woven throughout this handbook, our residential education model highlights how we coordinate campus resources — rooted in our Be Well pillars — to support your holistic well-being, growth, safety and academic success as you navigate your MHC journey.

My hope is that you will use its contents to learn about campus traditions, services available to you and the important community guidelines that have been created to promote a healthy and safe campus for all students.

Thank you for choosing to be on this journey with us at Mount Holyoke. As you navigate your pathway to success, please know you have a committed group of faculty, staff and alums behind you, ready and willing to support you this academic year and throughout your time at the College.

Warmly,

Marcella
#WelcomeMoHome
2026-2027

Mount Holyoke College

Mount Holyoke's Mission

Mount Holyoke, the leading gender-diverse women's college, immerses students in a vibrant, intellectually adventurous global community to develop their voices and vision for the future, preparing them for lives of purposeful leadership in a culturally diverse world.

— Adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees, May 2023

A Statement on Academic Responsibility

The decision to join this academic community requires acceptance of special rights and responsibilities that are essential for its effective functioning and the realization of its mission.

All members of the community share the responsibility to uphold the highest standards of academic and personal integrity, community engagement, and commitment to principles of equity and inclusion that are central to the mission of the College. Failure to accept and act on this responsibility threatens the rights of the rest of the community by undermining the trust upon which the community is built.

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators assume a commitment to the academic community that supports teaching and learning in an open environment based on mutual trust, respect, and concern. All members of the community have the right to careful and constructive analysis of their work, and they have the responsibility to provide a serious response to the work of others.

Each member of the academic community has the right to benefit from its collective knowledge and resources as well as the responsibility to contribute to them. Failure to adhere to these principles and standards may result in sanctions.

— Adopted from the [Academic Honor Board's Statement of Policies and Procedures](#)

The Mount Holyoke Community

As an institution dedicated to seeking intellectual enlightenment and amelioration of the quality of life, Mount Holyoke College believes in the right, indeed the necessity, of free inquiry and free expression for every member of the college community. The College aims to provide an environment hospitable to open interchanges of knowledge and opinion in the terms of reasoned discourse. Rights to free speech, free movement, free association, peaceful assembly, and orderly protest extend to every member of the College. So does responsibility to others.

The College is not a monolith but a dynamic community capable of constructive change. Avenues of communication among all segments of the community must be clear, accessible, and transparent. All college community members should conduct themselves ethically, honestly, and with integrity in all dealings. They should be fair and principled in their interactions and act in good faith in these matters with others both within and outside the college community. Given the variety and complexity of ethical questions that may arise in the course of carrying out the college's business, this can only serve as a general guide. Advocates of any serious concern are entitled to a hearing by persons in authority and to a reply as prompt, full, and specific as due consideration will allow.

Discomfort or difference of opinion between community members is not unusual in an academic space; neither necessarily entails lack of respect for the rights or dignity of others. Listening and

respecting differences, whether they involve an individual's background, political thought, or philosophical opinion is an expectation and obligation that each member in the community must share. This behavior encourages individuals to engage in respectful discourse when in conflict.

The College should aim to foster an environment in which faculty, students, and other members of the campus community are free to discuss and debate even the most deeply held beliefs, inside and outside the classroom. Robust debate and the critical evaluation of different points of view are essential components of higher education and of the transmission of knowledge, and must be defended at all cost. Silencing voices and suppressing ideas are antithetical to the core educational mission.

While demonstrations of opinion should not be coercive, involve violence against persons or property, interfere with the rights of others, nor prevent the ordinary business of the College community, any College policies to restrict the time, place, and manner of expression must not impose unduly strict limits on speech and assembly, nor discourage or shut down freedom of expression. Such policies must be content neutral and applied impartially.

— Adopted from [Faculty Legislation](#), April 2025.

Statement of Non-discrimination

Mount Holyoke College is a women's college that is gender diverse. The College is committed to providing equal access and opportunity in employment and education to all employees and students. In compliance with state and federal law, Mount Holyoke College does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, genetic information, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, ancestry, veteran or military status, or any other legally protected status under federal, state or local law.

— Approved by the Board of Trustees, fall 2020

Official Communication from the College to Students

The College communicates with students through a variety of channels. Information that is sent to students from the College via their College mailbox, my.mtholyoke, or Mount Holyoke email address is considered official communication and should be treated as such. Students are required to check their College mailbox and their Mount Holyoke email on a regular basis and are responsible for reading and responding to the information they receive from the College. Although for a variety of reasons, including reliability and security, the College urges students to use their Mount Holyoke email address as their primary email, students who will not be checking that address regularly should forward it. Students are notified of mail and package delivery through their Mount Holyoke email address. Notifications are sent upon receipt by Mail Services.

Structure of the College

Board of Trustees

The all-volunteer [Mount Holyoke College Board of Trustees](#) oversees the property, business and affairs of the College. The Board delegates daily management of the College to the administration, and curricular decision-making to the faculty. The chair of the Board is Sally Durdan '81.

President of the College

The [president of the College](#) is both the leader of educational policy and the College's chief executive officer. Danielle Holley became Mount Holyoke's president July 1, 2023.

Divisional Leadership

[Mount Holyoke's academic and administrative operations](#) are organized into seven functional areas, each overseen by a vice president/officer of the College. The officers of the College are the president and the nine vice presidents

Shared Governance

Mount Holyoke has a strong tradition of shared decision making among its administration, faculty and students. Students and faculty have an important role in shaping institutional policy and practice, in particular through the [Student Government Association](#), and the various standing committees.

Mount Holyoke Honor Code and Community Responsibilities

Community Responsibility and Student Conduct Code

Guidelines for Community Responsibility

Being a member of this community is a privilege; sharing in the maintenance of this community is a responsibility. The Mount Holyoke College community believes in the necessity of maintaining an environment in which every individual may pursue the lifestyle of their choice. Toward this end, it is the community's responsibility to protect individual rights, and it is the responsibility of every member of this community to respect the rights, opinions, beliefs, and feelings of others. Each member of the Mount Holyoke community is expected to treat all individuals with a common standard of decency. Discrimination by any member of the Mount Holyoke community will not be tolerated.

Community members are drawn together by a common desire to further understanding of the world, each other, and ourselves. Every member is encouraged to explore the opportunities and challenges that this unique institution provides and is expected to share in the responsibility of maintaining an environment guided by mutual respect and understanding.

The Honor Code

I will honor myself, my fellow students and Mount Holyoke College by acting responsibly, honestly and respectfully in both my words and deeds

Upon matriculation, each student brings a wide variety of experiences, hopes and goals to Mount Holyoke College. These backgrounds create and continually shape communal goals and ideals. The honor code is the hallmark of life together at Mount Holyoke College. Simply stated, it means that each student is responsible for maintaining their own integrity and the integrity of the Mount Holyoke community. While broad in its applications, it provides a guideline for decision making that holds each student to principles of good conduct toward themselves and others.

While this code of honor allows for a significant degree of individual freedom, the definition of a general framework of values is necessary. In choosing to live by a social honor code, students agree

to integrate the following standards into the College's definition of personal honesty as outlined in the following interpretation of the code:

Responsibility: Though each student's individual conception of responsibility is unique, the College trusts that every student will demonstrate ownership of their actions and will recognize the ways in which their actions affect their peers, the College, and the greater community. Each student maintains the ability to express themselves with integrity, which is crucial to the development of a community that is personally challenging, both intellectually and socially.

Honesty: A sense of honesty is fostered by the individual's ability to express themselves in a candid and forthright manner.

Respect: Respecting themselves and others requires that every individual maintain the integrity of their own values, while acting in a way that is careful and considerate of others. In the College community, mutual respect can be obtained only by valuing free inquiry, respect for difference, and intellectual honesty.

The values framework embodied in Mount Holyoke College Honor Code is reflected in the Code of Conduct and the Academic Policies and Procedures, the College's Sexual Harassment Policy, and the Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures. set forth before. The Mount Holyoke College Honor Code assumes adherence to the rules and regulations of the College, which are designed to promote intellectual and social pursuits and to ensure personal safety. In addition, the College protects and upholds civil rights, and is committed to an inclusive and diverse community. A Mount Holyoke student demonstrates their respect for individual freedom by conducting themselves with maturity and honor, and by showing due concern for the welfare of other members of the community.

Alleged violations of the honor code, including the *Code of Conduct*, academic policies and procedures, the College's Sexual Harassment Policy and procedures, as well as Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment policy and procedure matters will be adjudicated as outlined below using the procedures specific to those violations.

Mount Holyoke College Code of Conduct

Mount Holyoke College students are responsible for having read and abiding by the provisions of the *Code of Conduct*.

The *Code of Conduct* and the community standards process apply to the conduct of individual students, both undergraduate and graduate, student groups and all College-affiliated student organizations including athletic teams or other recognized groups. For the purposes of student conduct, the College considers an individual to be a student when an offer of admission has been extended through the awarding of a degree. The *Code of Conduct* also applies when an individual is enrolled in a College course or program.

The *Code of Conduct* applies whether or not the College is in session. Each student shall be responsible for their personal conduct from the time of admission through the awarding of a degree. The College retains conduct jurisdiction over students who choose to take a leave of absence, withdraw or have graduated for any misconduct that occurred prior to the leave,

withdrawal or graduation, and may initiate and/or resolve any pending disciplinary matters at any time. When a student is subject to sanctions for a violation of the *Code of Conduct*, a hold may be placed on the student's ability to re-enroll **[and/or obtain official transcripts and/or graduate]** and all sanctions must be satisfied prior to re-enrollment eligibility. In the event of alleged violation(s) committed while still enrolled, but reported after a student has graduated, the College reserves the right to initiate a community standards process. If the former student is found responsible, the College may trespass the individual from campus, revoke the student's degree and/or impose other outcomes.

The *Code of Conduct* applies to behaviors that take place on the campus, at College-sponsored events and may also apply off-campus when we are made aware. The *Code of Conduct* applies to student conduct that occurs at Mount Holyoke College and its properties, at the other four colleges within the Five College consortium (Smith College, Amherst College, Hampshire College and Umass Amherst), or any event sponsored by any of these institutions.

The *Code of Conduct* may be applied to behavior conducted online, via email, or other electronic medium. Students should also be aware that online postings such as social media, chats, blogs, websites, and social networking sites are in the public sphere and are not private. These postings can subject a student to allegations of conduct violations if evidence of policy violations is posted online. The College does not typically seek out this information but may take action if and when such information is brought to the attention of College officials. If someone online presents a College official with a specific statement of intent to harm themselves or others, the College will respond accordingly with appropriate resources and referrals. The *Code of Conduct* applies to guests of community members whose hosts may be held accountable for the misconduct of their guests.

It is encouraged and preferred that alleged violations of the Code of Conduct be reported in a timely fashion, in order to allow the College to respond in a timely and effective manner. While there is no specific time limit on reporting violations of the *Code of Conduct*, the longer someone waits to report a concern, the harder it becomes for College officials to obtain information and make appropriate determinations regarding alleged violations. The College reserves the right to decline the initiation of a conduct process if it is deemed that the length of time from the incident date to the reporting date renders the College unable to perform an effective investigation or make appropriate determinations, and/or where the students involved are no longer enrolled at the College.

Though anonymous complaints are permitted, doing so may limit the College's ability to investigate and respond to a complaint. Those who are aware of misconduct are encouraged to report it as quickly as possible to Community Standards and/or to Public Safety and Service.

The College reserves the right to pursue matters through the community standards process that may also be addressed in the civil or criminal legal system. Proceedings may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with or following civil or criminal proceedings.

College email is the College's primary means of communication with students. Students are responsible for all communication delivered to their Mount Holyoke College email address.

The Vice President for Student Life/Dean of Students, or designee, oversees the community standards process, is authorized to enforce the Honor Code and *Code of Conduct* and may appoint hearing and appeals officers.

The College expectations are set forth to give students general notice and examples of prohibited conduct. The descriptions should be read broadly and are not intended to define expectations or misconduct in exhaustive terms.

The Dean of Students, or designee, may vary procedures with notice upon determining that a law or regulation requires policy or procedural alternations not reflected in the Honor Code or the *Code of Conduct*.

The Dean of Students, or designee, may make minor modifications to procedures that do not materially affect the integrity of the community standards process.

Any question of interpretation of the Honor Code or *Code of Conduct* will be referred to the Dean of Students, or designee, whose interpretation is final.

Code of Conduct Specific Provisions

The following activities, occurring on or off College premises, constitute breaches of the *Code of Conduct*:

1. **Conduct that is unbecoming of a Mount Holyoke student**, whether physical, verbal, or sexual in nature. Examples include but are not limited to: lewd or indecent behavior (or sponsorship thereof); abuse or assault; threats; intimidation; harassment; coercion; behavior or activities that significantly disrupt the educational experience of other students; and other conduct that threatens, instills fear, or infringes upon the rights, dignity, and integrity of any person including through the use of social media or other means of electronic communication.
2. **Doxing**. Mount Holyoke College prohibits all forms of doxing, including but not limited to disseminating private, identifying, or sensitive information about another person; encouraging or inciting others to dox; assisting in doxing; threatening to dox someone; using doxing to blackmail or threatening to blackmail; or using information gained through doxing to harass, intimidate, or harm someone.
3. **Taking of Property**. Intentional and unauthorized taking or misappropriation of College property or the personal property of another, including goods, services, intellectual property, and/or other valuables;
4. **Stolen Property**. Knowingly taking or maintaining possession of stolen property;
5. **Vandalism, Damage, and/or Destruction**. Intentional, reckless and/or unauthorized damage to or destruction of College property or the personal property of another; Graffiti is considered a form of vandalism and may come in many forms such as stickers, painting, writing, pictures, or furniture/object destruction.
6. **Purposely providing false, inaccurate, or misleading information** to a College official(s) or employee(s);
7. **Knowingly furnishing or possessing false, falsified or forged** materials, documents, accounts, records, identification or financial instruments;
8. **Threats or behavior that endanger the health and safety of oneself or others**. Examples include, but are not limited to: destroying, misusing, or tampering with fire safety equipment; refusing to leave during a fire drill, partaking in negligent behavior leading to a fire, engaging in hazardous behavior such as possessing and/or using candles and incense or obstructing the sprinkler or other life safety system; unauthorized climbing on College buildings and structures;

throwing objects out of windows; reckless operation of a motor vehicle; and possession of explosives or dangerous chemicals;

9. **Disruption of the orderly processes of the College**, involving obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other College activities, including its public-service activities. Actions disruptive to the orderly processes of the College include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Unauthorized entry into, or occupation of a private office, college residence, work area, or a teaching, library, or social facility.
 - b. Conduct that restricts or prevents the safe travel to occupants in all campus buildings that is free and clear of obstructions that could impede egress travel.
 - c. Failure to abide by the stated operating policies of academic and non-academic offices, centers, unions, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, or other College buildings.
 - d. Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of keys or access cards to College premises, or tampering with locks to College buildings; failing to timely report a lost College OneCard or college-issued key;
 - e. Conduct that restricts or prevents College employees from performing their duties.
 - f. Excessive or extreme noise, the unauthorized display of banners/objects, or the throwing of objects that prevents or disrupts the effective execution of a College function or approved activity, including, but not limited to: classes, lectures, meetings, interviews, ceremonies, athletic events, or public functions.
 - g. Abuse or misuse of official College documents or systems.
10. **Failure to comply with the reasonable request** of a College employee, including a request to identify oneself or honor the terms of a College directive, including a no-contact agreement/order. This also includes turning over or disposing of any prohibited items, complying with requests to disperse from common spaces on campus and complying with the results of hearings and procedures in which they participate.
11. **Violation of federal, state, or local laws**, including ordinances, regulations and statutes;
12. **Recording without consent is prohibited**. Using or installing any device for listening to, observing, photographing, recording, amplifying, publishing, or transmitting sounds, images or events where an individual/group involved has a reasonable expectation of privacy, without consent of all persons involved. This includes meetings between students and administrators or between two or more people that are intended to be private or confidential. This also includes recording any College disciplinary proceeding, process, or hearing. The recording or photographing of a recognized group's proceedings, performances, classes, lectures, programs, workshops, or other similar events without the specific authorization of the sponsoring organization, faculty member, speaker, or other party related to the event is prohibited.
13. **Retaliation**. Adverse action or threatened action taken or made, personally or through another person, against someone who has reported alleged violations of the Honor Code, or has been the subject of a report, or any other individual (e.g., an adjudicator, witness, or advisor) because they engaged with an established disciplinary process. Retaliation does not apply to reports made or information provided in good faith, even if the facts alleged in the report are determined not to be accurate. Some examples of retaliatory behavior can include, direct or indirect, coercion, harassment, intimidation, threats, interference, or improper influence of another.
14. **Expectation of truthfulness**. All participants in College adjudications are required to be truthful.
15. **Failure to comply with any Mount Holyoke College policy** including, but not limited to, the

following specific ones:

- a. [Alcohol and Other Drugs](#)
- b. [Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- c. [Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
- d. [Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy](#)
- e. [Acceptable use of Information Technology](#)
- f. [Information Technology Policies](#)
- g. [Facilities Management Policies](#)
- h. [Campus Facilities Use Manual](#)
- i. [Fire Safety in Residence Halls](#)
- j. [Residential Life Policies](#)
- k. [Smoke and Tobacco Free Campus](#)
- l. [Weapons Policy](#)

Student Groups and Organizations

Student groups and recognized student groups including all recognized student organizations, club sports, class boards, and athletic teams may be charged with violations of the student handbook as well as the [Recognized Student Organization \(RSO\) Handbook](#).

A student group or organization may be held collectively responsible and its officers or individual members may be held individually responsible when violations of College policy, the code of conduct, the honor code, and or community standards by the organization or its member(s):

- Take place at organization-sponsored or co-sponsored events, whether sponsorship is formal or tacit.
- Have received the consent or encouragement of the organization or of the organization's leaders or officers.
- Were known or reasonably should have been known to the membership or its officers.

A position of leadership in a student group, organization, or athletic team entails responsibility. Student officers cannot authorize, ignore, or concur with any violation of the Student Handbook by the group or organization.

The officers or leaders or any formally/informally identifiable spokesperson for a student group or organization may be directed by the Dean of Student/Vice President of Student Affairs or designee to take appropriate action designed to prevent or end violations of this student handbook by the group or organization. Failure to make reasonable efforts to comply with the Dean of Student/Vice President of Student Affairs or designee's directive shall be considered a violation of this handbook by the officers, leaders, or spokesperson for the group or organization and by the group or organization itself.

Sanctions for group or organization misconduct may include revocation, denial of registration, probation, loss of funding, as well as other appropriate sanctions.

Student groups and recognized student organizations will follow the same general student resolution and disciplinary processes. In any such action, individual determinations as to responsibility will be made and sanctions may be assigned collectively and individually and will be proportionate to the involvement of each individual and the organization.

In addition they are expected to comply with any other policies or regulations that govern their organization, in particular if they are a chapter organization, etc.

The Community Standards Process

The College community standards process is not intended to be legalistic or punitive but rather a system that is educative and restorative. The community standards process should help the student or student group gain a better understanding of College policies and procedures, and established community standards. The College community standards process is very different from the criminal justice system. Differences include the level of proof required, the format, the adjudicator and the use of attorneys. The College community standards process is not designed to address innocence or guilt or concepts of right or wrong. The College community standards process evaluates behavior to determine if a student and or student group is responsible or not responsible for violating established policy, procedure, code of conduct or the honor code.

Rights & Responsibilities

Advisor

- Any student can have an advisor present during an administrative hearing or Honor Code Council Hearing. The advisor does not address the administrator or the panel during the hearing, nor do they speak on behalf of the student. Advisors may assist the student in preparing for an administrative hearing and provide support through the process. Advisors are not present to act as legal counsel, but to assist and support the student on procedural matters.

Reasonable Accommodations

- Any student with a disability who is involved in the community standards process has the right to request reasonable accommodation(s) in order to ensure their full and equal participation.
- Students wishing to request reasonable accommodations should submit those requests to the hearing administrator.
- Accommodations are determined and implemented on an individual basis by the Disability Services Office Staff and/or the hearing administrator.

Adjudication by Office and Department

The College has designated the office of Community Standards, the Division of Student Affairs, the Dean of Studies, and the Honor Code Council to serve as hearing bodies to address violations of policy, procedure or the honor code. Below are examples of the conduct adjudicated by each office.

Division of Student Affairs, which includes the **Department of Student Engagement and Belonging** (Residential Life, and Student Involvement and Belonging) and the office of Community Standards

- Inappropriate conduct that occurs within College-owned housing.
- Violations of policies specific to living in the residence halls (e.g., Escort, Fire Safety, Guest, Housing, Noise/Quiet Hour, Pet, Smoking).

- First offense violation of the College Alcohol Policy and/or Drug Policy.
- Questionable behavior that may not violate campus policy but that affects others within the community.
- Inappropriate conduct that occurs connected to a recognized student group.
- Violations of policies specific to student groups.
- Inappropriate conduct that occurs outside of the residence halls, including conduct that happens within student groups as well as inappropriate conduct that occurs at Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, UMass Amherst or off campus on College-related business.
- Violations of policies that involve harm to self and others.
- Repeated violation of the College's Alcohol Policy and/or Drug Policy.
- Repeated violation of policies specific to living in the residence halls.
- Noncompliance with sanctions issued by the Office of Residential Life or the Honor Code Council.
- Questionable behavior that may not violate campus policy but that affects others within the community.

Dean of Studies

- Chair of Academic Honor Board, reviewing dishonorable academic conduct, such as plagiarism and cheating (See Academic Honor Board).
- Chair of Academic Administrative Board, reviews both student petitions and student records in January and June each year to determine actions such as probation, suspension or required withdrawal based on academic performance.

Honor Code Council

- Peer-to-peer complaints of violation of the honor code.
- Peer-to-peer complaints of inappropriate behaviors.
- Violation of campus practice or protocol (e.g., student failing to swipe OneCard during meals, student blocking an accessible entrance by locking their bike to a handicap ramp, or student refusing to adhere to regulations in Kendall).
- Noncompliance with sanction issued by the Office of Residential Life or the Dean of Students.
- Violations of policy in which the facts of the case are disputed during an administrative hearing with the Office of Residential Life or the Dean of Students.

The majority of the reported violations are heard during an administrative meeting or conference with a member of the office of Community Standards or Division of Student Affairs office using notice of the violation as evidence of the violation.

There will inevitably be conduct that confuses lines of accountability. In instances such as this, the sensitivity of the issue, severity of the behavior, or severity of the outcome will determine the hearing body. In many cases, officials from the various hearing bodies will convene to address the behavior.

Standards

The College uses the preponderance of the evidence standard (more likely than not) as the threshold for determining responsibility for a campus violation or conduct issue.

The rules of evidence used in federal and/or state criminal and/or civil proceedings does not apply to community standards proceedings.

Community Standards Outcomes/ Sanctions

Sanctions are not intended to be punitive but rather, to educate and restore the community. The following list gives examples of possible community standards outcomes/ sanctions:

- Letter of warning.
- Mandatory educational project.
- Mandatory written apology.
- Restitution in money or in kind to the College or individual for a loss caused by the student and or student group.
- Required service completed within the Mount Holyoke community.
- Temporary or permanent loss or suspension of privileges or use of College facilities.
- Housing probation.
- Removal from office or position of responsibility.
- Dissolution of the student group.
- Removal from College housing
- Disciplinary probation.
- Notice stating that further violations during a specified period of time will result in increased sanctions or immediate suspension.

Disciplinary probation is a written reprimand for violation of institutional policy. Terms of the probation will be articulated and may include denial of specified social privileges, exclusion from cocurricular activities both on and off campus, removal from leadership positions, exclusion from designated areas of campus, and/or other measures deemed appropriate. Students on disciplinary probation are not in good standing with the College.

Students who are not in good standing with the College may not be allowed to hold a leadership position in any registered student group or position of authority, and/or participate in Lynk. In addition, students may also be removed from appointed or elected leadership positions of any registered student group or position of authority.

When asked, the office of Community Standards will report the student's standing to College offices, which will weigh their behavior against access to a specific job, privilege or activity of the College.

Behavioral Agreement

A behavioral agreement is a written notice that names a particular behavior that is problematic within the community. A student is warned that continued negative behavior will result in a suspension. A behavioral agreement is used when the problematic behavior has had a consistent negative impact on others. Behavioral agreements are private and not ordinarily shared with other offices on campus.

Recommendation of Separation

When the hearing officer determines that an appropriate sanction mandates a separation from the College, the hearing officer will make this recommendation to the Conduct Review Board. The review board will either approve the recommended sanction or suggest an alternative in lieu of suspension.

Separations from the College include:

- Suspension from the College: a required leave from the College for a specific period of time that goes into effect immediately.

- Suspension in abeyance: a required leave from the College for a specific period of time; however, the start of the suspension is delayed.
- Required withdrawal: a required leave for an unspecified period that requires a process of application to return to the College.
- Expulsion from the College: the permanent termination of an individual's status as a student, with the loss of all rights and privileges of a student at Mount Holyoke College.

Note: A combination of these sanctions can be applied to a specific instance. A student's failure to fulfill sanctions imposed may result in further proceedings and additional outcome(s)/sanction(s), including suspension or expulsion from the College.

A disciplinary outcome letter is placed in the student's educational file in instances where the student is found responsible for the alleged violation. The release of conduct information is subject to the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and may be accessible to future employers, graduate schools, etc. when a student requests that information be provided to them.

Appeals

A student may appeal a finding and/or related sanction to the appeals officer. The specific appeal officer will vary based on the nature and severity of the violation. The name and contact of the appeals officer will be included in the disciplinary outcome letter. Appeals are accepted only on the grounds of new information that was not present at the time of the hearing, bias in the hearing process, procedural error or inappropriate sanction.

Appeals based on information not known by or available to the appealing party at the time of the hearing must be submitted within three (3) business days after the information is discovered. Appeals on any other criteria (i.e., sanction, procedural error or bias) must be submitted within three (3) business days after the date noted in the disciplinary outcome letter.

Once the appeals officer receives a request for an appeal, they will notify the hearing officer. The hearing officer will provide the appeals officer with all of the information and materials gathered to make the initial determination. Materials forwarded to the appeals officer include a copy of campus violations report, investigation report (if any), witness statements (if any), the decision letter, and in the case of an honor code hearing, copies of information presented at the hearing and a recording or transcripts from the hearing.

The appeals officer may uphold the previous decision, reverse or alter the previous decision, reduce the sanctions, or return the case to another hearing body for further consideration or proceedings. Findings of not responsible cannot be appealed.

Record Keeping

All records of disciplinary procedures are kept electronically. A summary of the violation and related outcomes are maintained by the College's student information system. After a student's graduation, the records are kept for seven (7) years; after seven (7) years, the identities of the individuals involved are redacted, but the records are kept for historical purposes.

Administrative Hearing Procedures

The Office of Community Standards and/or the Division of Student Affairs staff will conduct an

administrative hearing to determine if a violation of policy has occurred and what sanction, if any, will be issued as a result of that policy violation. The administrative hearing should help the student gain a better understanding of College policies, procedures and established community standards.

The administrative hearing is designed to build:

- Awareness of the behavior in question.
- Awareness of the effect of behavior upon others
- Awareness of the effect of behavior upon oneself.
- Awareness of alternatives.
- Problem-solving skills.
- A sense of responsibility for one's actions and accountability to the community.

Steps to an Administrative Hearing

The Office of Community Standards, the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Residential Life receives an information report (referral) of an allegation of inappropriate behavior or policy violation. Public Safety and Service or the residence hall student staff typically generates the report. The College will review reports from any member of the College and from third parties. In the course of providing the student a fair and impartial review, the College will release the name of the third party.

The following is a description of the steps leading to an administrative hearing:

1. The Community Standards staff will review the referral and route it to the appropriate hearing body as described earlier in this document.
2. The assigned hearing officer will send a notice via email requesting a meeting with the students to probe the situation and determine if a violation took place and the specific student's responsibility for the violation. This letter requesting a meeting will include:
 - a. Reference to the date, time, location and type of the violation in question.
 - b. The date, time and location of the meeting.
 - c. A deadline to reschedule the meeting.
 - d. Next steps that will be taken should the student fail to reschedule or fail to attend the scheduled meeting.
3. The hearing officer will meet with the students to discuss the information in the referral. This is the point in the process when the student can respond to the allegation, presenting any information that confirms or disproves the allegation:
 - a. If the student accepts responsibility for the allegation, the hearing officer will then decide upon a sanction. The hearing officer will reference the student's past disciplinary offenses when deciding upon a sanction.
 - b. If the student is found not responsible for the allegation, the hearing officer will note the finding of not responsible on the campus violation report or incident report. There will be no reference of the allegation in the student's record. The report will be filed for record keeping purposes.
 - c. If the student does not accept responsibility for the allegation, the hearing officer can:
 - i. Continue with the administrative hearing where the hearing officer will render a decision based on the preponderance of the information standard presented.
 - ii. Request/refer the allegation to a hearing by the Honor Code Council. A hearing by the Honor Code Council will allow for the use of witnesses and other relevant materials as evidence to determine if the student is responsible for a violation of

policy.

The Honor Code Council (HCC)

Duties of the HCC

The HCC shall have the following duties, powers and responsibilities:

- To adjudicate cases involving the violation of non-academic regulations. There are some exceptions to this including alcohol and drug violations, some residence hall-based violations, and cases that are deemed more appropriate for adjudication by staff in the Division of Student Affairs in consultation with the HCC.
- To review, at the request of any group or individual member of the College community or at its own initiative, existing non-academic regulations and policies. The HCC shall recommend modifications to the appropriate structures of the College when these regulations are in conflict with state or federal law, safety or health regulations, individual rights, the general welfare of the community, or the ability of students to maintain a system of shared governance under which non-academic regulations are made and enforced.
- To educate students, faculty and staff as to its activities. The HCC shall periodically consult with appropriate campus committees, such as the Student Government Association and the Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, to discuss issues of common concern.
- To serve as the hearing board for student group conflict that is either referred by the Office of Student Involvement or when a group's constitution does not have procedures for managing conflict.
- To hear disciplinary cases in the area of student non-academic life that is not specifically delegated to other bodies. The HCC shall not assume executive, legislative or judicial powers conferred on the SGA under its Grant of Power.

Composition of the HCC

The HCC shall consist of at least seven selected students and an advisor. The HCC shall choose the chair from among its student members. The term of service of the selected students shall be a minimum of three academic semesters.

Selection of HCC Members

The advisor and the continuing members of the HCC will conduct an interview process to select new members of the committee. The HCC will publicize the openings any time the current membership falls below five active members (including the chair). Any student who is in good academic and social standing with the College can apply to be on the council. A representative of the Student Government Association is asked to take part in the selection of HCC members to ensure the HCC membership represents the broadest set of goals and ideals of the student body.

Role of the Chair of the HCC

The chair shall preside over hearings and is responsible for procedural correctness during the hearing proceedings. The chair does not vote except to break a tie. During the hearing, the chair shall resolve any procedural questions that may arise. The chair is responsible for ensuring the orderly conduct of hearings. The chair is the point of contact for all parties in the hearing.

Role of the HCC Advisor

The HCC advisor shall be the Director of Community Standards or designee. The primary role of the HCC advisor is to provide the HCC with clarifying information and general assistance throughout the hearing proceedings. The HCC advisor serves as a nonvoting member of the board. The HCC advisor may also, at their discretion, when circumstances warrant, extend or adjust time periods set forth in these procedures.

HCC Disciplinary Procedures

The HCC's disciplinary process is a procedure for determining the facts surrounding a complaint that a student has violated College policy or the honor code. The HCC strives to make a fair and informed resolution of the complaint. The procedures are designed to treat all matters individually and to ensure fairness in all considerations. The HCC is not designed to and should not be expected to function as a court of law, and the College reserves the right to modify the College policy, the HCC disciplinary process, and any other provision contained herein.

Filing a HCC Complaint

Any member of the Mount Holyoke community may [file a HCC complaint](#) against a student. Complaints should be filed with the HCC after an initial attempt to resolve the matter has failed. Individuals desiring a hearing should complete the complaint form. The complaint form is available online. The complaint form must contain a detailed description of the conduct alleged to violate College policy, a description of past efforts to resolve the complaint, a listing of the exact policy violated, documentation and materials to support the allegation, and a list of names and contact information of witnesses and other parties involved with the complaint.

By filing a complaint with the HCC, the complainant agrees to comply with all HCC disciplinary procedures. A complaint may be withdrawn at any point before deliberation by the hearing board. Complaints must be received within 14 days of the alleged violation, or within 14 days of the date that the complainant became aware of the alleged violation. If a complaint is filed after those 14-day periods, the HCC advisor and HCC chair will determine whether to accept the case based on the specific reasons for the delay in filing. In the event that a case is filed during January Intersession, College breaks, over the summer, or during a significantly stressful academic time of year, the advisor and chair may determine to alter the case timeline or refer the case to another hearing body.

Initial Review of the Complaint by the HCC

Within seven days, or such further period of time as is warranted, after receiving the complaint the HCC shall make a judgment by majority vote to accept the case, refer the case to a College office for disposition, or dismiss the complaint. The HCC bases this decision on the type of the alleged violation and efforts the complainant has taken to resolve the case directly (when appropriate). If the case is accepted by the HCC, a hearing is organized. If the complaint is dismissed, no record of the complaint shall be kept. If the case is referred to another office, all materials will be forwarded.

The advisor redacts the name of the complainant and respondent of the complaint during the vote to accept the case. The hearing board is selected at this time, providing an opportunity for council members to recuse themselves due to a possible conflict of interest. Once a complaint is accepted, the complainant and respondent (the person alleged to have violated policy or the honor code) are notified that the case has been accepted and that a hearing will be scheduled.

When a Complaint Is Accepted by the HCC

Once a complaint has been accepted by the HCC, a hearing will be scheduled to determine the facts and responsibility. A letter will be sent from the HCC to all involved parties outlining the hearing procedures and listing the names of the hearing board members, along with the date and time for a hearing. The parties of the hearing will have an opportunity to provide evidence, names of witnesses, resolve possible rescheduling conflicts, or request the removal of a hearing board member due to potential bias or conflict of interest.

All involved parties are required to attend the hearing. Should a complainant or respondent fail to be present for the hearing, the HCC will proceed without their involvement and make a determination based upon the information provided. Academic conflicts should be directed to the chair or advisor, who may decide to reschedule or proceed with the hearing. All procedural and process questions and support needed before a hearing should be directed to the chair or advisor.

In the event that there is an associated criminal complaint pending, the hearing board may, but is not required to, delay the hearing until the completion of the criminal proceedings.

Hearing Proceedings of the Honor Code Council

Composition of the Hearing Board

The composition of the hearing board will be determined at the discretion of the council. The hearing board will consist of at least five members, one of whom will be the chair.

Conflicts of Interest

Any HCC member, the respondent, and the complainant must make known to the chair any actual or perceived conflict of interest with regard to any proceeding conducted under these procedures within five days of the initial notification by the chair. The respondent or complainant must submit a written request demonstrating specific information why a particular person should not be a part of a hearing board for the case. If the chair deems that a conflict exists, another member will be substituted. If the chair is excluded in this process, the HCC will appoint another member of the HCC or a judicial advisor to act as chair during the hearing. If exclusions due to bias or scheduling reduce the number of available hearing board members, the hearing may continue before the remaining members.

Steps of the Hearing

Below are the steps of the honor code hearing process:

1. Reading of the charge and the related policies.
2. Response from the respondent (person or persons alleged to have violated policy or the honor code).
3. Statement of any additional facts from the complainant (person bringing forward the case).
4. Questioning of complainant and respondent by hearing board.
5. Questioning of witnesses by complainant, respondent and hearing board.
6. Final round of questions by the hearing board.
7. Summary statement from complainant and respondent.
8. Deliberations.
9. Delivery of finding and sanctioning, if appropriate.

The complainant and respondent have the opportunity to state their case and will be expected to

answer honestly and clearly questions of the hearing board. The complainant, the respondent and the hearing board may ask the chair to admit witnesses to the case, and approval will be granted by the chair based on the chair's judgment as to the relevance of a witness's information. Both the complainant and the respondent will be permitted to question each witness, provided their questioning is reasonable and relevant, as determined by the chair. If a witness is unavailable, their statement shall normally not be admitted. The hearing board shall consider only information admitted at the hearing. It is the responsibility of both the complainant and the respondent to organize their cases to the best of their knowledge, providing all documentation, witnesses and facts relevant to the matter.

To the extent possible, the complainant and the respondent will both receive at least one day in advance a list of witnesses who will participate in the hearing. Before the hearing proceedings, the complainant and the respondent may not communicate (including in writing, by telephone, by email, online, verbally, etc.) with witnesses proposed by the other party. Any attempt to do so is a violation of College policy.

It is expected that any member of the College community who is requested to be a witness will make every effort to attend the hearing.

The hearing board shall provide for a verbatim record, i.e., an audio recording, of all hearings, which shall be available, together with copies of all exhibits, to the complainant and the respondent for purposes of appeal. All materials are confidential. The complainant and/or the respondent have the right to listen to the tapes in a confidential space arranged by the HCC judicial advisor. The recordings will also be available, in the event of an appeal, to the dean of students. The verbatim record is destroyed once the appeal window has closed.

The rules of evidence and procedures applicable to courts of law are not applicable at the hearing. The HCC uses the preponderance of the evidence standard (more likely than not) as the threshold for determining responsibility. The chair will make decisions on the inclusion or exclusion of information, to safeguard the fairness and integrity of the hearing. The hearing will be conducted with an emphasis on the goals of attempting to ascertain fact and reaching a finding that is appropriate to the rights of the students, to the College community, and to the educational mission of the College.

Advisors

The complainant and the respondent may each be accompanied at the hearing by an advisor of their choosing. Advisors may include peers, Mount Holyoke College faculty or staff, parents or outside attorneys. The role of the advisor is to consult with the student and provide support as needed. The advisor is not allowed to speak on behalf of the student nor can the advisor serve as their proxy in written or verbal communications. The College will notify the other party to the complaint if the advisor is an attorney. A complainant or respondent who wishes to have an advisor at the hearing must inform the advisor of the HCC of the name of the advisor 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

Decision of the Hearing Board

In the event that a respondent announces responsibility for a violation at the beginning of a hearing, the board will move directly to the sanctioning phase of the hearing, only considering presentations from the complainant and respondent regarding appropriate outcomes.

After the complainant and the respondent have presented their cases and suggested possible outcomes, the hearing board will meet, in private, to determine whether a violation of College policy has occurred. The hearing board will consider whether or not the conduct in question violates the standards of conduct of the community as expressed in the honor code and/or the College's rules, regulations and policies. In determining whether a violation occurred, the hearing board will not review or consider any previous disciplinary history of the respondent. The respondent's disciplinary record will be taken into account during the sanctioning process. A majority of the voting members of the hearing board is needed to find that a violation occurred. A tie is broken by the chair. If the hearing board deliberation lasts more than 20 minutes, the board will call a recess and inform the complainant and the respondent of when they will reconvene.

The hearing board will announce its findings to the complainant and the respondent at the hearing. In the event that the respondent is found responsible for an honor code violation, all rulings on sanctions will then be announced to the respondent only, except to the extent that the sanction affects the complainant directly (e.g., a no-contact agreement or restitution). The hearing board will notify the complainant separately in these instances.

The chair will send a letter approved by the board to the complainant and the respondent summarizing the finding of the board. If a violation was found, the letter to the respondent will include sanctions to be imposed. This letter will be placed in the respondent's disciplinary file.

Basis for Decision

The determination of a violation of the honor code and/or College policy shall be made on the basis of whether it is more likely than not that the respondent violated the honor code and/or College policy according to the information presented at the hearing.

Multiple Respondents

When one incident involves more than one student, the chair may determine that the hearing board shall hear the cases together. If the chair concludes that this may result in unfairness to one or more students, the chair may direct that separate hearings be held.

Policy on Hearings During Reading Days and Exams

No disciplinary proceedings will take place during reading days or exams. Notice of violations or complaint forms received later than one week prior to the end of classes will be referred to the Director of Community Standards or held over for adjudication in the following semester.

Academic Policies and Procedures

Statement of Policies and Procedures Form

The Statement of Policies and Procedures Form is used to report an alleged violation of the Academic Honor Code:

I. Academic Rights and Responsibilities

Mount Holyoke College is a community of students, faculty, staff and administrators committed to free inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge in the tradition of the liberal arts. The decision to join this academic community requires acceptance of special rights and responsibilities that are essential for its effective functioning and the realization of its mission. All members of the community share the responsibility to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Failure to accept and act on this responsibility threatens the rights of the rest of the community by undermining the trust upon which the community is built.

Students, faculty, staff and administrators assume a commitment to the academic community that supports teaching and learning in an open environment based on mutual trust, respect and concern. All members of the community have the right to careful and constructive analysis of their work, and they have the responsibility to provide a serious response to the work of others.

Each member of the academic community has the right to benefit from its collective knowledge and resources as well as the responsibility to contribute to them. Plagiarism or other forms of scholarly misconduct can have no purpose or place in the academic life of the College. Each student is responsible for observing established procedures in the preparation of assignments, and the writing of papers and examinations, and for submitting only original work as one's own, only that work that they themselves have originated. Each instructor is responsible for making clear what procedures are acceptable in the work of a course and for guiding students in those methods and standards of research relevant to the particular discipline. It is a joint responsibility to observe those procedures publicized by campus announcements, such as the procedures to be followed in the preparation and writing of final examinations.

To this end, Mount Holyoke College prohibits the use of artificial intelligence tools or other uncredited persons or entities to produce content that a student misleadingly represents as their own original work, such as generating an essay, creating text, images, providing analysis, creating code or producing assignment responses without the explicit permission of the faculty member. The expectation is that all work submitted by students will be generated by students themselves working individually or in groups as determined by the assignment and instruction of the faculty member.

A carefully maintained library collection is central to any academic institution. The collection is built over a long period of time and must be preserved for the benefit of future students and faculty members as well as for those who currently use the collection. The open stacks and reserve book privileges of the library require that all members of the community accept responsibility for the correct use of library materials and for following the established borrowing procedures. Students should be aware that reserved and limited materials must be shared; instructors should allow for sufficient time and adequate copies when assigning work that relies on such materials.

The [Academic Honor Board](#) reviews and adjudicates all alleged academic violations of the honor code.

II. The Honor Code

A. The Pledge

All new students take the honor code pledge during Orientation. Upon matriculation, students affirm their intention to abide by the honor code: “I will honor myself, my fellow students and Mount Holyoke College by acting responsibly, honestly and respectfully in both my words and deeds.” The honor code applies to both the academic and social aspects of student life. It forms the foundation of the Mount Holyoke community.

The guide, [How To Use Sources Properly](#), provides information on different forms of academic dishonesty and links to helpful websites for further information.

International students, or students who have attended schools abroad, may not be familiar with the concept of an academic honor code as defined within a U.S. context. These students should also consult the special publication prepared by the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives titled [“Academic Responsibility at Mount Holyoke College: What International Students Should Know”](#).

B. Violations of the Honor Code

Students are expected to always conduct themselves with academic integrity:

- Course materials are part of the intellectual property of the faculty instructors and cannot be distributed, shared or sold (for monetary gain or access to goods or services) without the expressed consent of the faculty instructor.
- Students should not access course materials (online or in hard copy) associated with current or previous versions of a Mount Holyoke College course without explicit permission from the faculty instructor. If permission is not explicitly provided, accessing material from previous course offerings is prohibited.

Infractions of academic regulations include but are not limited to:

- All forms of plagiarism.
- The unauthorized or unacknowledged use of material that is not a student’s own.
- Cheating in any form in preparing assignments (including homework, essays or take-home exams), in completing in-class work (including quizzes or tests), or in taking a final examination.
- Theft, mutilation and unlawful or improper use of library materials.
- Unlawful or improper use of digital or online materials (e.g., Moodle).
- Students may not share their login credentials with anyone else and are responsible for the use or misuse of digital resources when their login information is not secure.

Violations of academic responsibility in preparing coursework include but are not limited to:

- Using quotes without appropriate quotation marks and citations.
- Paraphrasing from a source without appropriate citation.
- Using unacknowledged or unauthorized outside sources, including those of a fellow student or colleague.
- Misrepresenting the actual source from which material is cited.
- Failing to acknowledge a coauthor.
- Using a purchased term paper to complete any portion of an assignment.

- Submitting the same or substantially similar papers in two courses without prior permission and proper acknowledgment.
- Submitting in whole or in part the work of another student or author as a student's own.
- Falsifying data.

Violations of academic responsibility related to final examinations include but are not limited to:

- Using notes, books or other sources during examinations without prior approval by the instructor.
- Receiving help from or giving help to another student during an examination.
- Revealing the content of an examination before all students have completed it.
- Exceeding the allotted time for an examination without prior authorization.
- Failing to follow examination procedures as published by the registrar and printed on the final examination envelopes.

Violations of academic honesty related to the use of AI tools:

- Improper use of AI or digital tools for completing assignments without prior approval by the instructor (some examples may include translators, grammar correction tools).
- Improper use of software for generating or contributing to any content in assignments, examinations, and/or papers without instructor approval.

Violations of academic responsibility in using the library include but are not limited to:

- Removing a book from the library without properly checking it out.
- Keeping a reserve book or equipment beyond the specified time limit.
- Marking, defacing or destroying library materials.

Violations of academic responsibility in using digital or online resources include but are not limited to using unauthorized or unacknowledged software or online materials, and plagiarizing in any of its forms.

III. The Academic Honor Board

A. Purpose

The Academic Honor Board (AHB) fortifies the College's commitment to academic integrity. A faculty committee with student representation reviews and adjudicates alleged violations of the honor code, ensuring consistency in interpretation, swift and impartial review of alleged infractions, and fair and equitable sanctions for confirmed violations. The AHB also serves as a resource for students, faculty, and administrators when questions concerning the interpretation of the academic honor code arise, regardless of whether an infraction is believed to have occurred. The AHB is distinct both in composition and purpose from the Honor Code Council, which is a student disciplinary board tasked with reviewing alleged violations of the honor code relating to social conduct. You can learn more on the [Academic Honor Board page](#).

B. Membership

1. The dean of studies *ex officio* (or designee), who shall serve as chair of the AHB.
2. Three additional faculty members appointed by the dean of faculty, one each from the three academic divisions of the College (humanities, science and mathematics, and social sciences).
3. One student recommended by the Honor Code Council and appointed by the dean of studies.

C. Tenure

The three faculty members shall serve staggered three-year terms, with at least two continuing members each academic year. The student may serve until graduation.

D. Responsibilities

1. Interpret the honor code in an advisory capacity for students, faculty, staff and administrators seeking clarification.
2. Establish and publicize clear procedures for adjudicating alleged violations of the honor code.
3. Receive all complaints concerning alleged academic violations of the honor code.
4. Review promptly all reported complaints, ensuring that a fair, consistent and confidential process is followed.
5. Recommend or decide on appropriate sanctions when the AHB determines that a violation of the honor code has occurred. No disciplinary action may be taken by a faculty or staff member concerning an alleged violation without prior consultation with the AHB.
6. Present an annual report to the faculty summarizing committee business. The names of the parties involved in the cases shall be omitted to protect confidentiality.

IV. Process for Adjudicating Complaints

A. Filing a Complaint

Any community member who suspects a violation of the academic honor code should promptly submit a report to the AHB using the [Academic Honor Code Alleged Violation Reporting Form](#). Reports should contain a complete description of the incident and the identity of the alleged violator(s). Supporting material, if available, should be submitted to the dean of studies.

The information submitted on this form will be used by the Academic Honor Board to determine whether a hearing is warranted.

B. Notification of Charges

1. The AHB will provide a written notification to the respondent accused of violating the Academic Honor Code (hereafter the “respondent”). The notification will specify the alleged violation and the identity of the person filing the complaint (hereafter the “complainant”).
2. The respondent should proceed as follows, in writing, within the timeframe given in the notification.
 - If the respondent accepts responsibility for the alleged violation and it is a first violation, the respondent should schedule a meeting to discuss the violation with the dean of studies.
 - Initial cases related to repeated late or long-overdue library materials will automatically count as a warning and do not require a meeting with either the dean of studies or the Board.

- For subsequent LITS cases, the student must respond in writing to the charge. See non-academic instances below (under Sanctions).
- If the respondent denies the alleged violation or if it is a repeat violation, the dean of studies will schedule a hearing with the full Academic Honor Board.

The College's primary means of communicating with students is through their Mount Holyoke email accounts; students are responsible for reading and responding to all official emails sent by the College.

C. Procedure During the Hearing

1. Hearings require the presence of the dean of studies, who serves as chairperson, at least two other members of the AHB, and the accused person. The respondent may request the presence of the appropriate academic dean or academic advisor, but this person may speak only with the respondent during the hearing. Additionally, the AHB may require the complainant and/or additional witnesses to appear at the hearing. The AHB may also correspond with the complainant or witnesses outside the hearing. The hearing will be recorded. If the respondent requests the presence of an academic dean or academic advisor, AHB must be communicated with at least one business day (24 hours) ahead of the scheduled hearing time, to ensure appropriate scheduling and notification.
2. All present at the AHB hearing will introduce themselves with the camera turned on. The camera must remain on for the duration of the hearing.
3. The chair will summarize the alleged Academic Honor Code violation.
4. The respondent will respond to the allegations.
5. The complainant and/or witnesses (if present) will offer their account of the incident.
6. The respondent may offer a rebuttal to the statements of the complainant and/or witnesses.
7. AHB members may question the respondent, the complainant, and/or any witnesses.
8. The complainant and/or witnesses will have the opportunity to make final statements.
9. The respondent will have the opportunity to make a final statement.

D. Resolution of Complaints

1. The AHB shall meet in closed session immediately after the end of the hearing to deliberate and render its decision. If the Board feels that additional information is necessary in order to render a decision, they will proceed in a timely manner to reach out, collect, and review additional information – typically within 5 business days. Additional information that the Board may seek includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Fact checking respondent statements with the complainant, other witnesses, or any other Mount Holyoke community members who may have input into the case.

- b. One card access data.
 - c. Specialized knowledge is required for assessing the plausibility of respondent explanations.
- 2. When cases are linked, the Board reserves the right to hear from all respondents before rendering a decision.
- 3. The dean of studies shall communicate the AHB's decision in writing to both the respondent and the complainant. The decision shall be communicated within two business days from the conclusion of the hearing unless additional fact finding is necessary. In this case, the respondent will be notified that the Board is following up on claims made during the hearing and will be in touch as soon as possible (see section IV.E.1 above).
- 4. The AHB will resolve the complaint in one of the following two ways:
 - a. **Not Responsible** — A decision that the respondent did not violate the Honor Code. A low-level sanction or warning may be included in the decision.
 - b. **Responsible** — A decision that the accused did violate the Honor Code as charged and is subject to sanctions.
- 5. If in the course of investigation the Board determines that the respondent knowingly attempted to deceive the AHB or was found to have recorded (video, audio, or visual) any part of the hearing or evidence presented, a subsequent violation will be filed.

E. Sanctions

- 1. Violations of the Academic Honor Code are among the most serious offenses that a student may commit at Mount Holyoke College. The AHB shall invoke penalties at its discretion, up to and including suspension or dismissal from the College. The number and nature of violations shall be taken into account in the deliberations of the AHB.
- 2. If a complaint filed with the AHB involves a student's work associated with a course, the student may not take any action(s), for example, withdraw from a course or elect the ungraded option, until the complaint is fully adjudicated.\
- 3. **Warning** — A decision that the preponderance of evidence does not clearly confirm a violation but the facts of the case raise sufficient concern. There may be low-level sanctions associated with the warning.
- 4. **For first violations:** the AHB will consult with the faculty member, when course related, in whose class the violation occurred concerning the choice of sanction, but the final decision as to which option is selected rests with the faculty member. The AHB will recommend one of the following sanctions depending on the nature and level of the first violation . In circumstances that transcend the boundaries of the course, the AHB will retain the right to make the appropriate sanction.
 - a. An F (failing grade) for the specific exam, paper or other assignment; the student may elect to withdraw from the course by the appropriate deadline,

and thus lose credit for the course.

- b. Expulsion from the course with a W (withdrawal) recorded on the student's transcript.
 - c. Expulsion from the course with an F (failing grade) recorded on the student's transcript.
 - d. In circumstances when a student's behavior constitutes a threat to the integrity or reputation of the College or community members the AHB may determine that a required leave (suspension) or required withdrawal from the institution is appropriate.
5. **For subsequent violations:** the AHB will consult with the faculty member in whose class the most recent violation occurred, but the final decision regarding sanctions rests with the AHB. The sanctions that the AHB may impose include:
- 5.1. An F (failing grade) in the course with no opportunity to withdraw from the course or to elect the ungraded option.
 - 5.2. Suspension from the College.
 - 5.3. Required withdrawal from the College.
6. **Non-Academic Instances:** If a complaint submitted involves behavior that is not related to a student's work in a course (e.g., marking, defacing or destroying library materials), the AHB will render the final decision and impose sanctions, if appropriate. Cases related to late or long-overdue library materials are considered separate from cases of academic integrity and will not count or accumulate toward such cases.
- 6.1. The first instance will result in a warning and the respondent should be in touch with LITS to resolve the issue.
 - 6.2. The second instance will result in a mandatory meeting with the dean of studies to discuss the incident and make a plan to prevent further instances.
 - 6.3. Subsequent instances will follow procedures for an AHB hearing and may result in sanctions including restrictions on use of library materials.

F. Appeals

1. Appeals of AHB decisions must be addressed in writing to the Office of the Dean of Faculty within five business days of the issuance of the AHB decision.
2. Resolutions that end in "Not Responsible" or "Warning" cannot be appealed.
3. The letter must state one or both of the following grounds for the appeal:
 - a. Violation of fair process.
 - b. Availability of new evidence not presented at the hearing.
4. Sanctions imposed by the AHB will not be implemented until after the appeal is resolved.
5. The respondent will be notified in writing of the outcome of the appeal. If the appeal is denied, the sanctions imposed by the AHB will be implemented, and the College will consider the case closed.

V. Principles Underlying the Adjudication Process

A. Policies Governing the Academic Honor Board

1. The AHB shall conduct all business with utmost regard for ensuring fairness at every stage of the adjudication process.
2. Members of the AHB who feel they have a conflict of interest involving a case shall recuse themselves from the vote.
3. The AHB may require the cooperation of any member of the Mount Holyoke community in furnishing testimony or evidence directly related to the adjudication of a case.
4. Ordinarily, the AHB shall hear a case within two weeks of receiving a complaint. Complaints received when the AHB cannot convene a majority of its members along with the respondent (for example, during winter or summer break) may be held in abeyance until such time as the AHB may be able to convene a majority of its members along with the respondent, either on campus or by videoconference.
5. If the respondent fails to appear for a scheduled hearing without prior notification, the AHB may proceed with the available information and render a decision. The College will not necessarily drop charges of misconduct because an accused student leaves the College for any reason.
6. Hearings will be held in closed session.
7. Hearings will be recorded. Recordings will be used by the AHB during its deliberations and by the Office of the Dean of Faculty should an appeal be filed.
8. The AHB will render decisions based on the standard of “fair preponderance.” That is, in cases where the respondent denies violating the Honor Code and where no conclusive evidence of a violation is present, the AHB should decide — based on the available evidence and testimony if it is more likely than not that the alleged violation occurred.
9. The dean of studies will maintain a written summary of all hearings. Case files will be archived for seven years following a student’s graduation or withdrawal from Mount Holyoke College and destroyed thereafter.
10. All material in the case file is to be treated as confidential and may be shared with individual faculty and staff members only on a strict need-to-know basis as determined by the AHB.
11. Disciplinary action taken against a student beyond the first violation of cases related to academic integrity may be reported to outside institutions and agencies; cases related to late or long-overdue library materials will not be reported regardless of the level of violation.

B. Rights of Respondents Charged with Academic Honor Code Violations

1. Written notification of charges, including the identity of the complainant (if the complainant is a student, the complainant has the right to keep their identity confidential).
2. Presumption of innocence until found in violation by the AHB.
3. Resolution of charges according to established, announced, and published AHB policies and procedures.
4. At least forty-eight hours’ notice of the time and place of a hearing, and the right to

ask for an extension under extreme circumstances.

5. The right to ask questions during their AHB hearings (or meeting with the Dean of Studies if they choose to take responsibility). The respondent may request to see supporting materials during their meeting or hearing and will be granted this opportunity unless the privacy of another party would be compromised.
6. Assistance before, during, and after the hearing from the appropriate academic dean or faculty advisor.
7. Right to produce supporting evidence or witnesses. Providing supporting material prior to the hearing is preferred, but not required.
8. Right to appeal the AHB ruling to the Office of the Dean of Faculty.
9. Written notification of the results of hearings and appeals.
10. Confidentiality regarding the outcome of the hearing and any subsequent appeal. This right of confidentiality is qualified only by the complainant's right to be informed of the AHB's ruling on whether a violation did or did not occur, but not necessarily the sanctions imposed, if any, and qualifications specified in Section V, A: "Policies Governing the AHB" in the section above.

Inclusion at Mount Holyoke

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Mount Holyoke College strives to build and maintain a campus environment that is inclusive, pluralistic and free of discrimination. Diversity, equity and inclusion efforts extend beyond specific departments and are embedded in all areas of the College.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Practice

Diversity, equity and inclusion focuses on understanding individuals' multiple identities through the lens of social justice education, ally development and identity development. We recognize that no member of the Mount Holyoke community brings just one aspect of their identity into the classroom, cocurricular activity or personal relationship. The College values intersectional identities and the College community strives to grow in our capacity to support persons in their identities at the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, age, national origin and religious/spiritual identities. In addition, the College seeks to generate greater connection and communication rather than polarization around these facets of identity.

For more information, explore [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Mount Holyoke](#).

Community and Belonging

The Office of Community and Belonging is committed to the holistic development and wellness of Mount Holyoke students using intersectional frameworks with a focus on identity, social justice, religion and spirituality, and liberatory consciousness. We provide opportunities for those who gather and engage with The Office of Community and Belonging to feel empowered to ask and explore: “who I am, who do I want to be, and who do others think I am, and want me to be?”

We also support religious accommodations, and provide resources for first generation and/ or low-income students. For more information visit the [Community and Belonging page](#).

Religious Accommodation

Although we are a secular institution, the College values students who sincerely claim their religious and spiritual identities and seek to observe and practice their religious and spiritual traditions during your time with us. We acknowledge and embrace religious identity as part of our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. It is our goal to not only comply with the religious accommodation statute, [Title XXI Chapter 151C Section 2B of the General Laws of Massachusetts](#), but also to assure that our students who uphold a sincerely held religious and/or spiritual belief feel a sense of belonging within our community.

Religious Observance and Holiday Calendar

To facilitate the planning of your semester assignments and other obligations, the College has created a [multifaith calendar](#), to note key religious observances that are likely to generate a request for an accommodation. This calendar is not exhaustive, and we recognize that an individual may

practice their faith or spiritual tradition differently from region to region and vary even within their own faith and spiritual tradition.

Faculty and Student Accommodation Expectations

Faculty are highly encouraged to add a note to their syllabi affirming this religious accommodation expectation so that students feel comfortable making their needs known. Massachusetts law states that while requesting an accommodation it “shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school” and it is imperative that “no adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his [sic] availing himself [sic] of the provisions of this section.” Generally, if a student requests an accommodation it should be submitted through the [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#) located on the [Division of Student Affairs Embark Page](#) by the last day to add a course and should be honored in good faith. If there are questions regarding the religious observance or request, please email the [Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs](#) who will connect you with the appropriate resource.

Student Religious Accommodations Request Process

Students requesting accommodation are expected to submit their requests via the [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#). You will need to provide the dates of the religious observance, the religious observance and what type of accommodation you are seeking.

Students are advised to submit their requests — by the last date of the add period — to make arrangements for rescheduling missed classes, labs, assignments and exams. Please fill out the accommodations form as soon as possible; especially students seeking accommodations for Jewish High Holidays, which occur early in the fall semester. Submitting your requests early allows your professor ample time to reschedule exams, etc.

More information about the Religious Accommodations Process can be found on the [Division of Student Affairs Religious Accommodations Embark Page](#).

If there are additional questions about the accommodations process or if a student is denied, contact the [Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs](#) at dean-students@mtholyoke.edu or the academic dean's office to discuss the issue.

First Generation and/ or Low Income Student Support

We recognize that students may experience a personal emergency which requires more immediate funds or financial help. To address these concerns, the College has established the Safety Net Fund.

The Safety Net Fund is a funding grant program created primarily to support FGLI (first generation and/or low-income) students in addition to other students who may have a an emergency and/or an unanticipated difficult time accessing necessities such as emergency medical bills, living necessities, access to technology or other needs to support a successful academic learning. This fund does not pay for tuition or cover expenses which are part of student financial aid, but it can help offset the impact of a financial emergency on a student's ability to meet their essential needs without having to ask multiple sources for support. To apply and learn more about the Safety Net Fund visit the [Division of Student Affairs Safety Net Embark page](#).

Access and Inclusion

Mount Holyoke College strives to provide access to education, employment, services, programs and activities to all persons, regardless of ability. As such, members of the College community work together in the effort to create solutions to any barriers that may exist for an individual with a disability.

Disability Services

Disability Services works with students to provide reasonable accommodations for those that have a documented disability, and/or disability-related needs. Disability Services is the only designated office at the College for students to voluntarily disclose a disability, submit appropriate documentation for verification, and request accommodations. Disability Services engages with students in an interactive process to determine reasonable accommodations and ensure an individualized accommodation process.

For staff, faculty, and other non-student employees on campus, accommodations are coordinated through Human Resources.

For more information visit the [Disability Services page](#).

Access Barriers

Mount Holyoke College is committed to seamless access and equal opportunity of all of its community members. The College strives to remove barriers to programs wherever they exist through systematic barrier removal and proper and timely maintenance. If a student encounters a physical, electronic or programmatic barrier (such as a blocked access ramp, an inoperative elevator or wheelchair lift, or an inaccessible website), please notify the College by using the [MHC Accessibility Barrier Form](#), so that the College can facilitate equally effective access as quickly as possible and allow for participation for all in our community.

If the situation is an emergency, please call Public Safety and Service at 413-538-2304.

Event Relocation Policy for Individuals with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing access to programs and activities. However, even with conscientious planning, there may be instances when a program, activity or service is located in a facility that is inaccessible for some participants with disabilities. Upon timely notice, which is considered 1-2 weeks, the College will relocate a program, activity or service to a venue that meets the relevant accessible needs. If relocation is not possible, the College will discuss other reasonable modifications to provide access to participants with disabilities.

To inquire about accessible features of a venue or to request the relocation of an event, contact the host or office of the program, activity or service.

Students with disabilities may also seek relocation of academic classes or residence hall assignment as an approved accommodation. To request this, students should contact [Disability Services](#). Again, requesters should provide sufficient time to provide the necessary accommodation(s) for participation or relocation.

Employees with disabilities seeking relocation as a work-related accommodation should contact [Human Resources](#) at 413-538-2503.

Discrimination and Harassment Policies

Statement of Non-discrimination

Mount Holyoke College is a women's college that is gender diverse. The College is committed to providing equal access and opportunity in employment and education to all employees and students. In compliance with state and federal law, Mount Holyoke College does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, genetic information, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, ancestry, veteran or military status, or any other legally protected status under federal, state or local law.

— Approved by the Board of Trustees, fall 2020

Mount Holyoke College is committed to providing a workplace and educational environment, as well as other benefits, programs, and activities, that are free from discrimination, harassment and retaliation. To ensure compliance with federal and state civil rights laws and regulations, and to affirm its commitment to promoting the goals of fairness and equity in all aspects of the educational program or activity, the College has developed internal policies and procedures that provide a prompt, fair and impartial process for those involved in an allegation of discrimination or harassment on the basis of protected class status, and for allegations of retaliation.

Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment

The purpose of this section is to inform and educate members of the Mount Holyoke community on the processes and procedures related to nondiscrimination incidents. Such incidents work contrary to the inclusiveness that forms the foundation for the College's educational community, and so the College takes any reports of them very seriously. Mount Holyoke has established a systematic approach for responding to the harm and the impact discrimination can have on the well-being and success of members of our community. Mount Holyoke encourages students to review the content provided.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI)

Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., is a part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination based on race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The code states "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." (Pub. L. 88-352, title VI, Sec. 601, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 252.) Title VI protects Mount Holyoke students, faculty, staff and visitors from discrimination in any program, service, and activity offered by the College.

Process and Procedures for Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment

The College is committed to providing an educational and employment environment that is free from discrimination based on protected characteristics, harassment, and retaliation for engaging in protected activity. The College values and upholds the equal dignity of all members of its community and strives to balance the rights of the Parties in the resolution process during what is often a difficult time for all involved.

If a student reports discrimination, harassment or hate crime, they can expect that their concerns will be treated with respect and sensitivity and that each matter will be taken seriously.

Reporting Incidents Discrimination and Harassment

Nondiscrimination incidents are any act, conduct, or communication that reasonably is understood to harass, deny, deprive, unreasonably interfere with or limit the education or employment of an individual or group based on an actual or perceived: age; citizenship status; color; creed; disability; domestic violence victim status; ethnicity; familial responsibilities; genetic information; marital status; national origin/ancestry; personal appearance; political belief or affiliation; race; religion; residence; source of income; veteran or military status; weight; or any other protected characteristic under applicable local, state, or federal law. The College will respond to reports of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation which it has knowledge/notice of and will take prompt action to eliminate such conduct, prevent its recurrence, and remedy any adverse effects in the College's education programs and activities, including, as appropriate, by way of the [Grievance Procedures](#).

Note that there are broader categories utilized here than what appears in the College's Statement of Non-discrimination. The Statement of Non-discrimination only focuses on categories that are protected by law, while the College's Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy covers categories that are not covered by law, but that are covered under College policies.

Mount Holyoke will act on reports of incidents of discrimination or harassment received through the [nondiscrimination incident on-line reporting form](#), by a mandatory reporter, or through direct reporting to the Director or Assistant Vice President for Civil Rights and Compliance. When receiving reports, every effort is made to preserve the privacy of reports and to respect an individual's desire for confidentiality; however, the College may be legally required to take action depending on the nature of the report. The reporting party will be informed if, in the course of satisfying this obligation, the College may be unable to comply with a request for confidentiality. Reports can be made anonymously with the on-line form and while anonymous reporting can help the College monitor campus climate and inform potential program planning it can be difficult for the Director or Assistant Vice President for Civil Rights and Compliance to follow up on a specific incident without knowing the parties involved.

Hate Crimes

Under Massachusetts law, hate crimes are those motivated by or against a person or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic/national origin, gender, and gender identity. Hate crimes encompass not only violence against people or groups, but also crimes against property, such as arson or vandalism, particularly those directed against community centers or houses of worship. Hate crimes can occur in any of the following ways:

- Intimidating or threatening behavior that puts a person in fear of imminent physical harm (assault, threats to commit certain crimes).
- A physical attack (assault and battery, as well as other violent crimes such as murder, manslaughter and rape).
- Damage to property (arson, vandalism).

Targeted Individuals

A targeted individual is the person or group against whom a discriminatory or harassing incident or hate crime is directed. This may or may not be the same as the reporting party. The College

recommends using one of these terms rather than the word victim.

Additional Reporting Options for Students

Students may go to the following offices/departments to seek help in reporting a Nondiscrimination matter or with filling out the [Nondiscrimination Incident Reporting Form](#).

- Public Safety and Service
- Office of Residential Life
- Division of Student Affairs
- Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Counseling Service*
- Health Services*

*Unlike the other listed offices—which are **private** but may be required to share details with college administration or investigators on a "need-to-know" basis—Health Services and Counseling Service are legally designated as **confidential resources**.

Below are a list of off-campus resources that are available to provide support and information around discriminatory or harassing incidents and hate crimes:

- Northwestern District Attorney's Office
- Office for Civil Rights
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Anti-Defamation League

Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and included amendments, are civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Section 504 29 U.S.C. § 793 states that "no qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under "any program or activity that either receives federal financial assistance or is conducted by any executive agency or the United States Postal Service." Section 504 and ADA 42 U.S.C § 12101 ensure that the individuals with a disability have equal access to programs, services and activities of the College. Individuals with disabilities may request accommodations and modifications as a means to gain access to College programs, activities and services.

Under these laws, discrimination on the basis of a disability can be physical barriers or an inaccessible facility that prevents access to a program, activity or service, or denial of an approved accommodation. Section 504 and the ADA protect Mount Holyoke students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Students seeking a disability-related accommodation should contact Disability Services. Disability Services is the only designated office at the College for students to voluntarily disclose a disability or disabilities, submit appropriate documentation for verification, and request accommodations. See more about Disability Services under the Access and Inclusion section of this handbook.

Disability Services approves and facilitates academic, housing, dining and on-campus employment-related accommodations in support of students with all types of disabilities. Students seeking more information on services provided to students and/or information on requesting

accommodations should contact Disability Services at 413-538-2634. Students can also visit the [Disability Services website](#) send an email to disability-services@mtholyoke.edu or stop by the office on the third floor of Mary Lyon Hall.

The College has also designated a primary coordinator to respond to reports of disability discrimination. The 504 Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the College's efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act both for programmatic and physical accessibility. The 504 Coordinator will respond to reports of disability discrimination as well as identify and address patterns or systemic problems that arise during the review of such reports.

Lily Schaefer-Calderon
Student 504 Coordinator
section504coordinator@mtholyoke.edu

Shannon Lynch
College 504 Coordinator
section504coordinator@mtholyoke.edu

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") is a federal civil-rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities. Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex can include sex-based harassment, gender-based harassment, sex or gender-based discrimination, sexual assault, and other forms of sexual misconduct, including stalking and domestic and dating violence. On the basis of sex includes sex, gender, sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity.

Mount Holyoke College's [Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure](#) covers all Title IX related misconduct and the respective processes.

Title IX Coordinator

The Title IX Coordinator has the primary responsibility for coordinating the College's efforts related to the intake, investigation, resolution and implementation of supportive measures to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination, harassment and retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Lily Schaefer-Calderon
Student Title IX Coordinator
3 Mary Woolley Hall
titleixcoordinator@mtholyoke.edu
413-538-2956

Shannon Lynch
College Title IX Coordinator
4 Mary Woolley Hall
titleixcoordinator@mtholyoke.edu
413-538-2273

More information on support, resources, and pregnancy can be found on the [Civil Rights and Compliance. page](#)

Resolution of Grievances

Please see the [Discrimination and Harassment Policies](#) page for updated policies on the Resolution of Grievance.

Additional Resources for Resolving Grievances

In addition to or in lieu of the College, the following resources are available. The deadlines given in these procedures are designed to make it possible for an individual to proceed through every stage of the College's informal and/or formal procedures with sufficient time to file a complaint with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). In addition to or in lieu of the College, complaints can be filed with one or more of the government agencies set forth below.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

John F. Kennedy Federal Building
475 Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 565-3200

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)

Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street, Room 220
Springfield, MA 01103
413-739-2145

Boston Office

One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108
617-994-6000

Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Region I Boston Office

U.S. Department of Education
8th Floor
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109-3921
Main Number: 617-289-0111
Fax: 617-289-0150 TDD: 877-521-2172
Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov

Important Health and Safety Resources and Policies

Information and Resources

Well-Being at Mount Holyoke

Students are expected to engage and respond to faculty, administrators, and other staff members of

the College when contacted.

Occasionally, concern for a student's health and well-being may give rise to a "wellness check." Wellness checks are most typically managed by the Office of Residential Life, Public Safety and Service or a member of the Division of Student Affairs. Such visits are intended to observe a student's well-being and discuss any concerns the student may be managing. The wellness check is not—by itself—a disciplinary measure, however circumstances surrounding the wellness check may give rise to disciplinary consequences if a violation of College policy is determined to have occurred. Students are expected to engage with the individual(s), including student members of Residential Life, who is conducting the check.

A student whose well-being, actions, or conduct results in three (3) related wellness checks within a six (6) week period will be required to participate in a medical or mental health evaluation to assess their readiness to continue participating in the semester.

Resources

Throughout their time at Mount Holyoke, a student may experience temporary situations that impact their ability to fully engage in the life of the College. Resources are available to any student needing assistance during these times. You can find more information at <https://embark.mtholyoke.edu/dsl/care-/>.

Campus resources include, but are not limited to:

- Health Services
 - See the [Health Services website](#) for more information.
- Counseling Service
 - For more information about the Counseling Service and for links to national resources and emergency support options, go to the [Counseling Service website](#).
- Public Safety and Service
- Be Well
- Office of Residential Life
- Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Faculty advisor
- Disability Services
- Department of Athletics
- Civil Rights and Compliance

Social Media Guidelines/Digital Citizenship

Social media is a great way for students to communicate, share thoughts and ideas, be social, and engage in productive and constructive dialogue. It can also be used in ways that cause harm and distress to others.

While the College may not control websites, social media and other venues in which harassing communications are made, when such communications are reported to the College, it may engage in a variety of means to address and mitigate the effects and help connect students with law enforcement when appropriate.

Members of the community are encouraged to be good digital citizens and to refrain from online misconduct, such as feeding anonymous gossip sites, sharing inappropriate content social media,

disrespecting privacy, or otherwise using the ease of transmission and/or anonymity of the internet or other technology to harm another member of the Mount Holyoke College community.

The Honor Code Council encourages you to be responsible and think before you post:

- Consider how to make your discourse constructive and/or positive.
- When responding to posts, comment on the idea, not on the person. A good rule to follow: if you wouldn't say it to them in person, don't say it online.
- Be inclusive in conversation, consider all viewpoints before you share (think who you are talking to). How can you make this a learning experience?
- Think about your digital footprint and ask yourself ...
 - What would you want your future employers to see?
 - How will you feel about this in 10 or 20 years?
- Recognize that social media is a snapshot of someone and what they have chosen to share. There is always more to the person than to the profile. Don't compare yourself to the snapshot you see.
- Look at the privacy settings and consider who you want to be seeing what you post and share.
- Social media never really goes away, even with the most private settings. Don't put anything online that you wouldn't want to be shared or associated with later. Don't rely on others to keep your information private.
- Remember the honor code: I will honor myself, my fellow students, and Mount Holyoke College by acting responsibly, honestly and respectfully in both my words and deeds.
- We are all part of an incredible community: Don't use social media to tear others down, think about how you can lift them up.

If you have a concern about posts you have seen or feel that someone has violated the honor code with their post, you can notify the Honor Code Council by submitting the [Honor Code Council Compliant Form](#)

Key Policies

Alcohol and Other Drugs

General Principles

Mount Holyoke College centers wellness within all aspects of community life, and, in doing so, calls upon students to balance individual autonomy in decision-making with collective community impact, including making personal choices regarding the use of alcohol and/or other drugs. The College emphasizes the duty of each community member to be knowledgeable, thoughtful and responsible, with the goal of minimizing risk to self and others. Mount Holyoke College does not condone the illegal use or legal misuse of alcohol and other drugs. As such, the College expects all faculty, staff, and students to be familiar with local, state and federal laws, as well as the College's policies governing substance use, and to consider the penalties and risks that can result from violations of these.

With the help of the Be Well program, the College strives to provide education regarding alcohol and drug use that is grounded in principles of harm reduction and is evidence-based in its approach. The College likewise encourages those with concerns about their own or others' difficulties with alcohol and/or other drugs to seek confidential assistance and referral through the Counseling Service or College Health Services. In emergent situations, the College prioritizes seeking support, and outlines such in our Amnesty Policy, included below.

As part of the College's commitment to supporting the individual student and collective campus community, meeting both of those entities where they're at in their values, beliefs, and choices, the College aims to cultivate and provide:

- Information and education for all students to make informed, intentional and individualized choices regarding the use of substances.
- An atmosphere that respects said individual choices and is free from coercion for those who elect not to use alcohol and drugs.
- A community that actively engages in practices that reduce harm done to individuals and groups as a result of alcohol and drug use.
- Confidential guidance and/or referral for students seeking support related to substance use.

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Mount Holyoke College has developed the following policies in an effort to foster an environment that promotes academic exploration alongside a healthy and dynamic social life. To support the health and wellbeing of all community members, Mount Holyoke College does not allow the unlawful manufacturing, sharing, use, or possession of drugs or alcohol on campus or at any College-sponsored events, whether they're on or off campus. Any student who violates these policies may face disciplinary action. Please note that the College cannot and will not protect any members of the campus community who have broken local, state, and/or federal law. The College also wishes to emphasize that a key component of making informed and responsible decisions regarding alcohol and substance use is familiarizing oneself with the policies and laws that govern such behavior.

Massachusetts State Law Concerning Alcohol and Other Drugs

State and Federal Law Concerning Alcohol:

- A person must be 21 years of age or older to purchase, possess, consume and/or transport alcoholic beverages. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages by any persons under the age of 21 years of age is prohibited and can result in federal, state and local sanctions.
- Purchasing or participating in any arrangement to procure alcoholic beverages as an underage individual is a crime and subject to a fine of \$300.00.
- Misrepresenting one's age or utilizing a false identification card or license (i.e. the use of a fake ID) to purchase alcoholic beverages is in violation of state law and is subject to a fine of up to \$300.00 or imprisonment of up to three months.
- Furnishing or purchasing a drink for someone under the age of 21 is a crime subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year.
- For drivers 21 years of age and older, the legal limit is .08%. There is a "zero tolerance" for blood alcohol level in drivers under the age of 21 in the state of Massachusetts, and any alcohol level greater than .02% is considered over the legal limit.
- Possessing an open container of alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of a motor vehicle is subject to a fine of no less than \$100 or no more than \$500.
- No person may serve alcoholic beverages to anyone who is obviously inebriated. Doing so may result in civil liability for injuries caused by the intoxicated individual.

State and Federal Law Concerning Controlled Substances:

- Federal, state and local sanctions for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs range from probation to fines and imprisonment.
- Massachusetts has criminal penalties for the misuse of controlled substances or drugs that include the misuse of controlled prescription medication that was not prescribed to the user; using one's own controlled substance prescription medication in ways other than prescribed; or the non-medical use of prescription drugs or over-the-counter medication. In general, narcotic and drugs with greater potential for addiction carry higher penalties.
- Distribution, manufacturing, or possession of drugs with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of an elementary, vocational or secondary school is a very serious crime in Massachusetts and carries a mandatory minimum two year sentence in prison if convicted. Be advised, almost the entire Mount Holyoke College campus falls into the legal definition of a school zone.

Town of South Hadley Bylaws Concerning Alcohol and Other Drugs

- Open Containers: No persons may consume alcoholic beverages of kind, nor possess or transport any open container containing alcohol (including cans, bottles or containers of any kind) in a public building or on public property, including, but not limited to, town sidewalks, streets, parking lots, parks, cemeteries or schools. Violations of this bylaw are subject to a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$300 by the South Hadley Police Department.

Mount Holyoke College Policy Concerning Alcohol and Other Drugs

- The presence, possession or use of kegs or other communal open container (e.g. punch bowls, multi-gallon coolers, etc.) by individuals or groups other than in a registered, approved fashion is prohibited on the College campus.

- Persons 21 years of age and over may use alcohol in the privacy of their rooms providing all guidelines governing guests, noise and appropriate behavior are followed.
- In situations in which there is a mix of students under the legal drinking age and of legal drinking age living together in the same space, underage status supersedes those 21 and over and therefore students may not serve or host alcohol in their residence hall room.
- Consumption of alcohol in unapproved areas (e.g., residence hall communal space, stairways, corridors, elevators, bathrooms, kitchens/Golden Pears, dining rooms, laundry rooms, academic buildings, etc.) is subject to disciplinary action.
- Possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in public/common areas or on the grounds of the College, except at registered events or licensed facilities.
- All student groups are also held to the Alcohol Policy and Guidelines for Student Events, which can be found in the [Recognized Student Organization handbook](#).
- Events with alcohol must follow College guidelines and relevant policy. Students 21 years of age and over are permitted to possess and/or consume alcohol in residence hall common spaces only in pre-approved, registered circumstances that adhere to the Party Registration Policy.
- Students are not permitted to possess drug paraphernalia of any kind (including pipes, bongs, hookahs, etc.); prohibited substances and paraphernalia may be confiscated and disposed of by Public Safety.
- As outlined in the Smoke- and Tobacco-Free Campus policy, smoking cannabis, tobacco, vaping instruments or related devices that produce smoke or vapor are not permitted in campus buildings. Cannabis in all forms is not permitted on campus.

Medical and Recreational Cannabis Policy

While Massachusetts has instituted legislation which allows for the controlled use of medical and recreational cannabis in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mount Holyoke College students, staff and faculty are not permitted to possess and/or use any form of cannabis on Mount Holyoke College property or at College-sponsored events. Federal laws outlined by the Controlled Substances Act have classified cannabis as a controlled substance, which prohibits the use, possession and/or cultivation of cannabis. Mount Holyoke College must comply with the Drug-Free Communities and Schools Act, as well as the Drug-Free Workplace Act, which requires a drug-free campus environment, or risk losing federal funding such as financial aid.

Any student, staff or faculty member who violates Mount Holyoke College policy prohibiting the use and/or possession of illicit drugs (including medical or recreational cannabis) on campus may be subject to disciplinary action.

Please note that, in accordance with Massachusetts and federal law, it is also illegal to consume cannabis in any form in public or on federal land. Those who violate the law can face a fine.

Amnesty Policy

The health and safety of students is of primary importance to the College. The College provides amnesty from the disciplinary process for students who request medical assistance for themselves; for another person; and for whom medical assistance was provided. When alcohol and/or drugs are involved, students are encouraged to take proactive and reactive steps to ensure their own health and safety, as well as that of their peers. In order to encourage students to seek time-sensitive care in an

alcohol- and/or drug-related emergency, students who actively seek help or medical assistance for themselves or others will not be subject to disciplinary sanctions for the violation of using alcohol or drugs or of providing alcohol or drugs to the student they have assisted in obtaining treatment. Students may, however, be found responsible for violations outside of drug/alcohol use and/or distribution of drugs/alcohol, if identified and applicable (e.g. destruction of property, violence, etc.).

Medical emergencies pertaining to substance use can include unconsciousness or unresponsiveness, disorientation or confusion, slow breathing, vomiting and cool or pale skin. In the event of a medical concern of any kind, immediate action should be taken to notify emergency resources (if on-campus call Public Safety at 413-538-2304 or 911 if off-campus) for assistance. If medical assistance is deemed necessary, the College expects the student to make choices that prioritize their health and safety, such as accepting transportation to the hospital for medical attention.

Following Amnesty, the student(s) involved will meet with the Be Well Director or designee and will have the opportunity to review the incident, ask questions and/or engage in further education to support future informed decision-making. The goal of Medical Amnesty is to center student wellbeing and to encourage those involved to engage in meaningful reflection and education. As such, Medical Amnesty is not intended to be used repeatedly. While Amnesty may apply in subsequent cases, it is at the discretion of the Director of Community Standards or designee. Additional educational or supportive measures may also apply in this case. Note: Medical Amnesty does not preclude or prevent action by relevant legal authorities.

Sanctions for Violations of the Campus Alcohol and Drug Policies

The College empowers all members of the campus community, including students, staff and faculty to observe the aforementioned laws and policies pertaining to alcohol and drug usage in an effort to center personal and collective wellbeing and safety. Those who violate these policies and/or laws will be asked to take accountability for their actions. Further, they should understand that possible outcomes may include disciplinary action, personal liability, fines and/or imprisonment as applicable under state, federal and local laws. The following College sanctions, as dictated by the Office of Community Standards, are determined with the goal of promoting personal accountability, education and understanding of harm or potential for harm due to a student's respective violation(s).

Note that there may be instances in which the parent, guardian or emergency contact of a student will be notified in response to intoxication, specifically when a student is transported to the hospital due to intoxication. This communication is in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is done with the intent of providing support for a student's health and safety. Students are encouraged to review the College's Policy on Parent Notification and review/update their Emergency Contacts regularly.

Additionally, students are prohibited from attending class under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Such behavior is deemed by the College as unsafe. Students suspected of being under the influence of substances will be asked to leave the classroom and such an incident would warrant staff/faculty to document the behavior and actions taken. Students may be referred to the Counseling Service or College Health Services for support and/or referral.

Violations regarding alcohol or drugs will be counted as a second offense when a first offense of either policy is already on the record.

The record of each offense remains on file with the College for seven (7) years following the incident.

Violation	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
• Possession and consumption of alcohol under age of 21 (including evidence that consumption has occurred, such as empty bottles). • Open container. • Possession of alcohol or drug paraphernalia associated with dangerous consumption. • Providing alcohol • Intoxication. • Possession/ use of illegal drugs or probable cause to believe there was use.	• Meeting with Director of Community Standards. • AOD-focused Educational Steps	• Meeting with Director of Community Standards. • AOD-focused Educational Steps • Disciplinary probation • Possible parent or guardian notification.	• Meeting with Director of Community Standards. • Parent or guardian notification. • Disciplinary Probation. • Possible housing probation and suspension. • Possible withdrawal.
• Selling/distributing illegal drugs.	• Meeting with Director of Community Standards. • AOD-focused Educational Project • Parent or guardian notification. • Disciplinary probation. • Possible withdrawal or suspension.	• Meeting with Director of Community Standards. • Parental notification. • Withdrawal or suspension.	

No Contact Orders

No Contact Orders (NCOs) are directives to students by select campus administrators or their designees that restrict the contact and/or communication between or among designated parties. No Contact Orders are not considered to be disciplinary actions and do not become part of a student's conduct record. However, failure to abide by a No Contact Order may result in disciplinary action and could result in disciplinary sanctions and a conduct record.

On a small campus, a No Contact Order could inadvertently prevent one or both parties from accessing educational opportunities, so such orders are not automatically granted when requested. The College will consider all facts and circumstances that may be relevant to whether a No Contact Order should be issued, including, but not limited to, the following factors:

- There are allegations, threats or evidence of physical violence.
- There are allegations, threats or evidence of emotional abuse or harassment.
- There is a substantial risk of emotional harm from continued contact between the students.
- The NCO is requested in good faith by all students affected.
- There are allegations of serious College policy violations.

All NCOs will be mutual. In other words, any student(s) on one side of an NCO is prohibited from contacting any student(s) on the other side of the NCO.

“Contact” includes, but is not limited to, direct or indirect communication in person, through others, by email, text messages, social media-based messages and postings, and other forms of communication.

Additional Protective Measures

When deemed necessary by the College, NCOs may include additional protective measures or other terms specific to the safety, well-being or other needs of students subject to the NCO. Any additional terms will be stated in writing in the NCO. Additional protective measures or other terms need not be reciprocal. They may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Restricting a student from being in close proximity to another student.
- Restricting a student's access to certain campus locations, including where another student lives.
- Restricting times and/or locations for use of College facilities.
- Restricting that students not be enrolled in the same academic course(s).
- Restricting that students not participate in the same cocurricular activities.

No Contact Orders do not guarantee that designated students will avoid sightings or passing interactions on campus or in the local community, and incidental contact will not be considered a violation of the No Contact Order. The College expects that all parties will be intentional and thoughtful in working to avoid contact.

Interpersonal Conflicts

Students who have interpersonal conflicts that do not raise concerns for safety or potential policy violations will not be granted No Contact Orders. It is expected that students requesting NCOs do so

in good faith. NCOs are issued at the College's discretion and the College may decline to issue an NCO where it determines safety is not at risk.

Students with conflicts for which an NCO is not appropriate should pursue other forms of conflict resolution and may contact the office of Community Standards or Ombuds Office for assistance.

No Contact Order Administrators

NCOs may be issued by a limited number of campus administrators approved by the Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students or their designee. Contact dean-students@mtholyoke.edu for a full list.

No Contact Order Review

The College reviews No Contact Orders at the beginning of each academic semester. No Contact Orders may remain in effect until graduation or withdrawal of at least one of the designated students, unless the No Contact Order is modified or rescinded by the College in writing. A student seeking the modification or rescission of a No Contact Order shall make such a request to the administrator who issued the original No Contact Order. Students may request that contact restrictions be lifted after an appropriate sustained period of compliance. Such decisions will be made in consultation with the administrator who issued the No Contact Order. The class schedules of students with NCOs are checked before the start of each term to determine whether students have registered for the same classes. The issuing College Administrator will contact the involved students with any concerns.

When No Contact Orders are administered as an interim measure through the College's Sexual Harassment Policy or Nondiscrimination & Anti-Harassment Policy, alleged violations will be resolved under that policy.

NCO Violations

Any violations of NCOs are subject to disciplinary action under the College's policies. Retaliation is strictly prohibited. A violation of an NCO by a student who requested it may result in revocation of the NCO. If you believe someone has violated an NCO, please report it to the College Administrator who issued it. If at any point you feel your safety is in jeopardy, contact Public Safety and Service at 413-538-2304.

To request a No Contact Order, contact one of the campus administrators listed above.

One Card

The OneCard is the official physical identification card for Mount Holyoke College students. Lending or duplicating OneCards issued by Mount Holyoke College is prohibited. In Safford and Creighton halls, a resident's OneCard is their room key. All Mount Holyoke students must carry their OneCard at all times and provide it to College personnel (e.g., area coordinator, public safety officer, residential life student staff, etc.) upon request.

In an incident or event that causes an interruption to campus life and services, MHC students and employees may be asked to present and or required to visibly display their OneCard. If your OneCard is lost or stolen, please report it to [Public Safety and Service](#) and/or the [Technology Help Desk](#) immediately. Please visit the [OneCard Services page](#) for more information about OneCard. Students are not allowed to loan their OneCard to visitors or other students.

Smoke- and Tobacco-Free Campus

In an effort to promote public health and make campus welcoming and accessible to all, smoking is prohibited on the Mount Holyoke College campus. “All smoking” includes all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, vaping and electronic cigarettes, tobacco and tobacco products, and any substance burned for the purpose of inhalation. This explicitly includes cannabis, which is already prohibited by law anywhere within the College boundaries. The College encourages students, staff, faculty and community members to make choices that reflect respect for one another, as well as practice active bystanderism to educate in instances where this policy is not being followed. For more information, please review the full [Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus Policy](#).

Safety Policies

Adverse Weather

On occasion during the academic year, adverse weather conditions call for the delayed opening, early closing or cancellation of classes, programs, activities or services. In such cases, the College employs several methods to ensure the campus community is notified:

- Mount Holyoke College weather line: 413-538-2330
- Mount Holyoke College website: mtholyoke.edu
- MHC Connect for students, faculty and staff
- Community email announcements
- Mount Holyoke College’s official Facebook
- TV: Channel 22 (WWLP), NBC TV affiliate; and Channel 40 (WGGB-TV), ABC affiliate

Our goal is to have a decision about any campus inclement weather delays made and posted immediately, or by 6:30 a.m. when the decision is made overnight.

Many factors go into the decision regarding opening and closing with primary consideration resting with the safety of students and employees.

Campus entrances, walkways and parking lots are cleared to provide broad access for the community. Priority is given to walkways, ramps, parking lots and building entrances that provide access to individuals with disabilities. Anyone encountering a barrier due to adverse weather, such as fallen tree limbs, snow or ice should contact Facilities Management at 413-538-2012 to report the location and condition of the barrier. Facilities Management is available between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. After hours, call Public Safety and Service at 413-538-2304. Individuals with specific routes, pathways or entrances of concern should speak with the Section 504 Coordinator, contactable at 413-538-3642 or via email at section504coordinator@mtholyoke.edu.

The College has adopted a “weather team” to monitor weather forecasts with the potential of significant impact to campus. The constitution of the team is broad, including the president of the College, the Office of the Dean of Faculty, Human Resources and the Section 504 Coordinator.

Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is a serious offense and a direct violation of Mount Holyoke College’s Honor Code, the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and federal law under the Stop Campus Hazing Act. It will not be tolerated in our community of trust. Hazing undermines the safety, dignity, and integrity of the College and its members.

All reported cases of suspected hazing will be seriously investigated with a fair process. For more information please review the full [College Anti-Hazing Policy](#).

Animals on Campus

The College has established the [Animals on Campus Policy](#), [Emotional Support Animal Policy](#) and [Service Animals Policy](#) to provide for the health and safety of Mount Holyoke College students, faculty, staff and visitors; for the protection and enjoyment of the College's property; and for the responsible management and operation of the College.

Bicycles on Campus

All bicycles on campus must be registered with Public Safety and Service. Registration is free and can be done Monday–Friday, 9 am–3 pm at Public Safety and Service. The registration decal will expire upon the student graduation date or no longer than four years from the original registration date.

E-bikes, e-scooters, and/or any electric personal transportation vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries are not permitted in any indoor space on campus. Charging a lithium-ion powered personal vehicle anywhere on College property (other than designated vehicle charging stations at Gorse Lot and the Village Commons) is prohibited. If you are an individual with a disability or injury who uses a motorized mobility device that is powered by a lithium ion battery, you are exempt from this policy and may have your device with you on the Mount Holyoke campus.

All bicycles on campus must be stored in approved residence hall locations and secured to a bicycle rack. If the bicycle is outside, it should be secured to an outside bike rack.

Bicycles may not be secured to fire hydrants, trees, parking signs, ramps or railings or left in the path of egress in any building on campus.

Bicycles left over the summer that have expired decals or are not registered will be considered abandoned and will be confiscated and discarded.

Any bicycle in violation of the College's bicycle policy or that is unregistered will be confiscated, and, if not claimed within 30 days, discarded.

More information is available on the [Bicycle Registration and Safety Page](#)

Fire Safety and Violation Policy

The College is committed to the safety of all community members. It is a violation of the honor code to refuse to leave during any fire drill, evacuation alarm or order to evacuate issued by Public Safety and Service or other College or Town officials or to commit willful or negligent acts that jeopardize the safety of people or property.

Students will be held accountable for their own actions and those of their guests. Violations may result in fines, loss of privileges and/ or other discipline as determined by the Director of Community Standards or designee.

If you have disability-related concerns about fire alarms, fire drills, and/or emergency response support, please contact [Disability Services](#).

For a list of approved and prohibited items, please refer to the campus packing list.

Please review the full [fire safety in the residence halls policy](#).

Please review the [College Fire and Life Safety Procedures](#). Violation of any fire and life safety protocol is serious and could put others at risk. We all have a shared responsibility to keep our community safe.

Missing Person Policy and Procedure

Background

This policy is intended to establish formal notification procedures for students who reside in Mount Holyoke Student housing and are reported as missing, as required by the Higher Education Act as amended by the *Higher Education Opportunity Act* (HEOA), effective October 1, 2010.

Missing Student

A student is considered missing when Mount Holyoke Public Safety and Service has determined the student to be missing. Concerns that may give rise to a missing student investigation may consist of but are not limited to:

- a. Medical or health related problems;
- b. The student has not regularly attended classes and has not been seen elsewhere;
- c. A Mount Holyoke official has made an inquiry of concern;
- d. A parent, roommate, or suitemate of the student has reported such disappearance due to irregular contact with the student;
- e. Residential Life staff believes that a student may be missing based upon absence from the residence or other information received by staff.

While an unexplainable absence of more than 24 hours gives rise to heightened concern, a student may be determined to be missing even if the student has been absent from the campus for a period of less than 24 hours.

Policy Regarding Contact Persons

Each student living in student housing has the option to identify an individual to be contacted by the university no later than 24 hours after the time that the student is determined missing.

Only authorized campus officials and law enforcement officers, acting in furtherance of a missing person investigation, may have access to missing student contact person information.

Students residing in on-campus housing or affiliated properties will be notified that their emergency contact information will also serve as their missing student contact information, unless the student directs otherwise.

If a student is less than 18 years of age and not emancipated, their custodial parent or guardian will be called in addition to the emergency contact(s).

*Contact is contingent upon the correct emergency or missing student contact information being made available by the student.

Actions to be Taken When A Student Is Or May Be Missing

If a student is suspected of being missing, then the reporting party will typically first notify Residential Life or Division of Student Affairs staff.

Staff that receives a report that a student is or may be missing, or who suspects that a student is missing, will initiate the missing student notification protocol, which includes an attempt to gather information regarding the student's current whereabouts. Staff will also immediately contact Public Safety and Service for consultation and to convey any report staff has received that a student is missing.

If staff cannot immediately locate the student suspected of being missing, then staff will also report the suspicion that the student is missing to appropriate administrators and to the key campus partners.

Public Safety and Service will actively conduct an investigation to determine the status of any student reported to be missing or suspected of being missing. The investigation will be conducted pursuant to established police procedures. Public Safety and Service will provide relevant updates to the reporting staff and key campus partners. Steps taken to find a student may include:

- Gathering all essential information about the person (description, clothes last worn, where subject might be, with whom they might be, vehicle description, etc.) and every effort will be made to make contact directly with the student or their designated contact(s).
- An up to date photograph may also be obtained to aid in the search.
- Information about the physical and mental wellbeing of the individual will be obtained
- Appropriate campus staff will be notified to aid in the search for the individual
- Notifying and working with other law enforcement agencies
- A thorough search of all campus buildings, grounds, and parking lots may be conducted.
- Class schedules will be obtained and a search of appropriate classrooms will be conducted.

If Public Safety and Service makes a determination that the student has been missing for more than 24 hours, then the College must notify the missing student contact of this determination. If such a missing student is less than 18 years of age and not emancipated, then the parent(s)/guardian of the missing student must also be notified. The College may notify the missing student contact if the student has been determined by Public Safety and Service to be missing for a period of time less than 24 hours if circumstances warrant.

Follow up

When the student is found, professional staff will contact the student and inform them of support services available on campus. In certain situations, Residential Life staff may consult with the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students office to determine if additional follow up is needed. This support should also be offered to any other students (e.g. roommates, friends) affected by the incident.

If the search for the missing student is deemed unsuccessful, the Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students and other Division of Student Affairs staff members, will decide what further action(s) should be taken.

Mount Holyoke College policies are subject to revision without notice.

Personal Vehicles on Campus

The College is not responsible for, nor will it pay any claims for, damages to student-owned vehicles resulting from falling ice, snow, tree limbs or any other natural occurrence or event on its property or elsewhere, whether the possibility of such an event is warned against or not. The College is not responsible for, nor will it pay any losses, claims or damages to student-owned vehicles resulting from vandalism, collision or other acts by any person, other than damage caused directly by its employees. More information is available on the [Parking Office website](#).

Policy violations or non-compliance with parking rules and regulations may be addressed primarily by the Office of Public Safety and Service using the process and procedure set out by that office.

Right of Entry & Search Policy

Police Authority & Accountability

Mount Holyoke Public Safety and Service (PSS) officers are sworn Massachusetts police officers (M.G.L. c. 22C, § 63) with full power of arrest. All officers are certified by the Massachusetts POST Commission and must adhere to state standards for training, conduct, and professional accountability.

Room Entry & Searches

Officers may enter student rooms without permission only for:

Emergencies: Immediate threats to life, health, or property.

Warrants: A valid judicial search warrant.

Hot Pursuit: Chasing a fleeing suspect.

Plain View: Illegal items visible from a legal vantage point will be seized.

Arrest & Inventory

If an individual is arrested, officers will search the person for weapons and conduct a formal inventory of their property. Any evidence found may be used in legal or disciplinary proceedings.

Patrols & Records

Officers patrol all campus areas. While they typically stick to common areas and main floors of residence halls, they may patrol residential floors to ensure student safety.

Documentation: PSS may use photography or video to record serious incidents or disasters for official record-keeping.

Unauthorized Entry

No student shall make unauthorized entry on or into any College facility, building, office, attic or roof or other College property without permission or in instances where the person knew or should have known that such access is restricted. This includes trespassing, propping or unauthorized use of alarmed doors for entry into or exit from a College building; and the possession, duplication or use of keys to College facilities. Further, no student shall enter or remain in a private room, office, or

restricted area under control of another student, faculty member or College official.

Weapons and Firearms Policy

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 269 Section 10 (j), weapons are prohibited on the grounds of the College with the exception of law enforcement officers duly authorized to carry such weapons. No person shall be permitted to carry firearms or other weapons, concealed or not concealed, with or without a concealed weapon permit, while on properties owned or controlled by the College or in the participation of a College-related course, activity or other business off campus.

For the purposes of this policy, the term “weapons” includes, but is not limited to: firearms of any nature or description, including shotguns, rifles, pistols and revolvers, paintball guns or BB/pellet guns; firearm replicas; ammunition; martial arts-type weapons; explosives including fireworks, smoke grenades and paint bombs; bows, crossbows, arrows; slingshots; switchblade knives, double-edged knives, or hunting (pocket-style) knives with a blade length of 3 inches or greater; swords; pointed metal darts; (unauthorized) pepper spray; or any other destructive device or instrument that may be used to do bodily injury or damage to property. In addition, items that may be used as weapons, whether or not they fit the definition above, will be subject to seizure. Because these weapons may pose a clear risk to persons and property on the campus, violation of the regulations may result in administrative action from the College and/or prosecution under the appropriate state or federal laws.

No firearm or ammunition is permitted on the Mount Holyoke College campus. This prohibition includes the possession of all firearms, whether or not a lawful permit might have been issued under the law for ownership, possession, or use. This policy is consistent with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, and Section 10(j).

Residential Campus

Attending a Residential Campus

Mount Holyoke College is a highly selective, nondenominational, residential, research liberal arts college for women that is gender diverse and welcomes applications from female, transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming students.

As a residential institution, Mount Holyoke values the benefits of living and learning in a diverse, inclusive, and supportive community. To support academic success, personal growth, and community engagement:

- All undergraduate students are required to live on campus for the duration of their enrollment.
- While housing is guaranteed for all incoming first-year students, housing for transfer students and students submitting late applications is not guaranteed and may be offered based on availability. In rare cases where housing is not available, the Office of Residential Life will inform students of this possibility as soon as they are able to.

Exceptions to the Residency Requirement

The following students are *not* required to live on campus:

- Local students (whose permanent home address is nearby) may choose to commute.
- Frances Perkins Scholars are not required to live in College housing.
- Graduate Student housing is not provided.
- Students approved to live off-campus by Residential Life and/or Disability Services

Off-Campus Housing Option

While the College prioritizes on-campus living, a limited number of **juniors and seniors** may apply to live off campus each year:

- These students typically live in local apartments or houses.
- Students must meet all eligibility criteria.
- Students must complete the Off-Campus Housing Application process.

Important:

Do **not sign a lease** until you have received formal written approval from the Office of Residential Life. Signing a lease before approval: does **not guarantee** a release from College housing, is a **violation of College policy**, is a **financial and legal risk** borne entirely by the student and/or their guardians. Off-campus housing is a **privilege**, not a right.

The administration of campus housing is guided by the [Office of Residential Life](#), under the Department of Student Engagement and Belonging within the [Division of Student Affairs](#). Residential Life is responsible for services, programs, and policies related to the residential student experience. The area of Student Engagement and Belonging includes two core teams:

- [Residential Life](#)

- [Student Involvement and Belonging](#)

Student Engagement and Belonging staff are located across campus, including in the basement of Safford Hall, the Blanchard Community Center. Leadership and primary contact information can be found online or by calling (413) 538-2088.

Mount Holyoke College students living in campus housing are required to comply with all policies and expectations of behavior outlined in the [Student Handbook](#), [Residence Hall Policies](#), and the [Residential License Agreement](#). This includes, but is not limited to, information outlined below, and various Residential Life publications, including, but not limited to, break housing notices and the annual housing lottery information. Each resident must take an active role in maintaining an environment that supports the academic mission of the College by providing a residential environment for learning that respects and appreciates individual differences and promotes a sense of community. Residents are expected to comply and cooperate with the directives of Residential Life staff, College officials, and emergency personnel acting in the performance of their duties.

Access/Use

- Residence halls are private dwellings and should be used solely as a residence. Access to residence halls is restricted to all residential students except for the hours of 2:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. when residence hall access is restricted to residents assigned to that building. At times, others may be granted access for academic purposes or other approved legitimate purposes.
- Residents should keep their room doors closed and locked whenever they are not present in the room or are sleeping.
- Residents are permitted to host guests in their residence hall in accordance with the guest policy.
- Residents and guests are expected to enter and exit residence halls through the main entrance door.
- Exterior doors to residence halls are locked at all times and may be accessed through the OneCard system.
- Exterior doors should never be propped open or disabled for any reason. Emergency doors should only be used in the event of an emergency.
- Accessing residence hall roofs, balconies - excluding the Dickinson House balconies attached to rooms, and ledges is prohibited.
- The maximum occupancy of any room, suite or apartment is the number of assigned residents plus no more than 1 individual per number of assigned residents.
- See the following policies College Staff Access to Rooms, Emergency Entries, and Searches by Law Enforcement Officials, Statement on Privacy and Room Inspections for additional information on room access.

Alcohol

Residents and their guests must adhere to the alcohol policies outlined in the Student Handbook. In addition to the alcohol policies listed in the Student Handbook the following applies within the residence halls:

- Residents 21 years or older may possess, store, and consume alcohol only within their shared room, suite, or apartment if their roommate(s) is 21 years of age or older.
- Alcohol is not permitted on substance-free floors.

- Open containers of alcohol are not permitted in public areas such as lounges, hallways, TV rooms, stairwells, kitchens or bathrooms, unless they are participating in a sanctioned College event.
- Playing or simulating drinking games or participating in other activities that involve the rapid and/or excessive consumption of alcohol is not permitted.
- Possession of alcoholic containers for decorative purposes is not permitted.
- Please review the full Alcohol policy and Amnesty Policy under key policies in the Student Handbook.

Animals

- Residents and guests are not permitted to have animals or pets in the residence halls except as permitted by the [Animals on Campus](#), [Emotional Support Animal](#) and [Service Animal](#) Policies. Students approved for an emotional support animal must follow the guidelines that are provided in the animal agreement that will be signed with Disability Services.
- Residents are allowed to have fish if they can humanely and safely live in one (1) 5-gallon tank or smaller. Each resident is allowed one 5-gallon tank and are responsible for the well-being of their fish throughout the academic year and break periods.
- Aquarium lights and filters are allowed and must meet Mount Holyoke College's [Fire and Life Safety Protocols](#).

Cleanliness and Trash Removal

- Residents are expected to keep their room clean and regularly remove any trash and/or recyclables from rooms, suites, or apartments and put them in designated areas.
- Leftover food, food waste, and food containers should be disposed of in the room trash and removed to a designated area on a daily basis.
- Leaving personal trash in hallways, common areas, and bathrooms is not permitted.

College Staff Access to Rooms

College staff (including but not limited to Public Safety and Service, the professional staff on call, Residential Life, Facilities Management and LITS personnel) may enter a student's room to perform services and maintenance or respond to an emergency. Professional Residential Life staff may enter a student's room in case of health and safety concerns.

Occasionally, rooms may have to be entered in a student's absence to carry out non-requested services or maintenance, or the restoration of heat, water or electricity. In these circumstances, the College will endeavor to leave behind notice of the entry and its time and purpose.

All student rooms will be regularly inspected during vacations and other scheduled times throughout the year by College Residential Life, custodial, housekeeping or maintenance personnel to inspect for fire, health or safety hazards, liberate confined pets, or to ascertain damage to College property.

The College reserves the right to escort insurance inspectors, engineers and other officials through the residence halls and to conduct surveys of selected buildings or rooms for the purpose of facilities management needs. Advance notice of these inspections will be given whenever possible.

The College reserves the right to enter a student's room when necessary for the furtherance of College business, which includes, but is not limited to: inspection for compliance with fire, health and safety regulations, inspection and inventory of College property, maintenance of security, the furtherance of security investigation, and necessary building maintenance.

Common Rooms

Mount Holyoke College students have the opportunity to host small, community-friendly events in the Common Spaces of Residence Halls, such as hall bonding activities, holiday gatherings, game nights, TV & sports viewing that won't be comfortable or as much fun in the cramped space of a residence hall room.

- Spaces are reservable through the [Campus Space Request Form](#) by individuals or student orgs for meetings, rehearsals, study groups, etc, but they are not intended for weekly/regular reservations so that the space remains available to more varied usage.
- Common Space event reservations cannot be approved during quiet hours
- At least one of the two hosts must be a resident of the hall in which the event is being held.

For the entire common room reservation guidelines, please see the Common Space Reservations Section.

Please note that Living Learning Community lounge spaces are not reservable spaces. Exceptions may be granted by the Office of Residential Life

Elevators

- Misuse, vandalism, or removal of any component of the elevators is not permitted.

Emergency Entries

The usual rights of privacy and guarantees against trespass may be suspended in the course of disturbances of the peace, domestic violence, serious criminal incidents, fire alarms, and fires, floods or similar disasters.

Fire officials may enter a student's room without permission to search for, or to confirm the presence of, a fire or related dangers. Any person, including law enforcement officials, may enter a student's room without permission to search for, rescue, evacuate or treat fire or disaster victims, or to otherwise save lives or property from destruction.

In the course of assisting at a fire, disturbance or disaster, police officers may lawfully seize any evidence of a crime they observe in plain view for purposes of prosecution. Being lawfully on the premises, they do not need to obtain a warrant to authorize the seizure. However, a police officer who seeks to enter a student's room solely to investigate such a report is under legal obligation to obtain consent or a judicial warrant.

Fire officials are responsible for reporting any evidence of a crime they have observed to law enforcement officials.

Fire Safety

Residence halls are equipped with fire safety equipment, which includes smoke detectors, heat detectors, manual fire alarm pull stations, fire alarm control panels, sprinklers, and pipes. Residents are expected to comply with the College [Fire and Safety Protocols](#) and [Fire Safety policy](#).

- When a fire alarm has sounded, residents and guests are required to evacuate and follow emergency response personnel directives.
- Residents and guests are prohibited from covering, tampering with, obstructing, or hanging items on any fire safety device or component (e.g., sprinkler heads, smoke detectors, pipes, etc.)
 - Pulling a manual section when there is no safety concern is considered tampering with a fire safety device.
- To maintain the safety of the residence halls, certain items are not permitted. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to
 - Candles and incense, lit or unlit. Smudging is also not permitted in residence halls.
 - Deep/air fryers, open-flame appliances, heating elements, toaster ovens, grills, and hot plates. Residents may have a microwave up to 700 watts and 0.7 cubic ft, and a small refrigerator 3.0 cubic ft. or less with a ground adapter plug. Allowable appliances must have automatic shut-off.
- Explosive materials, gas-powered equipment, noxious chemicals, gasoline, and other flammable liquids.
- Halogen lamps, lava lamps, octopus/spider lamps (i.e., lamps with multiple plastic shade/covers)
- Lithium-ion battery-powered personal transport devices (e.g. battery operated devices, electric or motorized bicycles, hoverboards, scooters, segway vehicles, and skateboards)
- Natural trees, wreaths, corn stalks, hay or other live decorations
- Pyrotechnic devices and smoke/fog machines
- Space heaters (unless issued by Facilities Management)

Furniture

- College-issued furnishings must remain in the room, suite, or apartment. Beds cannot be lofted.
- Common area and lounge furnishings must remain in their original and designated spaces.
- Residents are required to pay for any repair costs associated with missing or damaged furniture.
- Any accommodation request must be approved through the [Office of Disability Services](#) before the removal of the furniture.

Golden Pear (Residence Hall Kitchens)

- Students are responsible for the proper maintenance of the Golden Pears (kitchens) and associated areas of the residence halls.
- Countertops, cupboards, cutting surfaces, dishwashers, floors, ovens, refrigerators, sinks, and stoves must be cleaned at least daily to lessen the risk of food-borne illnesses, and to discourage unwanted bugs and rodents.
- Failure to keep the kitchen area in proper sanitary condition could result in closing the Golden Pear.
- Food in a communal kitchen should be labeled and is not for communal use unless noted. Using/Removing food from a Golden Pear will be considered theft.

- Students with documentable need to be living in proximity to a Golden Pear kitchen should contact Disability Services to request proximity housing and will retain access to the Golden Pear in case of closure.

Guests

- Student rooms serve multiple purposes and the Office of Residential Life encourages roommates to discuss rest, academic, and social expectations within their room. As a residential college, rest and study have priority over entertainment. This is a priority that occupants sharing a room must honor. This policy on guests applies to all residential students and is in effect for the fall and spring semester. No guests are permitted during winter break and Intersession. Summer break has a separate policy.
- The College considers a guest of campus to be anyone who is not an actively registered Mount Holyoke student. A guest in a residential context is defined as any individual who is not assigned to the residential hall or an assigned occupant in the residence hall room. Residents are expected to register Off-Campus Mount Holyoke College students and non-Mount Holyoke College guests using the [Guest Registration Form](#). Residents should only register individuals whom they know and are hosting. The College reserves the right to modify the guest policy at any time, and residents will be notified of any modifications.
- Residents (hosts) are permitted to host up to one (1) guest in their residence hall at one time. Guests must be at least 16 years of age, possess a valid ID and be registered before arrival using the [Guest Registration Form](#).
- Overnight guests are limited to one (1) guest per resident (host) at any time. Guests may stay no longer than five (5) consecutive nights within any 14-day period, regardless of which resident is hosting. This means a guest may not extend their stay by rotating between different hosts. After reaching the five-night limit, a guest must wait at least 14 days before staying overnight again with any resident. All overnight guests must be accommodated in the host's room and must not displace other residents.
- Hosts should check with their roommates before inviting guests and are encouraged to engage in conversations about guests. Roommates have the right to refuse their roommate's guest(s) or to ask the guest(s) to leave if the guest is being disruptive
- Keep in mind the horizontal/vertical rule: Guests can move around their host's floor (horizontally) unescorted, but when they are traveling to a different floor, they must be escorted by their host.
- Guests must use bathroom facilities designated for their use by "anyone can use this restroom" signs.
- The host is responsible for their guest's behavior, and guests are never to be left unattended in community spaces such as common areas.
- If a guest engages in behavior that does not meet College behavioral expectations, both the host and guest (if a student of the College) may be held accountable under the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.
- If a guest engages in concerning behavior or refuses to leave, residential life staff, Professional Staff on Call or Public Safety & Service may be contacted.
- Student Organizations should refer to the hosting guidelines in the [RSO Handbook](#).

Hallways

- Hallways must always be clear in case of fire.

- Any items left in the hallway are considered abandoned.
- Items not promptly removed may be taken and disposed of without notice.
- Examples of prohibited items in the hallway include, but are not limited to: bicycles, boots, shoes, boxes, trash, suitcases, clothing, umbrellas, beds, furniture, doormats, and decorations.

Key and OneCard

- Each resident is assigned a key for accessing their room. Lending or duplicating keys and OneCards issued by Mount Holyoke College is prohibited.
- In Safford and Creighton halls, a resident's OneCard is their key.
- Residents are expected to report a lost/stolen key immediately to the Office of Residential Life.
 - The Office of Residential Life will order a new key during business hours and inform students via email when the new keys may be picked up Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.– 5 p.m., at the Division of Student Affairs suite in 205 Blanchard Hall. Students will be billed for the new key through their student bill. Students must show an identification card when picking up a new key.
 - If a student who has lost their keys suspects that an individual unassociated with the College has them, the student is expected to have the lock of their room changed. This type of incident should be reported to Public Safety and Service.
- All Mount Holyoke students must visibly carry their OneCard at all times and provide it to college personnel (e.g. area coordinator, public safety officer, residential life student staff, etc.) upon request.
- If your One Card is lost or stolen, please report it to Public Safety and Service and/or the [Technology Help Desk](#) immediately. Please visit the [OneCard Services page](#) for more information about OneCard. Students are not allowed to loan their OneCard to visitors or other students.

Lock Changes

- If a student loses their key, they should report it to the [Office of Residential Life](#), which will work with the Department of Facilities Management to change the lock core
- This cost for replacement keys and the recore appears on the student's bill. Replacement costs:
 - Room Key \$25
 - Re-core change \$75

Mid-Semester Leaves & Moving Out

- When a medical leave is approved, the student will be allowed up to three days to remove belongings and vacate the residence halls.
- If additional time is needed, the student should speak with the Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement and Belonging or designee to request extended time to move out.
- Extending time in the residence halls may affect the amount of any refund due, if applicable, or result in a late stay charge.

Noise

Residents must keep noise at an acceptable and courteous level at all hours of the day.

- **Courtesy Hours** are in effect at all times; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During all hours of the day, residents are expected to be considerate of other residents' individual needs. In order to do so, please adhere to the following
 - Devices such as speakers, televisions, computers, amplifiers, or musical instruments should be maintained at a volume that does not impact others.
- **Quiet Hours** are times when noise must not be audible beyond resident's rooms, suites, apartments or common areas. Quiet hours are designated as:
 - Sunday - Thursday: 10 p.m.–8 a.m. from Sunday night to Friday morning.
 - Friday -Saturday: 2 a.m.–10 a.m.
- **Quiet Floors** are all the floors in Safford Hall, 4th Floor of Buckland Hall, and the 4th & 5th floors of 1837 Hall. These spaces have 24-hour quiet hours.
 - Sunday - Saturday Quiet Hours from 8 am-10 pm.
 - Sunday-Saturday, Silent hours from 10 pm-8 am.
- **24-Hour Quiet hours** are in effect during reading day(s) and final exam periods.
- **Addressing Noise Concerns** - Residents are encouraged to address noise concerns with their peers and to respond positively to requests to reduce or minimize noise. Noise concerns may be reported to Residential Life Staff (Resident Advisors, Residential Fellows, Area Coordinators) and/or the Professional Staff on Call. Silencing or overtaking another student's bluetooth device is not an effective noise management strategy and will result in disciplinary sanctions.

Off-Campus Housing Application and Agreement

If a student receives permission to live off-campus, the student will be required to complete an acceptance form and agree to all the terms outlined in the form.

Students can apply to live off campus, in mid-February for the next academic year.

To be approved to live off campus, students must acknowledge the following:

- Living off-campus is a privilege and not a right.
- Permission to live off-campus can be revoked by the Office of Residential Life or the Division of Student Affairs at any time.
- If permission is revoked students will be assigned on-campus housing over the summer.
- The College will not be held responsible for any financial commitments or losses related to a student's off-campus rental.
- The student will abide by all applicable laws (local, state, and federal), especially those regarding noise and alcohol, and by College policy, including the Mount Holyoke College Honor Code and Conduct of Code, which holds students accountable for their behavior on and off College premises.
- By choosing to live off-campus, it is understood that Mount Holyoke Public Safety and Service, or other campus officials, will not respond to off-campus residences. In the case of an emergency, students must call 911.
- In choosing to live off-campus, the student acknowledges that the College has no responsibility for the condition or safety of their off-campus dwelling or for any other conditions or events occurring at their off-campus dwelling. The student explicitly assumes any and all risks

associated with living off-campus.

As a prerequisite to living off-campus, a student must do the following:

- Complete the acceptance form and agree to the terms outlined in the therein.
- Provide the Office of Residential Life with their complete mailing address of their off-campus residence and cell phone number.

Off-Campus Accountability

Pursuant to the [Mount Holyoke College Student Handbook and Student Conduct Code](#), students are responsible for their behavior on and off-campus. The College's strong relationship with the town and its neighbors is vitally important. When off-campus activities cause a disruption to neighbors and this is brought to the attention of the Division of Student Affairs, the College will hold students accountable.

Safety and Security

A student who chooses to live off-campus gives up the benefit of having Mount Holyoke Public Safety and Service, or other campus officials, respond to their residence. This applies in both emergency and non-emergency situations.

In the case of a fire, medical, or other emergency, students living off-campus should call 911. This applies to off-campus students that require a wellness check for an alcohol or drug-related situation. Mount Holyoke Public Safety and Service is not authorized to respond to off-campus locations unless requested to do so by the local Police Department and, in such situations, responds only for informational purposes.

In non-emergency situations, including for non-emergency illness or injury, students living off-campus are responsible for their own transportation to available medical care.

Right to Assign/Reassign Student Room Placement

- The College, via the Office of Residential Life, may assign any vacant space in College-owned housing at any time.
- The College may reassign students to different rooms or residence halls as needed.
- A new roommate may be assigned to any open housing space at any time.
- The College reserves the right to make housing relocations or changes when deemed necessary.

Room Changes

- Residents are not allowed to move into a new room assignment or change rooms with another student without the express permission of the Office of Residential Life.
- For more information on room changes, visit the [Room Change Webpage](#).
- For questions about changing rooms, students should contact the [Office of Residential Life](#).

Room Decoration and Prohibited Items

Residents may decorate and personalize their rooms while adhering to the following:

- Personal belongings must not be stored outside of the room, suite, or apartment.

- Painting and permanent additions and alterations of the interior and exterior of rooms, apartments, and suites are prohibited.
- Decorations must be fire/flame-proof or fire-resistant
- Items must not be suspended from light fixtures, pipes, sprinkler heads, or fire equipment.
- Tapestries, pictures, posters and other decorations may be hung on the walls and doors with removable adhesive strips or painters' tape. Avoid using nails, screws, and other tape as they may damage walls. Nothing may be mounted to the walls, floors or ceilings.
- Applying wallpaper, contact paper, borders, stickers, adhesives, painting, and/or drawing on walls, doors, windows, shades, or furnishings, and any College-owned surface is not permitted.
- Decorative lights may be used if they are UL-approved. Lights should remain unplugged when not in use and you are not in the room as well as during break periods.
- The following items are not permitted in the residence halls:
 - Air conditioners: window or standing units (unless issued by Facilities Management)
 - Refrigerators larger than 3.0 cubic ft and microwaves more than 700 watts and 0.7 cubic ft.
 - Weapons (as outlined in the Code of Conduct)

Searches by Law Enforcement Officials

Nothing in the legal relationship between the College and the student gives the College authority to consent on students' behalf to the search of a student's room, vehicle or other possessions by law enforcement officials.

The College will advise law enforcement officials that they must obtain the student's permission or a judicial search warrant for permission to search a student's room, vehicle or other possessions.

(Note: Law enforcement search warrants must be based on probable cause to believe a crime has been committed and that evidence of that crime is in the place to be searched. Law enforcement officials do not have to have reason to believe that the occupants of a particular room, or the possessors of a vehicle or trunk, have committed the crime under investigation.)

Law enforcement officials who have a valid search warrant are required to show it to the occupant of the room if the occupant is present. Law enforcement authorities have the authority to use whatever physical force is necessary to execute the warrant. Questions about the validity of the search warrant should be reserved for the courts.

In exigent circumstances (such as an immediate situation where there is insufficient time to obtain a search warrant and where evidence would be destroyed by the delay), particularly with motor vehicles, law enforcement officers operating on probable cause may not need a search warrant.

The Public Safety and Service department is responsible for the coordination of all searches and seizures by public officials and outside law enforcement on the Mount Holyoke College campus.

Roommates' Rights and Responsibilities Connected to Privacy and Inspection

Students may incur legal liabilities as a result of actions taken by their roommate(s). Roommates who tolerate the commission or evidence of a crime (including illegal drugs) in their rooms open themselves to the possibility that all of their private possessions in that room may be searched pursuant to a warrant, even though they are not suspects, and that they may be prosecuted for any

stolen goods or prohibited substances found therein.

Roommates may authorize law enforcement officers, official inspectors or anyone else to enter rooms shared in common and a successful prosecution may follow from the observation of the evidence of a crime in plain view. However, a roommate may not waive another student's right to the privacy of a desk, bureau, closet, trunk or other presumptively private container not shared in common. A judicial warrant is required to search closed containers.

Smoke-Free

- Mount Holyoke College is a [smoke- and tobacco-free campus](#).
- No smoking may take place in any space in College housing. This includes but is not limited to student rooms, lounge spaces, bathrooms, balconies, porches, and fire escapes.
- Students caught smoking in the residence halls will be assessed a minimum fee of \$50.

Solicitation

Solicitation refers to the planned and in-person sharing of information with, and/or requesting information from, students living in residence halls. Residents and recognized student groups and clubs are permitted to solicit information in residence halls for non-commercial purposes. They may post information in authorized spaces within the residence halls in accordance to the [MHC Poster Policy for Residence Halls](#).

- Posting of Information - Postings are limited to College and College community events only.
 - Residence hall staff will routinely remove postings that are not stamped, postings with out-of-date information and materials not pertaining to the College, and/or materials that cover other postings.
 - To support recognized student organizations and College departments, Residential Life will centrally in Blanchard 205 accept postings (that adhere to the [MHC Poster Policy for Residence Halls](#)) for distribution to residence halls and posting by Residential Life staff.

Commercial solicitation by individuals or organizations for personal or commercial gain is not permitted. Commercial solicitation includes, but is not limited to, requests for payment or pledges of payment for goods, services, charities, or other financial contributions.

Statement on Privacy and Room Inspections

Residential Life and Facilities Management assess the condition of each room at the beginning of the academic year. This assessment indicates the physical state of the room and all of its contents at the time of the student's arrival. Any missing furniture or change in the state of the room or its facilities beyond reasonable wear will be billed to the student. Students will be charged for the actual labor of a major repair and replacement costs of furniture. A \$100 cleaning fee is assessed if any personal belongings or trash is left behind in the residence hall room when students vacate the space. Any painting of student rooms or College furnishings is prohibited. There will be a minimum fee of \$400 for any painting in a student room or on College furnishings.

Residential Life staff and Facilities Management staff inspect rooms periodically to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations. Another inspection takes place after students leave. Students will be notified in advance of these inspections.

In addition, South Hadley departments of public health, public safety, and fire may send inspectors to conduct routine inspections of residence halls, including student rooms, bathrooms and common areas, and storage areas. These inspections may result in College sanctions for any student who is responsible for violations of College policy.

Routine inspections are scheduled in advance and generally occur during the College business day (Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.). Inspectors will provide a minimum notice of 24 hours. Inspectors are escorted by a Mount Holyoke College employee. To inspect an occupied student room, the inspector must present the appropriate credentials and request permission from an occupant before inspecting.

If permission for a scheduled inspection is denied and the occupant refuses to arrange a convenient time for the inspection, the inspector may obtain a court order permitting entry without the occupant's permission.

These inspections are limited to the purposes for which they are authorized and should not involve examining any desk, bureau, trunk or other presumptively private container. Closets may be searched for illegal heating devices.

If an inspector should see evidence of a crime in plain view, the inspector has the responsibility to report the observation to law enforcement authorities. At Mount Holyoke College, these reports can be forwarded to Public Safety and Service.

To ensure the health and safety of the community, emergency and/or safety inspections can occur at any time without notice.

Roofs, Balconies, Ledges

- Students may not place objects on, or suspend objects from, the railings or balconies or throw objects from balconies.
- The roofs, ledges, fire escapes or balconies accessible only by windows should be used for emergencies only.
- Students are not permitted on the balconies — excluding the Dickinson House balconies — or roofs of Mount Holyoke College buildings, including residence halls.

Trunk Rooms

Students may store a limited number of personal items in designated trunk rooms during the academic year.

- Each residence hall includes a trunk room intended solely for temporary storage between September (the start of the academic year) and May (the close of residence halls for underclass students).
- Trunk rooms are suitable for small items such as boxes and suitcases.
- The following are *not permitted* in trunk rooms:
 - Room or lounge furniture
 - Upholstered furniture
 - Bicycles
 - Items stored in open containers
 - Floor lamps

- Flammable or hazardous materials

These items present fire hazards and will be removed and discarded if found.

- Items stored in trunk rooms are left at the student's own risk. The College does not provide security or protection for any stored items and is not liable for items that are lost, stolen, damaged, or accidentally discarded. Students are strongly encouraged to explore off-campus storage options.
- Trunk rooms are locked but accessible to any student or staff member affiliated with the College. Many are located in basement areas and are subject to moisture and fluctuations in climate.
- To access a trunk room, contact your Residential Fellow. Trunk rooms will not be unlocked by Public Safety and Service, Facilities Management, or the Office of Residential Life.
- Facilities Management conducts inspections at the end of each semester and will remove abandoned or prohibited items.
- At the end of the spring semester—or in the event of graduation, withdrawal, medical leave, or any extended absence—students must remove their belongings from the trunk room and arrange for off-campus storage or transport them home.

Summer Storage

There is absolutely no storage available during the summer months. Students must take their belongings home during the summer months or locate an off-campus storage facility. Any items found in trunk rooms during the summer months will be discarded.

Windows

- Windows and window screens must remain in place at all times.
- Nothing may be posted or hung on the outside of a window, whether affixed to the glass or affixed inside the room. This includes but is not limited to signs, window paints, flags, birdfeeders, etc.
- Throwing, dropping, or hanging anything from windows is prohibited.
- If a window or window screen is missing, loose, or damaged, residents are expected to submit a [Facilities Service Request](#).

Vandalism

- Students are expected to refrain from behavior that can damage their residence or the belongings of others, including any College property.
- Students are responsible for the actions of their guests and will be held accountable for any damage they cause.
- Students will be charged for any vandalism they or their guests cause and may face additional disciplinary action.
- If the College cannot determine who caused damage after a reasonable investigation, the repair costs will be divided among all students assigned to the affected room, suite, or residence hall—regardless of whether they were present at the time.

Residence Hall Common Area/Lounge Reservation Policy

Mount Holyoke College makes available the opportunity for students to host small, community-friendly events in the common spaces of residence halls, such as hall bonding activities,

holiday gatherings, game nights and TV and sports viewing that would not be as comfortable or as enjoyable in a residence hall room.

Before reserving a space, students need to understand what type of gathering they are actually hosting:

- Meeting: A private gathering strictly limited to members (35 or fewer) of your specific group that requires zero event services (no A/V setups, no Dining Services catering, etc.).
- Event: Any gathering open to the broader campus community (anyone outside your immediate group) OR any gathering that requires institutional support/event services (A/V, campus catering, facilities support, etc.). Events must register through the Office of Student Involvement with an [Event Registration Form \(ERF\)](#). The ERF must be submitted at least 14 days in advance; therefore, a Common Space request should be submitted a minimum of 16 days in advance.
- Party: Social gatherings that involve alcohol, or where the scale of the gathering requires additional safety oversight such as specific host-to-guest ratios. Parties are subject to additional [Residential Life guidelines](#).

Spaces are reservable by individuals or student organizations for meetings, rehearsals, study groups and so on, but they are not intended for weekly/regular reservations so that the space remains available for more varied usage. If regular weekly meeting space is needed, students may consider a room on campus and use the [Request a Space page](#) to reserve it.

Common space requests will be approved if the space is available and the request meets these criteria:

1. A minimum of two Mount Holyoke residents must sign on as the responsible hosts. All events must adhere to College, state and municipal fire safety standards.
2. No alcohol may be served or consumed in any campus venue unless compliance with Mount Holyoke College policies and state and federal laws can reasonably be assured. The hosts are also responsible to inform all guests of Mount Holyoke College policies and community standards and must actively work to uphold these standards.
3. Common Space event reservations cannot be approved during quiet hours (this includes daily quiet hours as well as 24-hour quiet hours during final exams).
4. Weekday gatherings must end by the time quiet hours begin, typically 10 pm. Weekend gatherings must end by 1:30 am, at which point guests must be dispersed, food and beverage service stopped, music turned off and cleanup begun. Cleanup can continue past 1 am as necessary.
5. Hosts are responsible for not exceeding the 50-person maximum for a meeting or event (inclusive of the hosts and others helping to make the event happen) under the Event Registration Form. Hosts must be diligent in watching the capacity at all times.
6. Hosts must plan finances ahead of time. Hosts cannot charge guests for admission, food, entertainment or beverages.
7. Music must be played at a reasonable level to maintain a considerate environment in the hall and neighboring halls.
8. For the duration of the event and clean up period, both hosts are responsible for upholding all College policies and laws. Hosts may also be held responsible for any property damage in the hall caused by any attendee.
9. The hosts are responsible for event cleanup and for restoring the common room to its original condition.

10. Residence hall kitchens (known as “Golden Pears”) and Living Learning Community lounges are not reservable. Exceptions may be granted by the Office of Residential Life.
11. Events that do not adhere to the Common Space Reservation guidelines and/or policies will be shut down by any member of the Public Safety and Service, the Residential Life professional or student staff, the professional staff on call, or other College administrators or staff.
12. Any violation of policies in conjunction with a gathering can result in sanctions against the hosts as individuals, in addition to other non compliant individuals.

After reading and understanding the guidelines, students should complete the Common Space Reservation Request form. Students should allow two business days for the desired building’s area coordinator to process the request.

For information on event planning, visit the [Event Planning website](#).

Student Life and Engagement

Engagement Through Cocurricular Activities

At Mount Holyoke, students have a number of avenues for getting involved and furthering their engagement in areas of personal passion and interest within the College and in local communities. Mount Holyoke provides these avenues through a range of cocurricular activities, and views these opportunities as an important aspect of a college education that introduces students to new ideas, perspectives and experiences

Cocurricular involvement for individual students can build organizational and leadership skills that are transferable to life beyond Mount Holyoke College. In addition, cocurricular opportunities are a great way to connect to other students and members of the College community and to put what has been learned in the classroom into action.

There are a number of ways for students to connect to cocurricular offerings, including:

- Center for Career Development
- Division of Student Affairs
- The Lynk
- McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives
- Office of Student Involvement
- Weissman Center for Leadership, including the Community-based Learning program
- Fellowships at Mount Holyoke

Office of Student Involvement

The Office of Student Involvement provides students with opportunities for leadership, service and engagement, and serves as a hub for connecting them to cocurricular activities. Student Involvement is a great entry point for those seeking opportunities that fit their interests, skills and goals or who are not sure where to start. The office offers a number of ways to get started that you can learn more about at the [Student Involvement website](#).

Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association, which is known as SGA, is an active leadership group that represents the entire student body in dialogue with College administration and faculty on issues that affect the student body. The SGA leadership comprises an executive board voted in by the student body; a senate that comprises representatives from residence halls, students living off campus and student organizations; and committees formed by the SGA or College community. You can learn more on the [SGA website](#).

Class Boards and Campus Traditions

Our campus is filled with treasured traditions. Each year students elect a class board to administer the social program and governing needs of their class. Each class board is responsible for carrying on some of the most important Mount Holyoke traditions. You can learn more about campus traditions, important annual events, and your class colors symbols here:

mtholyoke.edu/student-experience/campus-experience/traditions-and-annual-events and mtholyoke.edu/student-experience/campus-experience/traditions-and-annual-events/commencement/commencement-traditions.

Campus Programming Policies

Many student groups sponsor educational and social events for the campus and surrounding community. Examples include but are not limited to festivals, performances, speakers, cultural dinners, parties and conferences held by recognized student organizations, student committees, and more. All Mount Holyoke student-sponsored events and programs that occur on campus must follow the [student event policy and procedures](#), as maintained by the Office of Student Involvement. These events must also comply with Event Services registration policies and guidelines. For more information about these policies, including funding through the SGA Ways and Means Committee, refer to the [Student Organization Handbook](#).

It is important to note that the Office of Student Involvement, on behalf of the College:

- Reserves the right to modify or cancel an event if the policy and procedures have not been followed.
- May invoke the ability to change venues, require the event to be ticketed, etc., contingent on the circumstances of the event.
- Will, as needed, connect to any paid vendors, speakers, performers, etc., and/or their agent prior to the event.
- Share information with campus partners such as Event Services, Media Services, Public Safety and Service, Five Colleges, etc.
- Reserves the right to do so without permission from the student organizer.

Students should also note that they, or their organizing group, may be held accountable for additional costs associated with the event, including but not limited to audiovisual equipment, facility setup, catering, rentals, security, etc. For the full policy, please see the above link.

Use of the Mount Holyoke Name and Logo

Until a group is officially recognized as a Mount Holyoke College student organization, it cannot represent itself as an official Mount Holyoke constituent, meaning that the group cannot advertise itself with the Mount Holyoke name attached to the group, develop logos or material that do so, etc. To request use of the Mount Holyoke College logo, students should email communications@mtholyoke.edu.

Posting and Chalking Policy

Flyers, posters, and other physical materials are a means of publicizing events and raising awareness at Mount Holyoke. This policy applies to all students, student groups, and recognized student groups.

Posting

Designated posting bulletin boards may be found in numerous buildings on campus, including the Community Center, Kendade Atrium and the Library. The guidelines listed here must be followed for all designated posting spaces on-campus. Departments or offices who are responsible for managing a particular designated posting space may also have other guidelines that should be followed – such as: [Residence Hall Posting Policy](#) and the [Williston Library](#).

For the purposes of this policy, a “posting” includes all methods of mass-distributing information in physical or hardcopy form, including, but not limited to: posters, fliers, table tents, signs, banners, and

any other methods that the College determines are subject to this policy. For additional chalking specific guidelines see the further down.

For all postings:

- Do not remove prematurely or alter other people's postings, as this is a breach of the Mount Holyoke College Honor Code.
- No more than one of the same flyer should be posted per public area (the same bulletin board)
- Be careful to not cover other postings or spam/post multiple pages of the same announcement on a single board.
- Abide by posting guidelines and/or ask permission when flyering on neighboring campuses or at area businesses.
- Remember that bulletin board postings are for temporary, short-term announcements. In most areas, postings are removed immediately after an event has concluded, and/or they have lingered for more than two weeks.
- When posting and designing publicity material, consider how various members of the College community might respond to the content and appearance of the advertisement. Think inclusivity.
- Advertise the accessibility information, and list a contact in the sponsor group that folks can contact to ask questions and advance accessibility requests.
- Post only on tackable, designated surfaces intended for this purpose.
- Do not post on lampposts, glass doors or windows (inside or outside of windows), banisters, wooden panels, walls, painted surfaces, etc.

Postings materials should:

- Include the identifying name/affiliation of the sponsor of the materials, and a contact for more information.
 - If the posting promotes a specific event, the event must be identified by the title/subject, date, time, location, and sponsoring individual, group and/or organization.
 - If the posting promotes an ongoing event, such as open hours, the relevant semester (i.e. Fall 2026) should be clearly noted on the posting.
 - If a posting includes a QR code for more information, the relevant dates and/or semester information for the program must still be clearly visible on the physical flyer.
 - If the posting does not promote a specific event, but is in the nature of an awareness-raising campaign, it must include an expiration date that is no later than two weeks from the date the posting occurs.
- Not exceed 11"x17".
- Be free from the misuse of copyrighted materials.
- Not promote the abuse of alcohol and/or illegal substances. A party can advertise "beer and wine available, w/21+ID" but should not advertise "buck-a-beer" or "kegs," etc.
- During campus elections, be compliant with the regulations of [All Campus Elections](#).
- Never block fire equipment or be posted on fire doors.
- Must respect the Mount Holyoke College Code of Conduct.

Removal of Postings:

- The College retains the discretion to remove any posting that does not comply with this policy.
- The student, student group, or recognized student organization identified in the posting should be responsible for the removal of the posting on the earlier of: 1) two weeks from the date the posting first occurred; or 2) the day after the date of the specific event (if any) listed in the posting.
- The removal by any student of any posting that otherwise complies with this policy prior to the

dates specified above is prohibited.

Questions about posting options can be discussed with the Office of Student Involvement in Blanchard room 327 or by calling 413-538-2478.

Handbills

Students, student groups, and recognized student organizations may reserve tabling spaces and distribute literature from those areas by reserving space through Event Services and or working with the Office of Student Involvement. No group or individual may set up a table for purposes of distributing literature or similar activities without prior reservation.

Those distributing materials must remain within three feet of their tabling space at all times and not obstruct walkways or other tables.

Chalking Policy

Mount Holyoke College allows chalking on campus under the following guidelines. Individuals will be held responsible for any damage and/or cleanup if these guidelines are not followed.

- Only erasable chalk may be used — grease-based chalk is not permitted.
- Chalking may be done only on asphalt roads and walkways.
- Chalkings should be signed with the full name of the person or group responsible.
- Groups or individuals may be asked to remove chalking when necessary.
- Absolutely no chalking is permitted on any brick or building surface.
- No chalking is permitted in any area that is protected from rain.
- All chalking must be appropriate for the general public, including children and any campus guests.

Individuals, student groups, registered student organizations will be held responsible for any damage and/or cleanup if these guidelines are not followed.

Violations

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the loss of all posting privileges. Additionally, any student who violates this policy or applicable law may be subject to the College's community standards process and sanctions.

Nothing in this policy restricts the discretion of the College to separately address and/or remove postings that are not otherwise within the scope of this policy.

Student Organizations Hosting Overnight Guests

Please note: This policy is only valid when guests are allowed in the residence halls.

This policy is for student organization conferences, performances or events hosting more than 15 guests on any given night.

Occasionally, a recognized student organization on campus will want to host a conference, performance or event that includes inviting similar organizations from other campuses to the Mount Holyoke campus. If the event will require an overnight stay and the organization would like to offer guests housing with current organization members, the Office of Residential Life has enacted a

specific policy that must be followed.

For the residential/overnight component of a student organization program, the Office of Residential Life has a duty to maintain the guest policies for the campus and to ensure that student organizations are not abusing this policy through inappropriate practices. These factors necessarily must be considered in the planning phase of proposed events.

Student organizations hosting overnight guests must follow these guidelines:

- Any organization must make an appointment to meet with the director or associate director of Residential Life for approval. This meeting must take place during the semester prior to the event (i.e., meet in fall 2025 for a spring 2026 event).
- An event is limited to a maximum of 100 overnight guests. This number might be smaller depending on the student organization's ability to comply with the formula for determining how many guests are allowed. Under no circumstances will this number exceed 100 people. Guests falling under this policy may not stay more than two nights on campus.
- Student organizations sponsoring conferences, performances or other events may not solicit hosts from the general student body to accommodate overnight guests for the event. Only pre-enrolled, active members of the sponsoring organization may host such guests and must do so within the established parameters of the [Mount Holyoke College Guest Policy](#). Member solicitation to host must be free of coercion and provide members clear communications on opting out of hosting. Members who choose to host are obligated to gain permission from their roommate prior to agreeing to host. A host (an active organization member) may only house one delegate/guest and will need to sign a host agreement form before the event takes place. Under no circumstances will a Mount Holyoke student be allowed to host more than one guest for the event, regardless of whether they believe their room has the space to do so.
- The representatives responsible for the housing and registration portions of the event will need to provide a full list of hosts and assigned guests to the Office of Residential Life a minimum of one week prior to the event.
- If the event has more overnight needs than can be accommodated on campus in compliance with campus guidelines and state laws, advertising and registration details must be designed and written to encourage delegates or guests to pursue off-campus housing options at area hotels.
- The option for on-campus hosting of guests must be advertised as limited. The College recommends stating that it is available with priority given to those guests who have financial or travel hardships.
- Before registration materials are made public (on a website, in printed materials, on social media, etc.), the plan and materials to register/recruit institutions and guests for this event must be reviewed for compliance with these parameters by the Office of Student Involvement and/or the Office of Residential Life.

Failure to follow this policy can result in the student organization being prohibited from hosting an event on campus that provides overnight housing, an honor code violation or disciplinary action. Students should contact the Office of Student Involvement and/or the Office of Residential Life with questions.

Event Relocation Policy for Individuals with Disabilities

Please review the [Event Relocation website](#) for more information.

Other Important Policies

Chosen Name Policy

As a gender diverse women's college, Mount Holyoke College seeks to sustain affirming campus technological, information, and social ecosystems for trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people, and any individuals who experience their gender at some distance from that assigned to them at birth. The Chosen Name Policy, in tandem with the [Pronoun Sharing and Disclosure Policy](#), provide mechanisms for individuals to indicate their chosen name and pronouns to be used in campus systems and practices. We affirm every individual's right to be represented by the name they choose for themselves.

Name Policy

Mount Holyoke College supports the need for individuals to choose a name that accurately reflects their identity and sense of self. This policy provides specific support for transgender and nonbinary individuals, any individuals who choose to regularly use a first name that is different from their legal name and those whose professional name is different from their legal name. The chosen name will be used for College purposes as broadly as possible on campus whenever a legal name is not required.

Visit the [Chosen Name Policy](#) website to read the full policy.

Pronoun Sharing and Disclosure Policy

Mount Holyoke College (MHC) is committed to affirming the self-determination and expression of all members of the campus community across College communications, documents and systems. Inviting the sharing of personal pronouns is a practice grounded in the College's commitment to the equitable inclusion of transgender and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) people. TGNC people have existed and persisted at MHC throughout history, and this policy serves as a key step toward addressing MHC systems that have excluded and marginalized students, faculty, staff and alums on the basis of gender identity and/or expression.

Scope and Responsibilities

All employees, students and volunteers of the College are encouraged to integrate pronoun sharing/disclosure opportunities in the communications, documents and systems that they navigate. Additionally, all College-affiliated individuals and representatives should identify opportunities to invite sharing of personal pronouns in interpersonal interactions. Concerns about compliance with this policy should be brought to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and/or the Office of Civil Rights and Compliance. Campus community members can also make use of the [Nondiscrimination Incident Report](#).

Policy statement

This policy provides specific support to Mount Holyoke College employees, students and volunteers in their ongoing development of documents, communications and systems. In any context wherein an individual's name is collected or shared, an opportunity should be made available for that person to share their personal pronouns. While the opportunity to share personal pronouns must be made available, individuals are not required, and shall not be compelled, to disclose that information.

Additionally, every effort should be made to communicate the purpose for which that information is being collected and the ways in which it will be stored or shared. When individuals are asked and choose to share their personal pronouns, it is expected that all members of our community will address individuals using their chosen pronouns.

Read the full policy at the [Pronoun Sharing and Disclosure Policy website](#).

How to Update your Name and Pronouns, and Where They Appear

Most of Mount Holyoke College's data systems for students pull name and pronoun information from two centralized platforms, my.mtholyoke (Colleague) and Workday. Updating your chosen name in either will feed the various systems/ interfaces depending on your campus role. There are various platforms where you need to manually enter your Chosen Name and/or Pronouns. Some platforms we currently cannot update as legal names are required. This information will be updated on an on-going basis to be reflective of the current state of College information systems and interfaces at the AskLITS Articles: "[How to change your chosen name and nickname](#)," and, "[How to share your pronouns in MHC systems](#)."

Commencement Supplemental Adornment Policy

Adornments may be worn during commencement and are limited to stoles, cords, medallions, pins, and tassels from organizations/groups officially recognized by Mount Holyoke College.

A [Supplementary Commencement Adornment Request Form](#) must be submitted to the Adornment Policy Committee **60 days** prior to the ceremony date via written request. The link to download the request form is below. Approval may be granted after review and recommendations by the Adornment Policy Committee are given to the APC (Academic Priorities Committee). This committee is comprised of the following: the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Access and Support, one member from the Junior or Senior Class board, the Senior Academic Dean, an Associate Dean of Faculty or designee, one to two students appointed by the SGA Executive Board (this should be someone from one of the SGA committees and/or senator), and a representative of the Office of Student Involvement.

Commencement Regalia Specification

Students

The following is required for all bachelor's degree-seeking recipients:

- Black Gown
 - Zipped
 - Straight, open sleeves
- Black four-point mortarboard cap; decorations permitted
 - Tassel
- Blue and white hood

The following is required for all master's degree-seeking recipients:

- Black gown
 - Zipped
 - Closed sleeves
- Black four-point mortarboard cap; decorations permitted
 - Tassel
- Blue and white hood.

What is Not Allowed?

Personal decor is not allowed on the gowns.

Commencement is Mount Holyoke's parting tradition to graduating seniors. During this tradition, we expect that students refrain from including the following as part of their academic dress: profanity, offensive symbols, hate speech, nudity. Those who do not adhere to this request may be asked to remove the items for the duration of the Commencement ceremony and/or change their attire to be consistent with the approved regalia.

Who is Responsible for the Policy?

For following the policy: All students participating in the Commencement ceremony; all student groups, departments, administrators, faculty and staff who issue or sponsor student regalia and/or adornments.

For implementation of the policy: Commencement volunteers, selected by the Adornment Policy Committee in collaboration with the Office of the President, will ensure that students uphold the policy during Commencement, as previously defined.

For oversight of the policy: The Adornment Policy Committee

Confidentiality of Student Records

Mount Holyoke College Policy, with respect to confidentiality of student records, complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended (PL 93-380, Section 438, the General Education Provisions Act), which gives students certain rights, consistent with the privacy of others, to review their own official records, files and data, and to challenge the accuracy of the contents of such records. The act also generally prohibits the release of personally identifiable information (other than "directory information" defined below) about students without their written consent other than to teachers and officials within the College who have legitimate educational interests; to officials of other institutions in which the student intends to enroll; and to certain authorized state and federal officials, in connection with a student applying for or receiving financial aid, or in connection with the student applying for government employment; and in the case of students who are tax dependents of their parents, to a student's parents. Except in the case of Frances Perkins scholars, the College will assume that a student is a tax dependent of their parents unless they document that they are not. Forms for such documentation can be obtained at the Registrar's Office.

Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review their educational records within 45 days of the day the College receives a request for access.
- The right to request an amendment of their educational record that they believe is inaccurate.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

These exceptions include the disclosure of directory information as detailed below and disclosure of any information to teachers and other College officials who have legitimate educational interests, to officials of other institutions in which the student intends to enroll, to certain authorized state and federal officials, to appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to the student, to organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the College, to accrediting organizations, to comply with a judicial order or lawfully ordered subpoena, and to appropriate officials in the case of health and safety emergency.

Parent/Guardian Notification and FERPA

Mount Holyoke College reserves the right to notify parents/guardians of dependent students regarding any health or safety risk, change in student status or student conduct situation, particularly alcohol and other drug violations. Mount Holyoke College may also notify parents/guardians of nondependent students who are under age 21 of alcohol and/or drug policy violations.

When a student is nondependent, Mount Holyoke College may contact parents/guardians to inform them of situations in which there is a significant and articulable health and/or safety risk. The College also reserves the right to designate which College officials have a need to know about incidents that fall within this policy, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Directory Information

As indicated above, FERPA requires the College, with certain exceptions, to obtain written consent of a student prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from their education records. However, the College may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without students’ written consent, unless they have advised the College to the contrary in accordance with the following procedures. Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can be disclosed to campus and outside persons or organizations without prior written consent. The College has designated the following information for directory information:

- student’s name
- student identification number (*not* Social Security number)
- class year and expected completion date or date of graduation
- dates of attendance at the College
- institutional contact information (assigned MHC mailing address, and assigned MHC email address)
- home contact information (home address, and cell or landline telephone numbers as provided by the student)
- student photograph
- enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or non-degree, full- or part-time, on leave)
- date and place of birth
- major(s) and other programs of study
- degrees, honors, and awards received
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- height of members of athletic teams
- status as a student employee
- previous educational agency or institution most recently attended.

Students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Refer to the [Rights and Privacy page](#) on the [Registrar's page](#) for more detail on the College's FERPA Policy.

Parental Notification

The College's philosophy is to work with students directly in managing their curricular and cocurricular lives. However, there may be instances in which contacting a student's parent/guardian is necessary or appropriate. In such cases, the College will try to discuss notification in advance with the student.

It is the policy of the College to notify both the student and their parents in writing of academic probations, reclassification, dismissal and suspension.

The vice president for student life/dean of students (or designee) and/or dean of studies (or designee) may notify a student's parent/guardian:

- If the Dean judges that such notification is necessary because of a health or safety emergency.
- In other situations when the Dean judges that such notification is appropriate, including but not limited to changes in the student's academic or disciplinary probationary status.
- Of any changes in the student's enrollment status or other "directory information."
- In the case of a student listed as a dependent on the parent/guardian's most recent federal income tax return.

The regulations of the act make clear that, in the case of students who are dependents of their parents for Internal Revenue Service purposes, information from the education records of the student may be disclosed to parents without the student's prior consent. However, in any communication with parents, it is normally College policy to respect the privacy of the student and not to disclose information without the student's prior consent.

Image Release Policy

Mount Holyoke College may, on occasion, authorize its employees or agents to make still or moving images and/or audio recordings of students in a variety of College-related activities. These activities include but are not limited to participation in campus life, the classroom or College events. This material may be displayed or published by the College or with College permission in locations including on the College website, in printed publications, on social media or in broadcasts. Students are responsible for notifying the Mount Holyoke Office of Marketing & Communications in writing if they do not wish their images or recordings used by the College in any capacity.

Jury Duty

According to the Office of Jury Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, “Every U.S. Citizen 17 years of age or older who is a Massachusetts resident or an inhabitant for more than 50% of the time is eligible to serve as a juror. If a student is a resident of another state but a student at a Massachusetts college, they are an inhabitant for more than 50% of the year and, therefore, eligible to serve as juror in Massachusetts.”

It is not unusual for students residing in Hampshire County to be summoned to serve as trial jurors. Jury service, on a short-term basis, can provide students with a good opportunity to fulfill one of their important responsibilities as members of the community. Mount Holyoke College supports students in the fulfillment of this civic duty.

Students should carefully read all materials they receive with their summons to service, which contain helpful information about confirming, postponing, rescheduling, or relocating service, and address many of the most frequently asked questions. Jury duty is an important legal obligation, and those who fail to respond are subject to criminal prosecution.

Students who must miss class in order to fulfill the jury service requirement should notify each of their instructors of the summons and make arrangements with the instructor to complete any missed work. Staff at the Office of Academic Deans may be able to assist students in arranging for missed class time due to jury service. Students may be required to furnish their summons notice or the certificate of service when making these arrangements.

For questions about jury duty, including confirming, postponing, rescheduling, or limiting service, students can contact the Office of Jury Commissioner (1-800-THE JURY / 1-800-843-5879).

Leave Policy

Overview

Mount Holyoke's Leave of Absence Policy covers four types of leave: academic, medical, personal and mandatory. Students who are considering applying for an academic, medical or personal leave of absence should keep in mind the following:

- Students must be in residence at Mount Holyoke for at least four semesters out of their sophomore, junior and senior years to meet graduation requirements and they must earn at least 64 Mount Holyoke credits during these semesters. The 64 Mount Holyoke credits can include Five College credits taken during the academic year through the interchange (not while on leave).
- Financial aid recipients should visit the Office of Student Financial Services for information on financial aid and student accounts prior to applying for a leave of absence in order to understand how taking a leave might affect aid eligibility in future years, if there is any tuition account balance due, or if any student loans will enter repayment.
- Students taking a leave during their first seven weeks of the semester should speak with the Office of Student Financial Services about receiving a partial refund for tuition and room and board, based on the following schedule:
 - Week 1 = 90%
 - Week 2–3 = 75%
 - Week 4–5 = 50%
 - Week 6–7 = 25%
- International students attending the College on an F1 visa or other visa status must consult with the immigration specialist at the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives before applying for leave, as a student's immigration status will be affected by any leave.
- Typically an approved leave of absence is no less than one semester and no more than four semesters.
- Students should discuss a potential leave with their faculty advisor, academic dean, family members; if students are considering a medical leave, they should also discuss this with a clinician at Health or Counseling Services..
- A student may be required by the College to take a mandated leave of absence.
- When a leave is effective as of the first day of classes or later, withdrawn courses will remain on the transcript with a W notation.
- A student on leave is not entitled to participate in any College program or activity, including student employment. Students may be restricted from visiting campus at the sole discretion of the College, unless an exception has been made and the terms of the leave do not include any campus visitation restriction. Questions about an exception can be emailed to dean-students@mtholyoke.edu.

- Students must be in good financial standing in order to return from a leave of absence. All past due balances must be paid and student loans must be in good standing. Contact Student Financial Services with any questions.

Leave Types

Academic Leave

Academic leave includes study abroad, all exchange programs, and full-time study at other U.S. colleges and universities. Students must earn the equivalent of 16 credits per semester while away.

Personal Leave

Personal leave is for students who plan to be away for a variety of personal reasons that may include but are not limited to employment, travel and/or financial concerns. Students on personal leave may earn up to 16 credits per semester of academic credit at an accredited institution within the United States, with approval from the registrar.

Medical Leave

Medical leave is intended for students who are temporarily unable to continue their studies due to their own health issues. During medical leave, students may earn up to 16 credits per semester of academic credit at an accredited institution within the United States, with approval from the registrar.

Mandatory Leave

Mandatory leave is required time away from the College that is related to significant concerns about academic progress, behavior, or health and safety. Students on mandatory leave may earn up to 16 credits per semester of academic credit at an accredited institution within the United States, with approval from the registrar.

Academic Leave

Academic leave includes study abroad, all exchange programs, and full-time study at other U.S. colleges and universities. The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives coordinates all applications for study abroad. Contact the McCulloch Center for further information. The Office of Academic Deans coordinates all applications for full-time study in the United States; email them at academic-deans@mtholyoke.edu or call 413-538-3610 to apply.

Programs of Study in the United States

A student may apply for an academic leave to participate in one of the following programs. Deadlines and instructions vary.

Programs:

- [Twelve College Exchange Program](#)
- [MHC Semester in D.C](#)
- [SEA Semester](#)
- [Semester in Environmental Science at the Marine Biological Laboratory https://www.mbl.edu/](https://www.mbl.edu/)
- Other approved, accredited U.S. institution or program listed in the [Mount Holyoke College catalog](#).

To qualify for an academic leave a student must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a minimum grade point average of 2.7.
- Clear all outstanding registration holds (e.g., financial, health, etc.).
- Declare a major if applying to study away for all or part of the junior or senior year. Students applying to study away in their sophomore year are not required to declare a major in advance. Typically, students are not approved for study-away prior to the second semester of their sophomore year.
- Present a full-time plan of study (equivalent to 16 credits at Mount Holyoke), at an accredited institution that will enhance the student's academic program at Mount Holyoke and be suitable to the College's curriculum. A maximum of 16 credits will be granted for a semester away.
- Obtain approval for the plan of study from the student's faculty advisor, along with approval from the dean of studies in the Office of Academic Deans (domestic programs) or the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives, as appropriate.
- Please note: Studying away is not allowed during a student's final semester at MHC

Personal Leave

A personal leave of absence is a voluntary leave from the College to attend to personal matters such as employment, travel, family and financial concerns. Students interested in taking a leave to address their own physical or psychological health concern should refer to the section on medical leave of absence below in this document.

Students interested in taking a personal leave of absence must complete the following steps:

1. Set up an appointment to speak with their academic dean in person or via phone about the timing of the leave, the reasons for requesting the leave, plans for time away and for returning to the College, the impact on their academic program, and how the leave will figure into an overall graduation plan. Students who are away from campus can request a leave of absence by arranging a phone or virtual appointment.
2. Complete the [Personal Leave form](#), following the initial meeting, which requires an academic dean's signature and includes the anticipated date of return.
3. Submit the Personal Leave form to the Office of Academic Deans (academic-deans@mtholyoke.edu). Once the leave has been processed, students will receive a written confirmation from the College in their College email account, stating the terms and conditions of the leave. Students are responsible for reading all materials that are sent to them via their Mount Holyoke email address concerning their leave and for complying with the terms and conditions of the leave.
4. Students are not eligible for personal leaves when they have taken more than four sequential semesters away from the College. If leave is denied, the student remains responsible for all academic requirements. If a student does not return after four sequential semesters away and has not received an extension, they will be withdrawn from the College. A student who is withdrawn from the College can apply for readmission through the Office of Academic Deans.
5. **Graduate Students:** complete the [Graduate Leave of Absence Request Form](#).

Important Additional Information on Personal Leave

Students should note the following additional information relating to personal leave

A personal leave of absence can typically be no less than one semester and no longer than four consecutive semesters. The College withdraws students after four consecutive semesters away unless they have requested and received an extension of their leave from the Dean of Studies. Students are encouraged to request a planned personal leave of absence by the dates listed below, although the College recognizes that situations may arise requiring a request after the suggested deadlines:

- May 15 for the upcoming fall semester or full academic year.
- November 15 for the upcoming spring semester.

Note: Personal leaves taken after the 50th day of the semester will carry forward to the following academic semester.

- When a personal leave is authorized on an immediate basis during a semester, students are withdrawn from the courses in which they are enrolled and receive W's in place of credits and grades.
- The College will provide up to three days to remove belongings and vacate the residence halls when a personal leave is approved on an immediate basis. If additional time is needed, the student should speak with the Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement and Belonging. Extending time in the residence halls may affect the amount of any refund, if applicable, or result in a late-stay charge. The College has a list of [vendors who provide storage and shipping services](#).
- International students should be aware that their immigration status may be affected by taking a personal leave and should therefore consult with the immigration specialist in the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives before applying for a personal leave.
- During the student's approved personal leave, the Office of Academic Deans will send an official email outlining the steps needed for a return to campus. The email will be sent to the student's Mount Holyoke College email address just prior to registration for the upcoming semester. Students on leave must follow the steps outlined in the email for a successful return to campus.
- During a leave, a student may decide to take courses at an accredited institution. See the [Transfer and Advance Placement Credit website](#) <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/policies/transfer-advance-placement-credit> for information about this option and consult with the registrar's office.

Returning From a Personal Leave of Absence

Students will be expected to return to campus after the requested leave ends. An email will be sent to returning students outlining the steps to take for financial aid, housing and course registration. A student will be billed for the semester of expected return unless an extension of the leave is requested by submitting another [Personal Leave form](#).

Graduate Students: complete the [Return from Leave - Graduate Programs Form](#)

Medical Leave

A medical leave of absence is a leave from the College to attend to the student's own physical or psychological health concerns. Students seeking a leave for health-related reasons including those arising from a chronic health condition or disability, must consult with either Health Services or the Counseling Service, to get medical authorization for the leave. Academic Deans must refer all requests for medical leaves to either Health Services or the Counseling Service, as appropriate given the health concerns necessitating the medical leave.

Health Services or the Counseling Service will review the request for leave and notify the Office of Academic Deans of authorized leaves. The notification to the academic deans will include the basic parameters of the leave, such as the effective date. Health Services and the Counseling Service will keep the details of the student's medical condition confidential to the extent possible in compliance with relevant law. Students may be asked and/or choose to provide a written release of information permitting the disclosure of medical information to other offices at the College so that those offices can provide the student with the appropriate resources.

Important Additional Information on Medical Leave

The length of a medical leave will be determined by the nature or severity of the health concern. A student should allow sufficient time to regain the health and functioning required to manage a full-time academic load in a residential environment. However, a medical leave of absence can be no less than one semester and ordinarily no longer than four consecutive semesters. The College withdraws students after four consecutive semesters away. A student who is withdrawn from the College can apply for readmission.

Note: A request to withdraw from all classes or request for a leave of absence on or **after the 50th day of classes** in a given semester results in a leave of absence for the current semester as well as the following semester, absent extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the College at its sole discretion.

- Students should plan to meet with the appropriate academic dean to discuss their progress toward a degree, given their absence. Students can arrange this meeting by calling the Office of Academic Deans at 413-538-3610 and requesting an appointment.
- When a medical leave is authorized by the College on an immediate basis, students are withdrawn from the courses in which they are enrolled and given W grades.
- International students should consult with the immigration specialist or the director of international student advising in the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives before going on medical leave to discuss the impact the leave may have on their immigration status.
- During a leave, a student may decide to take courses at an accredited institution. See mtholyoke.edu/registrar/transferap for information about this option and consult with the registrar's office.
- When a medical leave is approved, the student will be allowed up to three days to remove belongings and vacate the residence halls. If additional time is needed, the student should speak with the director of Residential Life to request extended time to move out. Extending time in the residence halls may affect the amount of any refund due, if applicable, or result in a late stay charge. The College has a list of vendors [who provide storage and shipping services](#).

- **Graduate Students:** complete the [Graduate Leave of Absence Request Form](#).

Returning from a Medical Leave of Absence

Students on medical leave are encouraged to take the time needed and pursue a treatment plan that enables their full participation as a residential student upon their return. To best support this goal, students seeking to return from a medical leave of absence must be cleared medically before they will be able to register for MHC classes, request housing, complete a financial aid application, or return to campus. They should **first contact the office who originally authorized the leave** (Counseling Service at counseling@mtholyoke.edu or Health Services at health-admin@mtholyoke.edu), noting their intent to return, then follow the steps below:

1. Download the “[readiness to return from medical leave of absence form](#)”
2. In collaboration with the health care clinician with whom the student has been working while on leave, complete this form as well as a release of information to permit that health care provider to communicate with the MHC clinician if/as helpful.
3. Submit the completed “readiness to return” form, along with any related medical documentation to the authorizing office. Please note: both Counseling Service and Health Service maintain the privacy of protected health information in the student’s medical/counseling records. This info is not shared with the deans, professors or the registrar’s office.
4. Schedule an appointment via phone or zoom to speak with the director or designee from the appropriate office (CS or HS). The purpose of this meeting is to clarify the student’s readiness to return, and ensure the appropriate supports are put in place (i.e. off campus providers, accommodations through Disability Services) prior to the student’s return.
5. Once medically cleared, the authorizing office will notify the Office of Academic Deans to request the student’s return. Following that approval, the Academic Dean’s office will let the student know when they are able to register.

Graduate Students: complete the [Return from Leave - Graduate Programs Form](#)

Please note: If health permits students are encouraged to complete the steps listed above by the recommended deadlines to return the following semester as completing these steps by the final deadline limits options for course registration and campus housing.

Semester	Recommended Deadline	Final Deadline
Fall	March 30	July 1
Spring	October 30	December 1

Once cleared to return to campus, students will receive an email notification and helpful reminders of “To Do” items via Pathways.

Additional holds or flags on a student’s record, whether disciplinary, academic or financial, may also prohibit a return to campus. Students must clear those holds with the appropriate offices before returning to campus.

Students must be in good financial standing in order to return from a leave of absence. All past due

balances must be paid and student loans must be in good standing. Contact Student Financial Services with any questions.

Appealing Return from Medical Leave Decisions

Students may appeal a denial of a return from a medical leave of absence to the dean of students or designee. The dean of students may opt to convene an evaluation committee to review a student's appeal request. The team may include any combination of the dean of students, dean of studies and representatives from Health Services, the Counseling Service, and Disability Services, among others. If called to participate in a review, the directors or designees of Health Services and the Counseling Service will comply with applicable law governing the confidentiality of student medical information. The student may be requested to complete a written release of information permitting the disclosure of confidential records, including medical records, in order to evaluate the appeal. Upon completing the appeal's review, the student will receive written notification from the dean of students or designee regarding its outcome.

Mandated Leave

The College may require a student to take a leave of absence—or restrict a student from remaining on campus or occupying campus housing—in response to significant concerns about academic progress, behavior, or health and safety.

Summer and Non-Academic Periods

This policy applies both during the academic year and during summer or other non-academic periods. The College reserves the right to deny, revoke, or condition a student's permission to remain on campus during these times if their health status poses a direct threat to their own safety or the safety of the campus community.

Important Resource Note: Because on-campus clinical resources, medical staff, and counseling services are significantly limited or unavailable during non-academic periods, the College may mandate a leave or restrict campus access if a student's care requirements exceed the limited resources safely available on campus during the summer.

This policy does not include any removals or leaves that may fall under the Sexual Harassment Policy.

Important Additional Information on Mandated Leave

Students should note the following additional information relating to mandated leave:

- Students on a mandated leave must request advance permission from the dean of students to visit campus or participate in any College-related or College-sponsored activity off campus.
- Students on a mandated leave for academic or behavioral reasons will, upon return, lose eligibility for merit or other non-need-based scholarships awarded by the College.

Mandated Leave During the Semester

The dean of students, dean of studies, director of the Counseling Service and/or the director of Health Services may convene a confidential evaluation committee as part of the process to require a student to withdraw during the semester when the student:

- Presents a substantial risk of harm to self or others.
- Fails to carry out substantial self-care obligations.

- Significantly disrupts the educational or other activities of the College community.
- Is unable to participate meaningfully in educational activities.
- Requires a level of care from the College community that exceeds the resources and staffing that the College can reasonably be expected to provide for the student's well-being.

The evaluation committee may request that a representative from the Office of Academic Deans, Division of Student Affairs or other areas of the College present information about the student's experience. Other administrators may be added to the evaluation committee if expertise is needed that is not already represented, including but not limited to legal counsel for the College, a faculty advisor, etc.

The evaluation committee may ask the student, and their family, if appropriate, to participate in the review by inviting them to make a brief written or oral statement. The evaluation committee may access the student's educational records and may request that the student release their medical record as required for an appropriate review. If involved in a review, the directors of Health Services and the Counseling Service will comply with applicable law governing the confidentiality of student medical information.

The evaluation committee is responsible for informing a student and their parents or guardians of the result of the committee's deliberation and the appropriate administrative offices.

Appeals to Mandated Leaves

Students may appeal a mandatory behavioral leave to the dean of students or designee. An appeal must be in written form and submitted within three business days from the date of notice of recommended medical leave, unless the student can establish good cause for the appeal period to be extended. The dean of students or designee will evaluate the appeal and provide the student with written notification concerning the appeal's outcome.

Behavioral Suspension

Students may be suspended if they do not adhere to the College's standards of social conduct or if the College otherwise determines, at its sole discretion, that a behavioral suspension is in the best interest of the College and/or the community. The length of a behavioral suspension will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The College may utilize a temporary and/or emergency removal process, pending completion of a threat assessment or disciplinary proceeding.

A student who has been suspended will generally be placed on disciplinary probation upon their return, if appropriate, and this is at the College's sole discretion. The dean of students, in consultation with other College administrators, is typically responsible for reviewing whether violations of policy or a single behavioral issue is sufficiently serious to warrant a suspension. Additionally, the Honor Code Council may recommend suspension as an outcome of a hearing and the College may issue a suspension as an outcome of a grievance.

Students must comply with any restrictions and fulfill any conditions required by the College during the period of suspension in order to demonstrate readiness to return.

When a student is suspended for behavior with a disciplinary charge pending, the College may complete the disciplinary process while the student is on leave or after the student returns from leave.

Behavioral Withdrawal

Students may be withdrawn from the College if they do not adhere to the College's standards of conduct or if they are determined to represent a significant threat of substantial harm to anyone in the Mount Holyoke community, including the student themselves. The dean of students, in consultation with other College administrators, is typically responsible for reviewing whether violations of policy or other conduct is sufficiently serious to warrant a withdrawal. The College may also withdraw a student as an outcome of a grievance. The Honor Code Council can recommend that a student be withdrawn for behavioral reasons.

Generally, a student who has been required to withdraw may apply for readmission to the dean of students after one semester has passed, depending on the circumstances. A student who returns to the College after a behavioral withdrawal will be placed on disciplinary probation upon their return.

Students must comply with any restrictions and fulfill any conditions required by the College during the period of withdrawal to demonstrate readiness to return. When a student is suspended for behavior with a disciplinary charge pending, the College may complete the disciplinary process while the student is on leave or after the student returns from leave.

Appeals to Mandated Behavioral Leaves

Students may appeal a mandatory behavioral leave to the dean of students. An appeal must be in written form and submitted within three business days from the date of notice of suspension or withdrawal, unless the student can establish good cause for the appeal period to be extended. The dean of students will evaluate the appeal and provide the student with written notification concerning the appeal's outcome. In cases of mandatory suspension or withdrawal involving a disciplinary process, students should consult the appeal process outlined under Appeals in the College Disciplinary Process section of the Student Handbook.

Requesting a Return from a Mandatory Behavioral Leave

Students should request a return from leave before the following dates:

- October 30 to return to the College the following spring semester.
- March 30 to return to the College the following fall semester.

Requests to return from a behavioral leave of absence should be sent to the dean of students. Using these dates as a guide will assist with providing sufficient time to obtain approval and review possible changes to financial aid, academic progress, housing, etc. Please note that requests made after these dates may not be approved for a return in the following semester. Requests made after these dates will also limit options for courses and may limit the opportunity to live in on-campus housing. The College encourages students to follow the steps outlined in the checklist that accompanies the [Return from Leave form](#).

The dean of students (or designee) will review the Return from Leave form and determine whether the return is approved. Students may be required to submit additional information to assist with the evaluation of the request to return and may be requested to complete a written release of information permitting the disclosure of confidential records, including medical records.

Please note that additional holds or flags on a student's record, such as a disciplinary or financial hold, may prohibit a return to campus. Students must clear those holds with the appropriate offices before returning to campus.

Mandatory Academic Leave

Academic Suspension or Required Withdrawal

Students may be suspended or required to withdraw from the College in accordance with Academic Administrative Board (AAB) criteria for these actions, per its academic regulations, catalog.mtholyoke.edu/academic-regulations/#text. The AAB comprises the dean of studies, the registrar, each academic dean, and three faculty members, one from each academic division: humanities, science and mathematics, and social sciences. The board meets at the end of each semester to review all student records and determine the appropriate course of action to support each student's progress toward completing a Mount Holyoke degree. The AAB may suspend a student for one or two semesters or require a student to withdraw, based on the academic record in the semester under review, or the student's cumulative academic performance. Students who are suspended or withdrawn by the AAB must follow AAB guidelines to return to the College. These guidelines may include required coursework away from the College to demonstrate readiness to return to the academic rigor of Mount Holyoke.

Academic Suspension

Students suspended by the AAB may be eligible for reinstatement after the mandated period of leave. A student who has been suspended for a semester or a year will be on academic probation for one semester after their return. During the suspension, the transcript will have the notation "Suspended for (period) for academic deficiencies." This notation will be removed from the student's official transcript when the student returns to the College or one year from the date the leave begins, whichever is sooner. However, the College will maintain an internal record with the notation of the suspension period.

Academic Required Withdrawal

A student who has been required to withdraw may apply to the AAB for readmission, but the student may not return to the College before one academic year has passed. The student's official transcript will have the notation "Required to withdraw for academic deficiencies on (date). Eligible for readmission to apply after one academic year." This notation will be removed if the student returns to the College. However, the College will maintain an internal record with the notation of the withdrawal period. Students who are required to withdraw and seek to re-enroll in the College must complete the steps to apply for readmission. See mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/withdrawals-readmission. Questions about the readmission process should be directed to the dean of studies.

Appealing Mandated Academic Leaves

Students may appeal AAB decisions of suspension or required withdrawal to the dean of studies. It is recommended that students work with their academic dean in drafting a statement that describes new and compelling information that would affect the decision. Appeals must be in writing.

Access to Campus Resources While on Leave

When a student goes on leave, the College will alert the appropriate offices across campus. This notification will prompt a change to certain College privileges, which may include, without limitation, campus employment, borrowing from the library, access to Kendall, Health and Counseling services, and campus dining. The approval of a leave will also prompt Student Financial Services to perform required calculations according to the College's refund policy. Students should contact Student Financial Services directly regarding refund requests.

How a Leave May Impact You

Academics and Accommodations

Academic Dean and Academic Advising

If you're considering a leave of absence, talk with your academic dean about how this will affect your studies and path to graduation. If you have questions about returning to campus and courses, you may reach out to your academic dean or faculty advisor while you are on leave.

Academic Transcript

When your leave of absence is approved, if the semester(s) you will not be on campus have not started yet, the semester(s) will not be noted on your transcript and that term will not be listed. If your leave includes a semester already underway (i.e. your leave takes effect on or after the first day of classes), then that term will appear on your transcript with W grades for the courses which will not be completed. If your leave is mandated for academic deficiency, a transcript notation will appear as outlined in the catalog. If you are suspended for disciplinary action, the notation on your transcript will be determined at the time of the sanction and outlined for you in an outcome letter.

Disability Services

Please contact Disability Services to discuss the accommodations process and review any paperwork needed to process an accommodation request prior to your return from leave. Disability Services offers support and guidance to students with accommodations who are intending to study abroad.

Class Registration

When your leave of absence is approved, your course registrations for future terms will be canceled for the semester(s) of leave and your name removed from class lists. If your leave is effective on or after the start of a semester, your registrations for that semester will remain but with Withdrawn status ("W" notations on the transcript.) Students on an academic or personal leave who are scheduled to return to campus, have participated in any required readiness to return or clearance processes, may register for courses during the standard registration period. Students on approved medical leave or mandatory leave, must be cleared to return before they can register for courses during the next standard registration period.

Registrar

The Registrar's office is available to help you with official transcript requests, to vet courses you may take at other institutions to ensure the credits will transfer to Mount Holyoke, and to manage potential reclassification or adjustment of your target graduation year.

Student Financial Services

You are encouraged to work directly with Student Financial Services for any questions regarding refunds, your account balance, transcript holds, or financial aid eligibility. Students who take a leave are not considered enrolled students and your loan may go into repayment. Student Financial Services can provide counseling and assistance in these areas. You can learn more about the [refund policy](#).

Student Life

Athletics

Student-athletes should notify their coach(s) that they are taking a leave of absence and should work with the coach to determine what support may be available while they are on leave and what, if any, steps need to be taken to return to their team when preparing to return to campus.

Campus Housing

If you take your leave before the semester begins, your campus housing assignment will be canceled and the space reassigned. If you take a leave after the start of the semester, you will have 72 hours from the date of your leave to move out of your current room, your assignment will be canceled and your space reassigned. The Office of Residential Life will be in touch with students planning to return from leave to either complete a housing request form or participate in our housing lottery. If you are on approved medical leave or mandatory leave, you will need to be cleared before you can complete your housing request form or participate in the housing lottery. You can contact The Office of Residential Life at res-life@mtholyoke.edu or 413-538-2088 if you have any questions. If you vacate the space prior to the end of the license period, you may be responsible for part or all of the room and board costs. Please contact Student Financial Services for more information regarding the financial consequences of terminating your housing agreement before the end of a semester or academic year.

Community Standards

While a student is on leave they are still considered matriculated and can be held accountable for campus policy violations that happen before or during their leave. These violations may be addressed while the student is on leave, or when a student returns to campus. Any student conduct that occurred before a student took a leave of absence will be managed when the student returns from leave, or the student may ask to have the case adjudicated while they are on leave. It is at the discretion of the college to determine whether a case can be heard while a student is on leave.

Student Involvement and Campus Activities

While you are on leave you may not participate in student activities, extracurricular activities or campus events unless the event is open to the public and the terms of your leave do not include any campus visitation restriction. Students on leave may not hold leadership positions in student organizations or other areas of campus. If you hold any student organization or group leadership positions, you should notify the group you are leaving and work to transition your role to another person based on your group constitution.

Health and Counseling

Counseling Service

Students on leave have access to the Counseling Service Student Care Coordinator, who is available for consultation and assistance with locating therapists, psychiatric prescribers, specialized treatment and other sources of support, as well as planning return from a medical leave of absence. Students are not able to engage in group or individual therapy with Counseling Service clinicians while on leave, but can access the Counseling Service webpage for more information and resources.

Health Services

All enrolled students are eligible for primary care services at MHC Health Services. If a student is on leave, they are able to work with their Health Services PCP to transition medications and coordinate transfer of healthcare for the period the student is on leave. Health Services is also available to release health records (with permission, of course), for telehealth consultation to transition care off

campus, and to coordinate a student's return from leave. For questions related to Health Services while on leave, students may phone or email Health Services directly (413-538-2121; health-admin@mtholyoke.edu).

Health Insurance

Students on **academic leave** are eligible to be enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) while on an approved academic leave.

If a student takes a **nonacademic leave**, SHIP will remain in effect for the full plan year for students who were enrolled in SHIP for more than 31 days prior to going on leave. Students enrolled in SHIP who go on leave after the fall semester but prior to the beginning of the spring semester may waive the insurance coverage for the spring semester and receive a refund on the insurance premium by requesting in writing that the coverage be terminated. (This does not apply to students who received grant funding for the insurance.) The refund request must be made within 30 days of the end of the fall semester. Students who wish to continue their coverage may do so. If the nonacademic leave of absence extends beyond the coverage period of the current plan year the student is not able to renew SHIP. Students on an **approved medical leave** of absence, who have been previously insured under SHIP for at least one year prior to the approved medical leave, are eligible to enroll in SHIP for a maximum of an additional two consecutive semesters.

Co-curricular Engagement

Career Development Center

While you are on leave, you can seek virtual advising from the CDC and you will have access to their e-resources such as Handshake and Big Interview. If you do not have any campus visitation restrictions, you can attend graduate school and employer information sessions, but you may not participate in the 3-College On-campus Interview program.

LYNK Funding

Students on medical or mandated leave do not have access to LYNK funding. Students on academic or other voluntary leave may apply for LYNK funding.

Student Employment

You should alert your employer that you are taking a leave of absence and will not be able to continue working in your current position. Students on a leave of absence may not be hired as a student employee in any area on campus.

Library and Information Technology Services (LITS)

While you are on leave you retain access to your Mount Holyoke email and are allowed access to the Technology HelpDesk.

Access and Information

Campus Communication

Students on leave will still receive general emails from the college and remain on college listservs. Students remain on these lists so they are aware of information that they may need when making plans to return to campus, such as course registration and housing lottery. Students on leave may

also receive information about events happening on campus. Please remember that while you are on leave you may not participate in student activities, extracurricular activities or campus events unless the event is open to the public and the terms of your leave do not include any campus visitation restriction.

OneCard and Facilities Access

Your OneCard will turn off on the first day of your leave and this will limit your access to campus buildings, dining, and other college services. If you are living on campus and need continued access for the 72 hours before you move out, please contact the Office of Residential Life who will give you access to your residence hall and dining.

Unless the terms of the leave include any campus visitation restriction, students on leave may access campus facilities open to the general public and, if they have been invited as a guest by a current student, may also access facilities under the limited terms available to students' guests within the Guest policy.

Mount Holyoke Email and MHC Connect

Your Mount Holyoke email account remains active for each semester you are officially registered for classes or are on an approved leave of absence. If you do not register and do not obtain approval for a leave of absence for a semester, your email account may be deactivated.

Your access to MHC Connect is retained while you are on leave. It is your responsibility to remember your login and password information to access your account.

Outside Speakers, Protests, and Demonstrations Policy

Statement

Consistent with the Student Handbook and Faculty Legislation, Mount Holyoke believes in the principle of free inquiry and free expression of every member of the College community. The College also recognizes that such freedoms entail responsibility for one's actions. Thus the College encourages and facilitates the expression of views by its members so long as there is no use or threat of force, nor interference with opportunities for others to express their views, and no interruption of the College's educational mission or business operations.

The guidelines herein are intended to promote the safe and peaceable exchange of ideas; to transparently set forth reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions; to limit the ability of people unaffiliated with Mount Holyoke College to use the College as a stage for provocation; and to preserve the ability of the College to take action in situations that threaten the safety of members of the campus community or interfere with the core instructional and administrative functions of the College.

Overview

Outside speakers are welcome to speak on campus at Mount Holyoke when they:

1. have been invited by Mount Holyoke College students, faculty members, or staff members;
2. have satisfactorily completed the College's event planning and approval processes (for students see "Planning an Appearance by an Outside Speaker, a Protest, or a Demonstration," below under procedures); and
3. agree to abide by College regulations and applicable laws.

Acts of peaceful protest, demonstration, and similar activities – such as marches, rallies, sit-ins, teach-ins, etc. – are permitted, under the conditions that follow, with the College reserving the right to restrict and or stop behaviors that do not conform to community standards and/or directly interfere with core instructional and administrative functions of the college.

Specifically, the College may impose restrictions as to the time, place and manner of such activities, as it deems appropriate and in order to foster a productive and safe living, learning and working environment on campus. For students, specific information on community standards and the Student Code of Conduct can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

Time, Place, and Manner

The College may place reasonable limitations on the time, place, and manner of any speaker, protest, or demonstration.

The College reserves the discretion to place time restrictions on speakers, protests, or

demonstrations.

The College may assign, reassign, and/or limit activities to particular locations on Mount Holyoke College property. Private residences that are College property cannot be used as locations for demonstrations or protests.

The core instructional and administrative functions of the College must not be disrupted. All activities must be conducted in a peaceful manner. Threats of force, use of force, use of intimidating tactics, incitements to violence, and unwelcome physical contact or physical proximity are all prohibited.

Protests and demonstrations must not block access to the venue in which another College event or activity is being held. All building occupancy limits, fire safety regulations, and other applicable laws must be followed. Masks are not permitted, except in the case where participants are wearing N95, KN95, surgical, and or other medical masks to support the health of participants. Weapons are not permitted. No open flames are permitted, except open flames that have been approved in advance for a specific event by the Division of Student Affairs, and that are in accordance with College [fire and life safety procedures](#). The College may restrict the use of outdoor amplification equipment and may restrict the building of any structure on campus, including the use of tents. Organizers must remove all items and materials upon the activity's conclusion.

Planning an Appearance by an Outside Speaker, a Protest, a Demonstration, or a Vigil

Any Mount Holyoke community member who would like to bring an outside speaker to campus or who is planning a peaceful protest or demonstration, must consult with:

- For students, student groups, and recognized student organizations – the Office of Student Involvement
 - Students who are considering outside speakers, protests, or demonstrations on campus must meet with a staff member from the Office of Student Involvement (OSI) to proactively discuss their plans and avoid potential policy violations. OSI can provide valuable guidance on coordinating with campus partners, ensuring your plans align with institutional guidelines and other logistical considerations.
 - Students considering holding a vigil should be in contact with the Office of Student Involvement and Belonging.

This will allow the College to provide appropriate logistical support (e.g., advice regarding building occupancy limits, fire safety regulations, or other applicable laws); to minimize the disruption to the core functions of the College; and to prepare for potential counter-protest or other reactions. Senior administrators or the Director of Public Safety, in coordination with the above named offices, may choose to reach out proactively to those planning an event to discuss safety protocols and logistical support. All members of the campus community are expected to cooperate when contacted.

Policy Violations

Mount Holyoke reserves the discretion to postpone, cancel, or prohibit any speaker, protest, or demonstration if the conditions of this policy are not met.

Any community member who violates this policy may be subject to the College's disciplinary processes and sanctions. Decisions to implement the disciplinary process will be made thoughtfully. Barring exceptional circumstances, the College will endeavor to issue a warning to any student before taking other actions.

Political Activity

All Mount Holyoke community members — students, faculty and staff — must comply with the policy on activities related to political campaigns. Review the [Mount Holyoke Political Activities Policy](#) for the full guidelines, violations, and FAQ.

Student Evaluation of Faculty Teaching

As the semester draws to a close, students are required to submit an online course feedback form for each of their courses. This requirement is a reflection of the importance the College places on students and faculty supplying each other with timely, thoughtful feedback. Students who do not submit their feedback forms on time will be blocked from access to their degree audit, unofficial transcript and grades until they have submitted the overdue evaluations or, at minimum, until they record a “decline to evaluate” response.

Important Campus Resources and Associated Policies

Student Employment

Student Employment at Mount Holyoke College is managed by the Office of Student Financial Services, but intersects with a variety of offices around campus including: Payroll, Human Resources, LITS, Dining Services and student employers across campus.

Where to find Employment

1. Student Employment Opportunities where Mount Holyoke College is the employer are posted on WorkDay.
2. Job Opportunities from outside employers are posted on HandShake and managed by the Career Development Center

Note that international students generally may not work off campus due to visa limitations.

Work Study

Work study is a need-based component of a student's financial aid package. A student's eligibility for work study funding is determined by their financial aid application each academic year. There are some positions on campus that will require a student to have work study funding while others are work study optional.

Generally, students with work study are given preference when hiring if two applicants are otherwise equally qualified.

Students with work study are not required to work on campus. If a student with work study in their financial aid package does not work then there will be no change to other components of their financial aid package, i.e. grants, scholarships or loans. Work study funds are paid to students via payroll based on the hours worked in a student employment position.

Students must actively seek and apply for positions. Mount Holyoke offers a robust student employment program where many students can find and secure employment on campus. However, on campus employment is not guaranteed on the basis of having work study as part of a financial aid package, or otherwise guaranteed.

Locating a Job

Students can search for and apply for student employment opportunities on the Workday Jobs Hub. Log into Workday, use the Menu to find the Jobs Hub, then click Student Jobs. Alternatively, type Student Jobs in the search bar to locate the Student Jobs Hub.

Required Documents

Prior to starting the position, students must complete the following documents:

1. Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9. To complete this form, students will need to

provide [original identification documents](#) to Student Employment Staff.

2. Federal and state tax withholding forms, W4 and M4, and direct deposit forms.
These forms are completed in Workday, after the completion of the I9.

Employment Schedules

Student employment schedules are determined by the hiring manager and the student worker. Students may work multiple jobs at Mount Holyoke College, but students should not schedule more than 20 hours per week in all jobs during the academic year. It is the student's responsibility to notify supervisors regarding changes to their availability, and contact their supervisor ahead of a shift if they are unable to work.

Student Responsibilities

If hired by Mount Holyoke, it is a student's responsibility to adhere to student employment policies, as outlined in the Mount Holyoke College Student Employment Manual for Student Workers.

Students that work off campus with an employer not affiliated with Mount Holyoke, are responsible for assessing the integrity of the position and accepting employment. Mount Holyoke is not responsible for the safety, wage or other aspects of employment outside of the College. Students are welcome to contact Student Employment or the Career Development Center to assist with their review of off campus employment opportunities.

More Information

For questions about College policies regarding student employment please contact Student Employment at student-employment@mtholyoke.edu.

For disability-related concerns about student employment on-campus, please contact Disability Services at disability-services@mtholyoke.edu.

For questions regarding your eligibility for work study please contact Student Financial Services at sfs@mtholyoke.edu

For assistance with job application materials such as Cover Letter, Resumes, References, Application Forms, or Interview Training please contact the Career Development Center at cdc@mtholyoke.edu.

Student Financial Responsibilities and Financial Aid

Payment of Bill

Undergraduate student tuition billing statements are issued in July for the fall semester and December for the spring semester. Payment is due on July 31 and January 5, respectively. Billing schedules and deadlines for graduate students are determined annually. Statements are available online through the TouchNet system. Emails are sent to Mount Holyoke email addresses announcing the new statement. Monthly statements are published in TouchNet for any student who has had any account activity in the past month or has a balance due. Students are required to monitor their Mount Holyoke College email account for notices and to view their account on TouchNet.

Students are encouraged to select an authorized user to view their account monthly and arrange required payments. To do this, the student needs to set the individual up through an online process

using a valid email address. Find step-by-step instructions on the [Student Financial Services Billing and Payments page](#).

There is an opportunity to enroll in a monthly payment at the beginning of each semester. The plan is available online. There is a fee to enroll in the plan and a late fee is charged if an installment is paid late. If two months' payments are missed, the plan will be canceled and the balance will be due in full. More information about the monthly payment plan is available at: mtholyoke.edu/directory/departments-offices-centers/student-financial-services/payment-plans.

The balance on a student's account must be paid in full by the due date unless the student is enrolled in the monthly payment plan. A late fee of 1% of the outstanding balance is automatically applied monthly to any past due balance.

Students with a significant past-due balance may be withdrawn from the College for financial reasons. An email warning will be sent to the student prior to a financial withdrawal.

Financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships, and loans will reduce the amount due. Financial aid is reflected as pending until all application requirements have been met. Once all requirements have been met and the term has begun, financial aid can be disbursed to the student account according to the Student Financial Services' disbursement schedule. If required documents are not received by September 30 for the fall semester or February 28 for the spring semester, financial aid will no longer be reflected on the account as pending aid. The balance will be due in full and a financial hold may be placed on the student account.

A financial hold placed on a student account prevents the student from registering for classes or receiving official transcripts. Additionally, they will not be able to participate in the housing selection process in the spring.

Important Financial Aid Policies for Undergraduate Students

Financial Aid Application

Domestic students — U.S. citizens, permanent residents, undocumented, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students and other eligible noncitizens — must apply each year to be considered for need-based financial aid. Information about financial aid application deadlines and requirements is available at mtholyoke.edu/sfs. Student-specific application requirements are made available via the student's Financial Aid Online account.

Domestic students who did not indicate an intent to apply for financial aid as incoming students must be enrolled at Mount Holyoke for two semesters before being eligible to apply for institutional need-based financial aid. Federal aid may be available during the first two semesters.

International students seeking financial aid must apply at the time of admission. The family contribution is determined when the student is admitted and remains the same while the student is enrolled.

International students who do not indicate an intention to apply for financial aid prior to admission will not be eligible to apply for need-based aid from the College at any time during their enrollment.

Requests for Reconsideration

Student Financial Services accepts requests for reconsideration of the family contribution under

certain circumstances. Please refer to the Request for Reconsideration form for additional information about this process, available on the [Financial Aid Forms page](#).

Dependency Status

In determining eligibility for need-based financial aid from Mount Holyoke, the College typically follows the federal definition for independent status, with the following important exception: If a student enrolls at Mount Holyoke as a dependent student, they will always be considered a dependent student, regardless of changes in family situation, marital status, time away from the College due to nonacademic leave, or withdrawal status. A [summary of the federal dependency criteria](#) is available on the Mount Holyoke eligibility page.

Funding Limitations

Residential students who enter Mount Holyoke as first-time, first-year students are eligible to receive a maximum of eight semesters of institutional financial aid. College funding for transfer students, including Frances Perkins scholars who live on campus, is limited based on the total number of credits accepted for transfer at any point. Off-campus (commuting) Frances Perkins scholars may receive funding for up to 128 attempted credits, including any credits transferred to Mount Holyoke. Students should plan their course of study with these maximums in mind. More information about this policy, including information about exceptions, is available at <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/admission/apply-undergraduate-first-year/affording-mount-holyoke/financial-aid/how-aid-works/funding-maximums>

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Eligibility for undergraduate financial aid is contingent on maintaining a satisfactory academic record. You can review these standards in the [academic regulations section of the Mount Holyoke College Bulletin and Course Catalog](#).

Students who lose federal or institutional funding due to academic progress standards may appeal to have their aid reinstated by following the [satisfactory academic progress appeal instructions](#).

Merit Scholarships and Non-need-based Aid

Non-need-based scholarships and grants are awarded at the time of admission to first-year students for a maximum of eight semesters and are available only for full-time, on-campus study at Mount Holyoke. These awards are renewed automatically in subsequent semesters, provided the student maintains satisfactory academic progress. Additional policies pertaining to merit scholarships and other non-need-based grants are available at <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/admission/apply-undergraduate-first-year/affording-mount-holyoke/financial-aid/types-financial-aid/non-need-based-scholarships-and-awards>.

Outside Scholarships

Any outside scholarships received, per College, federal and institutional policy, are considered part of your financial aid package. If you receive outside scholarships, awards or other resources, please complete our [outside scholarship/outside resources form](#) as soon as possible. Outside scholarships will be included in your aid offer and may be used to reduce the amount you need to pay for your tuition and fees.

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/admission/apply-undergraduate-first-year/affording-mount-holyoke/financial-aid/types-financial-aid/non-need-based-scholarships-and-awards>

Financial Aid and Living Off-campus

Mount Holyoke College is a residential college and undergraduate students are encouraged to live on campus. This does not apply to Frances Perkins scholars. However, if a student is approved to live off campus, room and board charges will be removed. The financial aid budget will be revised to include an off-campus living allowance and the financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. The amount of the off-campus living allowance will depend on the student's marital status and their planned off-campus accommodations. Please contact Student Financial Services with questions about how living off campus might affect financial aid eligibility.

Financial Aid and Off-campus Study

Financial aid received from Mount Holyoke, including any merit assistance, does not travel to other institutions. To support study abroad, Mount Holyoke offers the Laurel Fellowship. You can find more information on the [Financial Aid Policies for Study Abroad and Academic Leave website](#), which is need based funding. Federal student aid for study abroad is also available to eligible U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Institutional and federal student aid are also available for students participating in [Mount Holyoke's MHC Semester in D.C.](#), and the [Dual Degree Engineering Program](#). Only federal student aid is available for all other academic-leave programs.

Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence

If a student withdraws or takes a leave of absence, the official withdrawal or leave date will be determined by the Office of Academic Deans. Students will be refunded 100% of their previously paid tuition, room (less room reservation deposit for new students) and board if the official leave/withdrawal date is before the first day of classes. The student retains that semester of financial aid eligibility to use upon their return to the College.

When a student withdraws or takes a leave of absence after the semester has started, Student Financial Services (SFS) is notified by the Office of Academic Deans of the official withdrawal or leave date. For students receiving federal student aid, SFS then completes a federal return to Title IV computation and state aid adjustment, if required. If a student is a recipient of financial aid from the College, SFS also completes an institutional financial aid withdrawal worksheet taking into account 1) any Title IV funds that will be returned as unearned and 2) the College's refund schedule for adjusting billed charges. Financial aid is adjusted and the remaining credit, or balance due, is determined accordingly. In this case, the semester counts as a semester of financial aid used. More information about these calculations may be found on the [Refund Policy and Schedule website](#).

Financial Aid Policies for Graduate Students

Graduate students must complete a valid FAFSA for a specific academic year to be eligible for federal aid in that academic year. The unsubsidized Federal Direct Student Loan (FDSL) may be available to help cover billed costs and some living expenses for any term that the student will be enrolled at least half-time, which is four credits.

Graduate students may also apply for scholarship and fellowship funding that is awarded by Mount Holyoke Professional and Graduate Education (PaGE). More information about these opportunities may be found on the [Funding Your Graduate Education website](#).

Additional information about financial aid and financing for graduate students may be found on the [Graduate Programs Admission and Financial Aid website](#).

Insurance

The following information is provided to inform students about the insurance coverage that the College may purchase, and how the coverage may apply to students. The descriptions of coverage are not intended to, nor do they supplement, amend or modify any insurance policy terms and conditions. The College reserves the right at all times to modify its insurance coverage, terms, conditions and limits without notice to any person or entity, including students, faculty or staff. Students may wish to make adjustments in their own coverage if they feel that it would be appropriate to their interests.

Medical

The comprehensive fee covering tuition, room and board provides access to the services of:

- Most services at [Mount Holyoke College Health Services](#)
- [Mount Holyoke College Counseling Service](#)

Because a student may need more extensive medical treatment, medical insurance is required of all students by the commonwealth of Massachusetts and Mount Holyoke College. Students may opt for the College's Student Health Insurance Plan, or maintain private insurance from home with an approved waiver as noted below.

Students will be enrolled in MHC's SHIP, unless an alternative health insurance plan with equivalent coverage locally to campus is submitted and approved. This is an "opt-out" scenario. A fee for Mount Holyoke College's SHIP appears on the student's bill annually as the Mount Holyoke College Student Injury and Sickness Plan. If a family or student has other health insurance coverage and wishes to waive SHIP enrollment, the student may submit information confirming the coverage via the Gallagher Student Health & Special Risk online form.. If the alternative health insurance is deemed to have equivalent local coverage (i.e. in Western, MA),, the insurance charge will be waived.

Requests to waive MHC SHIP must be submitted annually, and electronically; paper waivers are not accepted. Failure to request a waiver or have the request approved will result in automatic enrollment in SHIP. More detail is available at [Gallagher Student Health Insurance](#).

Payment for the Student Injury and Sickness Plan is administered by Student Financial Services For more information please review the [Health Insurance Requirement and Billing Information website](#).. Please direct questions regarding enrollment or waiver to [SFS](#). Benefits include emergency services, ambulance, inpatient and outpatient medical, off campus surgical and mental health care, diagnostic testing, specialty consultation and pharmacy. Some specialists--but not all--will require a referral before scheduling an appointment. We encourage students to seek consultation at Health or Counseling Services for health concerns before seeking care off campus. Clinicians on campus may be able to manage your medical or psychological concerns or provider referrals when appropriate.

Students will be billed directly for off-campus medical pharmacy services that are not covered by the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) and for co-pays and deductibles that are the patient's responsibility as outlined in the benefits package. Health Services may assist with questions regarding claims for students who are enrolled in SHIP; please phone 413-538-2089 or email health-admin@mtholyoke.edu.

Intercollegiate and club sports athletes have additional benefits available under certain policies that are purchased on their behalf by the College. Coverage applies to athletes who are injured while in organized competition or practice, which is constructively supervised, or traveling to or from one of these events.. These policies do not extend to participants in intramural or recreational sports; they only cover intercollegiate and College-recognized club sports injuries.. In addition for varsity athletes, The NCAA policy insures varsity athletes for an unlimited amount (subject to policy terms) over the Sports Accident Policy, and benefits range from medical and rehabilitation to lifetime disability income and home-health care.

The College accepts no responsibility for any losses, costs or expenses not covered by the insurance policies listed above, whether by coverage terms or exclusions or the injured student's failure to comply with policy-required claims procedures.

Travel Accident

The College provides limited travel accident insurance, including medical evacuation and repatriation to students traveling worldwide on official College or academic business. Worldwide travel assistance services are also available.

Auto

Mount Holyoke College purchases auto liability insurance that protects both the College and the driver from third-party liability and third-party property damage arising from the use of College-owned, hired, rented, or non-owned vehicles. Anyone driving on College business must be credentialed first. You can review the requirements and submit your application on the [Five College Driver Credentialing page](#).

The College auto insurance policy may not cover unauthorized drivers. Unauthorized drivers may be personally liable for claims brought against them. The College may also have a right to claim against unauthorized drivers. Note that there is no insurance coverage for students who drive personal vehicles.

Personal Vehicles on Campus

The College is not responsible for, nor will it pay any claims for, damages to student-owned vehicles resulting from falling ice, snow, tree limbs or any other natural occurrence or event on its property or elsewhere, whether the possibility of such an event is warned against or not. The College is not responsible for, nor will it pay any losses, claims or damages to student-owned vehicles resulting from vandalism, collision or other acts by any person, other than damage caused directly by its employees.

Property

The College does not have property insurance for student possessions, and it accepts no responsibility for any personal possessions or property of students. Any possessions in student rooms or left in storage areas are left at the owner's own risk. Students are responsible for insuring their own property against loss and may be able to do so using a parent's or guardian's policies or by obtaining a tenant's policy through a local insurance agent. Alternatively, students could consider purchasing student property insurance directly through [URMIA](#) (University Risk Management and Insurance Association). It is recommended that students keep their doors locked and not leave valuable items in storage areas.

Liability

The College is not liable for the actions of its students, nor is it possible for the College to obtain liability insurance on behalf of its students. Student-athletes especially should be aware that if they are sued for injuries or damages caused to others in the course of an athletic event, Mount Holyoke's insurance does not provide coverage. The liability section of a parent's or guardian's homeowner's policy or renter's policy may provide for the defense of the student and damages awarded, if any, in a suit alleging negligence. Students are responsible for avoiding intentional acts or negligent behavior that could harm others or give rise to adverse legal action. Although Mount Holyoke College will not provide liability protection, it may assist in obtaining a defense if it is not provided for by parental/guardian insurance coverage. If a student is sued for an act or omission and believes that they were acting in the capacity of an employee or agent of the College at the time of such act or omission, they should contact the dean of students immediately. The College will not provide any legal defense for any student accused or arrested for any criminal act, whether on or off campus, even if the student is on a field trip or other College function or program.

Workers' Compensation

Students who are employed by the College and who are injured in the course of their work may be eligible for Workers' Compensation. If a student is injured on the job, the student should contact their supervisor IMMEDIATELY to report the injury and complete an accident investigation form. Questions should be directed to the student's supervisor and the Office of Human Resources.

For further assistance, students may contact the College's risk management office. For more information on other student risk management issues, visit the [Five College Risk Management website](#).

Director of Risk Management
Five Colleges Incorporated
50 College Street
South Hadley, MA 01075-6404
Phone: 413-538-3092
Fax: 413-538-3031

Library, Information, and Technology Services (LITS)

Mount Holyoke's Library, Information, and Technology Services (LITS) provides library and information technology services and support for the college community. There are three physical locations: Williston Library, Pratt Music Library, Language & Culture Commons. The general library collections support the curriculum, with strengths in gender and sexuality studies, interdisciplinary studies, and environmental and sustainability studies. The library spaces include group study rooms and a beautiful, welcoming reading room (a favorite with students) in an English Gothic architectural style.

LITS also boasts a robust archival collection located on the ground floor of Dwight Hall. Archives and Special Collections documents the history of Mount Holyoke College through letters, photographs, scrapbooks, departmental records, and artifacts. Students are welcome to visit and use the primary research materials and Rare Books Collection.

Information and Technology Policies

Use of the College's Electronic and Computing Resources

As a part of the institution's physical facilities and academic and social infrastructure, Mount Holyoke College acquires, develops and maintains computers, computer systems and networks. These resources are owned by the College and intended for College-related purposes, including direct and indirect support of the College's teaching and research, administrative functions, student and campus life activities, and the free exchange of ideas among members of the College community and between the College community and the wider local, national and world communities.

The rights of academic freedom and freedom of expression apply to the use of College computing resources, as do the responsibilities and limitations associated with those rights. The use of MHC's Information Technology and Institutional Data, like the use of any other College-provided resource or College-related activity, is subject to the normal requirements of legal and ethical behavior within the College community.

Legitimate use of a computer, computer system or network does not extend to whatever is technically possible. Users must abide by all applicable restrictions, whether or not they are built into the operating system or network, and whether or not they can be circumvented by technical means.

All users of MHC Information Technology and Institutional Data resources must:

- Adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, MHC policies, rule, contracts, and licensing agreements.
- Use only those computing resources that they are authorized to use and use them only in the manner and to the extent authorized.
- Respect the rights, privacy and property of others including their accounts, regardless of whether those accounts are securely protected.
- Respect the finite capacity of the College's resources and limit use so as not to consume an unreasonable amount of those resources or to interfere unreasonably with the activity of other users.
- Refrain from using those resources for personal commercial purposes or personal financial or other gain not related to the mission of the College. Contact [Marketing and Communications](#) with questions.

- Refrain from stating or implying that they speak on behalf of the College and from using College trademarks and logos without authorization to do so. Contact [Marketing and Communications](#) with questions.
- Be attentive to computer problems that may be the result of malware, viruses, spyware, keystroke loggers or other invasive software.

Respect for intellectual labor and creativity is vital to academic discourse and enterprise. This principle applies to works of all authors and publishers in media. It encompasses respect for the right to acknowledgement, right to privacy, and right to determine the form, manner and terms of publication and distribution. Because electronic information is dynamic and easily reproduced, respect for the work and personal expression of others is especially critical in technological environments and when making use of artificial intelligence (AI). See [MHC's Guidelines for Ethical use of Generative AI](#) for details.

Violations of authorial integrity, including plagiarism, invasion of privacy, unauthorized access, and trade secret and copyright violations, may be grounds for sanctions against members of the academic community.

Security and Privacy of the Computing Resources

The College employs various measures to protect the security of its computing resources and of users' accounts. Users should be aware, however, that the College cannot guarantee such security. Users should engage in safe computing practices by establishing appropriate access restrictions for their accounts, including appropriate selection and safekeeping of passwords. Users should also be aware that their uses of College computing resources are not completely private. The normal operation and maintenance of the College's computing resources require the backup and caching of data and communications, the logging of activity, the monitoring of general usage patterns and other such activities that are necessary for the provision of service. Such audits may review the sizes, kinds and names of software and files, but do not review the contents of documents. While in general content is not reviewed, it is important to understand that all information related to the business of the College is owned by the College. For more information or advice, students can read the [acceptable use policy](#).

Policy on Audiovisual Recordings in the Classroom

To encourage active engagement and academic inquiry in the classroom, as well as to safeguard the privacy of students and faculty, no form of audio or visual recording in the classroom is permitted without explicit permission from the professor/instructor, or without a letter from Disability Services and signed by the faculty member, authorizing the recording as an accommodation.

Authorized recordings may only be used by a student who has obtained permission and may not be shared or distributed for any reason. Violation of this policy is an infraction of the Mount Holyoke College Honor Code and academic regulations that will result in disciplinary action.

Parking

Student vehicles are not visitors and therefore are not eligible to park overnight on campus in faculty/staff spaces even during breaks, with a noted exception for students with handicapped license plates or decals. Vehicles that belong to a student (or to a student's family) parked by a student on campus overnight must have a decal or temporary permit. Unregistered student vehicles will be ticketed and may be towed for multiple violations.

Student guests to campus who need extended parking must obtain a permit from the Parking Office. Guest passes may also be requested by emailing the Parking Office at parking@mtholyoke.edu or coming to the office during business hours. **Guest passes may only be issued once per semester for a 2 week period to comply with the overnight guest policy in the student handbook.** The Parking Office will review extended parking permit requests and may deny renewal privileges to extended visitors. There is no charge for visitor passes. You can review all parking policies on the [Parking Office website](#). [Parking Rules & Regulations](#). Contact the Parking Office for additional information at 413-538-2514 Monday through Friday 8:30 am-4 pm or email parking@mtholyoke.edu.