Introduce self, Lori Widmer-Hinckley, Cindy LePage (SFS), Susan Martin (President’s Office), Rachel Alldis (Res Life)/Nashalie Vasquez, and Sarah Adelman (Academic Dean for Senior class).

Our purpose today is to help you navigate smoothly towards graduation...knowing what to expect and what you’ll need to do.

Registrar’s Office presentation, then SFS, then ResLife and the President’s Office which coordinates the arrangements for the Commencement ceremony
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Degrees

- MHC confers degrees three times a year:
  - May – Spring finishers
  - October – Summer finishers (here or elsewhere)
  - March – Fall and January finishers
- But there is one Commencement ceremony: May.
- Mount Holyoke awards one baccalaureate degree: the Bachelor of Arts
  - no Bachelor of Science degree
  - we use the Latin abbreviation AB, but it’s the same as a BA

Dates
So those of you who are completing the last of your requirements through courses this semester, you will depart the campus in December, but your grades don’t come in til early January and then time is needed for certification of the completion of requirements and for faculty and the BOT to vote. SO, your official date of degree conferral will be March 8, 2018.

Multiple conferral dates, but ONE commencement ceremony. Those conferred in October or March will be mailed their diplomas soon after their conferral date but then can return to campus to participate in the May 2018 commencement ceremony ---- (well, as long as they didn’t participate last year).

Most of you know now which of these dates you are aiming to graduate. But one thing some International students may want to be aware of is that those who will want the College to certify completion of their degree requirements for April H1B applications need to graduate in the March conferral. We do not write completion letters for H1B for students still here in the Spring semester even if only completing what they see as elective work.
Note: Everyone will get the same degree: bachelor of arts degree. Everyone. Not different for science than non-science. Can be abbreviated AB, from the Latin, or BA – use whichever you want on resumes etc. It’s the same degree either way. And, while we’re talking about Latin.
This translation is on our website. See “Graduation” on the left margin.

The diploma names you as a recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree, but the diploma does not list majors nor minors. It does list certain college-wide honors but not all prizes etc. Your transcript will have all the detail of your major, minor, courses & grades, and any prizes published in the Commencement book.

Note that our diplomas are small......Small but mighty.

Note that, on the diploma, your name can appear as you wish it to appear: accents. Does not have to be in synch with the legal name on your records which will be the name on your transcript.

So to get all the info from you re when you plan to graduate, what diploma name you want etc., you are going to fill out a graduation application next month. Let’s look at that.
Apply to Graduate

- Towards end of Fall break in October, all seniors will receive an email from the Registrar’s Office prompting you to submit your graduation application.
- You’ll then login to MyMountHolyoke. From the Self-Service menu for Students, select:
  - “Requests & Applications” then
  - “Graduation Application.”

Do not submit a graduation application before you get the email around October 10.
First select your academic program – make sure it’s complete and correct. Everyone needs a major. You can elect to have also: either a 2nd mjr or a minor and/or a 5College certificate and/or a Nexus.

If you need to add/change/drop a major or minor or 5C cert or a Nexus, do that BEFORE applying to graduate. Forms for declaring/dropping are available on Registrar’s office website, Forms page.
Your term choices are Fall (March 2018 conferral) or Spring (May 2018 conferral). If you are planning to finish requirements after May 2018 (through summer work next summer or at the end of next fall), then you do not submit a graduation application now. We’re not yet collecting graduation applications for people planning to finish after May. Instead when you get the email from us, write registrar@ to tell us your plan.

Ceremony – if not sure quite yet, when in doubt say yes and then you can send us an update later.

Can’t anticipate: holds, missing grade, diploma misprint

To those finishing October or March, we’re going to mail your diploma but remember you will still be eligible to attend the next May ceremony.....as long as only attend once.

So that’s it about the application. It will take you all of 3 mins. But make sure to type your name carefully, you’ll get a confirmation after submitting it that you should also double-check, and remember to send us a followup email if:

• Your name needs an accent
• Or you are planning to finish requirements away.

So should you be doing besides the application? Requirements
If you have questions about where you stand in college-wide requirements,...total credits etc, use Lori’s drop-in hours 3-5pm most days or email registrar@...

Also make sure your Majors, Minors, Nexus etc are all correct on your record.
And make sure your fall schedule/registrations are complete and correct.

Don’t miss October 23-27 Add/Drop period for 2nd-half PE courses. Make changes via email to registrar@ If missing MHC courses from the past, or have unresolved incomplete or NC/Failure and you think you should have gotten credit or missing PE, deal with now as usually requires petition.

What are permissions? Written agreements designating that you have received official approval re how transfer courses, 5College courses, or other exceptional courses will count towards specific degree requirements. Be careful about assuming ANY external course will count, no matter how “on target” it seems to you or if you’ve received verbal assurances. The permission form is the approval. Until the permission has been submitted to the Registrar’s Office and recorded at the bottom of your degree audit, it’s not real.
Permissions for 5College courses aren’t needed for 5College majors like Dance and Film
Note To get transfer credits to count towards the 128 required is a separate matter, and is handled through Registrar’s Office.

If an MHC course is not counting as you expect, consult with Registrar’s staff first and only go get a permission if we direct you to.

For Spring Registration – will need overload approval from Dean Adelman, if more than 20 cr. Also, clear holds now.
Remember there are over 500 of you. There’s one Lori, one Dean Adelman and one me. Don’t leave things til last minute or expect we’ll be able focus on you during peak times for all students (registration etc.) Resolve issues before registration if they affect what you might want to take next semester!
Can’t stress importance of letting us know EARLY, as options narrow & get worse throughout the year.

Next: heads up about what will happen in May, at the end of Spring semester.
A few notes about May

• Seniors’ deadline in May for completing exams and papers is earlier.
  • Must complete exams within first three days – by end of Sunday afternoon.
• MHC grades will become available on Friday 5/18.
• Grades for 5College courses at end of Spring usually flow fine (though we may ask you in April for will-pass if a Umass course):
  • Remember to get Permissions as needed in late Fall, early Spring if you need to count 5C courses towards a mjr/minor.
• Read email often during the final week!
Honors

Many different types of honors, including:

- Cum laude & Magna Cum Laude
  - GPA-based (3.5 & 3.75 minima, respectively). Require neither thesis nor departmental recommendation.

- Departmental Honors & High Honors
  - Require 8 credits of 395* over 2 semesters, + excellent/outstanding thesis + recommendation of dept.
  - * Different substitute course approved for part of 395, for some depts.
  - Must have had 3.0 cumulative GPA at start of your senior year.

- Summa
  - 8 cr of 395* work over 2 semesters + 3.75 final GPA + exceptional thesis + have had 3.0 GPA at start of your senior year.

- Many departmental prizes and honor societies like Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, etc.

A few words about Honors.

This is a very brief recap. There are lots of specifics about thesis-based honors that your thesis advisor and memos from the Dean of Studies can guide you through, if you’re working on a thesis. I’m not trying to be exhaustive here, and at this time of year, even those working on 395s right now may not know yet whether they will continue to attempt a thesis. That’s fine.

But I did want to call your attention to a couple of specifics if you think you might hope to qualify for thesis-based honors:

1) Thesis-based honors are usually expected to be in your major department. If trying to qualify in a different department or in a special individually-designed major, please contact now the Dean of Studies, Professor Amber Douglas to request permission to seek honors outside your major. This is especially important if you’re a special major as interdisciplinary honors requires pre-approval and a specially-constituted committee that you may want to start forming now.

1) If you have a special major and you’re trying to do honors in that major, please send
a list of your advisor and committee members to Dr Douglas via email. She will need to check that your Committee has the correct composition in advance.

Enough about honors. Back to general stuff:
Thanks for coming. Now SFS presentation and We’ll answer questions at the end.

Two Tips

1. Be proactive in resolving known issues!

2. Stay responsive to emails!
Student Financial Services

Cindy LePage
What You Need To Know

• If you borrowed a Federal or Institutional Loan while at MHC, you are required to complete loan exit counseling
• **Commencement tickets and transcripts** will be held until all exit sessions have been completed
• Loan grace periods begin when classes end
• Check student account balances even after you leave
How to Complete Required Exit Counseling

• FEDERAL DIRECT STUDENT LOANS (subsidized/unsubsidized)
  • studentloans.gov

• MHC Loans, Global Loans, Perkins, Mass No Interest Loans
  • heartland.ecsi.net

• Complete your exit counseling at least one month prior to end of classes to avoid holds
Know Who You Owe

- MHC Loan, Global Loan, Perkins Loan & Mass No Interest Loan
- Heartland ECSI
- heartland.ecsi.net
- 888-549-3274
- 412-788-3900
Set Up Your Account with Your Servicer

- Nelnet website: nelnet.com
- Great Lakes: mygreatlakes.org
- Navient: navient.com
- Fed Loan Servicing (PHEAA): myfedloan.org
- Heartland ECSI: heartland.ecsi.net
- Ed Financial: edfinancial.com
- Cornerstone: mycornerstoneloan.org
How to Find Your Federal Loan Billing Servicer

- National Student Loan Data System
- www.nslds.ed.gov
### Loans
Please click on number in first column to see details

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[Disclaimer: Privacy | Security | Notices] [Whitehouse.gov | USA.gov | ED.gov]
Saltmoney.org

• What can Salt® do?
• Free Loan Counselors for members 877-523-9473
• Upload your loan data from NSLDS directly into salt to review different repayment options
• Job search
• Interview tips
• Understand credit reports and credit scores (annualcreditreport.com)
Loan Forgiveness Programs for Federal Loans
BEWARE of companies that offer student debt relief. They may charge a fee for something you can do with your loan service provider for free.

When in doubt contact, your servicer or the SFS office at sfs@mtholyoke.edu or 413-538-2291
President’s Office

Commencement is
Sunday, May 20, 2018
Schedule of Events

**Thursday, May 17**  Red Carpet Event (5:00 pm)
**Friday, May 18**  Rehearsal (8:00 am)
**Saturday, May 19**  Laurel Parade (8:30 am)
                  Baccalaureate (9:00 pm)
**Sunday, May 20**  Commencement (10:30 am)

On Sunday:
  Line up in Gymnasium at 9:30 am.
  • We march at 10:00 am sharp!
Rehearsal

• **Friday, May 18**
  - 8:00 am  breakfast at Willits
  - 9:00 am  practice line-up in Gymnasium
  - 9:30 am  practice march to Amphitheater
  - Name pronunciations
  - Presentation from the Alumnae Association
  - Plan on being there until 12:00 noon
  - Laurel Chain rehearsal immediately following at gravesite
Special Seating Request Form

• Request Form is on the Commencement website

Reasons to need the form:
• Wheelchair access
• Mobility issues for guests, such as canes, walkers, scooters, unable to do stairs, etc.

All guests with special seating will be at the top of the amphitheater.

Note: We do not provide wheelchairs.
Meal Tickets

- Tickets may be purchased directly from Dining Services for:
  - Saturday lunch
  - Saturday dinner

Tickets are for family and guests only.

Seniors do not need tickets for meals.

Order form will be available in the spring.
Baccalaureate

Seniors only in Abbey Chapel.

The event will be live streamed in several locations on campus for families and friends to view.
Commencement Tickets

Number of tickets... stay tuned.

The event will be live streamed in several locations on campus for guests who prefer/need to be indoors.
Ticket Pick-Up

**Thursday, May 17, 2018**
10:00 am—12:00 pm

**Friday, May 18, 2018**
3:00 pm—5:00 pm

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**
10:00 am—12:00 pm
Commencement Questions

Susan Martin
413-539-2663
Office of the President
211A Mary Lyon Hall
Residential Life

Rachel Alldis
res-life@mtholyoke.edu
413-538-2088
Housing, if Living On-Campus in Spring

- Halls close Tuesday May 8 at noon for all but seniors & reunion workers
- Seniors may stay in their spring-assigned room until Monday, May 21 at noon.
  - Ok for whole period of May 8–21 at noon.
  - Yes, there are meals for seniors living on campus.
- Residential policies still apply

This applies to the seniors who have a Spring room assignment.
Housing, if Graduating Mid-Year

- Expect an email in March re: how to request housing for graduation weekend.
- Housing for these returning seniors will be for Thursday May 17 to Monday May 21 noon
  - Linens and meals are provided.
  - All rooms are singles.
  - Halls are assigned; no specific requests

This applies to the seniors who left the College mid-year and, therefore, didn’t have a Spring room assignment.
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General FAQ

• No extensions past the Monday May 21 noon deadline for moving out.
  • Halls are needed immediately for conferences.
• No extra furniture or other accommodations are made for families.
  • There is no family housing for Commencement
• To use common spaces for gatherings/parties, ask the Alumnae Association or Conference Office.
  • Beginning May 8, these spaces are managed by them.
Questions? Contact Us!

Lori Widmer-Hinckley & Elizabeth Pyle
Registrar’s Office
413-538-2025

Cindy LePage
Student Financial Services
413-538-2291

Susan Martin
President’s Office
413-538-2663

Rachel Alldis
Residential Life Office
413-538-2088

Sarah Adelman
Academic Dean’s Office
413-538-2855