Senior Week Schedule

Please view the commencement week schedule here.

Listen Up, Seniors

Graduation Requirements

If the Registrar's Office or Student Financial Services has notified you of any problems in meeting academic or financial requirements for your degree, do not ignore their warnings; see them at once!

In addition to your academic requirements, all student charges must be paid in order to receive your diploma at graduation. All seniors should review their online A/R accounts in MyMountHolyoke. Seniors with loans must complete exit counseling online; information on exit counseling is available online at https://www.mtholyoke.edu/sfs/resources/student_loans/repayment_consolidation.

Graduation is contingent upon resolving your academic matters, and Commencement tickets may not be issued to any student with loans who fails to complete exit counseling.

Commencement Rehearsal

Attendance at Commencement rehearsal is mandatory. The purpose of this meeting is to make sure that you know in which order you will line up to receive your diploma.

We begin with breakfast in Willits and then walk to the Kendall Gymnasium for line up. Once the line up is complete, we will march to the amphitheater and rehearse sitting in the proper order and you will have a brief practice of coming onstage to receive your diploma.

Your name will be called to make sure it is pronounced correctly. If your name is mispronounced, please wait until the rehearsal is completed to make the correction. If you are unable to attend rehearsal, you should notify the Commencement Coordinator Susan Martin, x2663, and designate another senior, who will be present at rehearsal, to speak for you, to know where your seat is, and to instruct you in the proceedings.

Ticket Information
A. Meal Services

https://www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/dining-on-campus

Meal Tickets are available for purchase by following this link:
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/mealtickets

B. Commencement Tickets

https://www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/tickets

The times listed on the schedule are the only times for ticket distribution. You will need your Mount Holyoke onecard to pick up your tickets. Seniors are only allowed to pick up their own tickets.

Parking & Inclement Weather

https://www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/parking

Graduation Traditions

ReOrientation: Dirty Dancing Under The Stars

This event will allow the class of 2017 to and relive what is, for many of them, their earliest memory at MHC. Whether you have seen Dirty Dancing one or one hundred times, there is no denying that it has become a part of moho culture. After all “Baby is going to Mount Holyoke in the fall”.

Welcome Ceremony for New Alumnae

This is the class of 2017’s formal induction into the Alumnae Association. Often referred to as the “Scarifying Ceremony”, members of the alum Connection Class will welcome graduating seniors into the association by gifting them with scarfs in their class color.

This is a semiformal event as students will immediately proceed to the Red Carpet Cocktail Party at the President’s House.

Final Lecture

This event gives soon-to-be graduates the opportunity to listen to one last “lecture” from staff and faculty they have elected to deliver the sage words — often humorous, sentimental, or
both. The night is nostalgic, inspiring, and a perfect finale to the classroom experience of a Mount Holyoke Education.

*Final Lecture Speakers TBA*

**Senior Party**

At this event, seniors will celebrate their final days as undergraduates at Mount Holyoke with a final evening of partying the night away with their classmates.

**Stoling Ceremony**

The Stoling Ceremony was organized in May 2005 by various Elders (faculty and staff of color who volunteered beyond their daily work responsibilities) of Mount Holyoke College as an initiative to acknowledge the unique experiences of students of color who attend predominately white institutions.

The ceremony is a celebration and moment for reflection. In addition, it is an opportunity for the seniors to name (and thank!) a mentor who played a key role in their persistence to graduation (i.e., advisor, dining staff, facilities staff, faculty, residential life staff, administrative staff, coach, etc). The heart of the program is the moment of gratitude as the mentor presents the student with a Kente stole and the student offers the mentor a flower in exchange.

This traditional Commencement event is now organized and sponsored by the SGA Students of Color Committee, under the advisement and support of Latrina L. Denson, Assistant Dean of Students, the Division of Student Life, and Angelica Castro, Assistant Director of Community Engagement.

The ceremony is open to both domestic and international students of color who are either May or December graduates participating in the May 2017 Commencement ceremony.

*This is a formal, all black attire event.*

**Final M&Cs**

M&Cs are a beloved Mount Holyoke tradition that brings students together for evening snacks on school nights. This event will be the last time that seniors will gather with friends and enjoy this tradition. This sentimental and nostalgic event will feature a slideshow with a look-back at the class' years at Mount Holyoke.

**Laurel Parade**

*Why do we wear white?*

Contrary to popular lore, the wearing of white in the parade has nothing to do with virginity. We wear white because that is what the suffragettes wore when campaigning for women's
right to vote. The song “Bread and Roses” is about the suffering of women and mill workers at that time, and is symbolic of the support of women that Mount Holyoke represents. In this case, the wearing of white is a sign of women's solidarity: we can wear whatever color shoes we like. Hats are also a great idea. Most of the class will dress formally, but many seniors have created white outfits that let them express themselves while still adhering to the tradition of the parade.

Why do we march in a parade?

We march in a parade so that we can identify ourselves as members of the class of 2017 and be celebrated by alums and guests. Alums will line the parade route to cheer us on and congratulate us. Symbolically and physically, we are joining the ranks of alums. Lining up and processing in rows of four across, we will split into two rows of two across when we reach the gravesite and weave a beautiful pattern around Mary Lyon’s grave.

Why do we sing “Bread and Roses” at Mary Lyon’s grave?

James Oppenheim (1882–1932) was an American poet and novelist who often wrote on political and humanistic subjects. His poem “Bread and Roses” originally appeared in the December 1911 issue of American magazine with the accompanying quote: “Bread for all, and Roses, too” — a slogan of the women in the West. In 1912, the historic Lawrence, Massachusetts strike occurred among the thousands of textile workers who labored in the city's mills. “Bread and Roses” was taken up by strikers working with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) for reasonable and humane working hours and pay.

Baccalaureate

The Baccalaureate Ceremony, held in Abbey Chapel, is a celebration that honors members of the graduating class. It is held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 and seniors begin lining up to enter the Chapel at 8:30pm. This traditional ceremony is for seniors only and holds a deep meaning: we are given a final charge and hear from our selected faculty and fellow classmates.

Baccalaureate Speakers: Jocelyn Mosman and Nanjiba Nawaz

*Please note that Abbey Chapel will only accommodate graduating seniors. All family members and guests can view a live telecast of the ceremony from several locations on campus. Seating is open and no tickets are needed at the designated streaming locations.

This is a semi formal event where seniors are expected to wear their cap and gown; hoods are not required.

Canoe Sing

Canoe Sing is one of Mount Holyoke's most fun traditions. It dates back to 1911, when it was called “Senior Serenade” and took place on Upper Lake, after Baccalaureate. During Canoe Sing, 36 students in 12 canoes decorated with lanterns will illuminate Lower Lake while
changing formations choreographed to the songs of their classmates on the shore. Songs are TBA but after their announcement will be listed with their lyrics in the lyrics section of this page.

**Big/Little Party**

It is a long-standing tradition at Mount Holyoke that members of the Junior class serve as big siblings and mentors to the First Year class. As the class of 2015 returns to campus for their second year reunion, they will reunite with class of 2017 at this party to reminisce about their time at the college and celebrate the soon-to-be graduates.

**Commencement**

Around 550 seniors are expected to receive bachelor’s degrees at Mount Holyoke College's 180th Commencement this year on Sunday, May 21, in Gettell Amphitheater.

*Student Commencement Speaker: Anqa Khan*

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**Moving Forward**

**Alumnae Association Connections**

*When do we present our Senior Class Gift?*

The Senior Class Gift is presented by our Head Class Agents at the Alumnae Association's Annual Meeting, immediately following the Laurel Parade. This is the meeting when seniors are formally welcomed into the Alumnae Association and the 50th reunion class will also present our class with a gift. This money will be held in an account and will form the basis for our class gift at our 50th reunion in 2067.

*Reunions*

Alumni will make full use of the residence hall entryway and living rooms. They will have welcome tables and check-in areas, as well as social hours and Saturday dinners in the residence halls. We ask that you do not remove the cushions from the sofas since alumni will need this seating for their weekend events. For the most part, these events are scheduled for times when you will not be in the residence hall (i.e., during your Saturday dinner and Baccalaureate). Alumni are asked to keep the residence halls as clean as possible and to remember that they are sharing the residence halls with seniors. We hope you enjoy each other's company!
Senior Press Release

https://www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/press

Senior Survey

Each year Mount Holyoke surveys the senior class as they graduate. The survey focuses primarily on your undergraduate experience and on your future plans. Our goals are to learn what you think about your education at Mount Holyoke, to evaluate current programs, and to gather information to help Mount Holyoke improve the quality of education. It is important that we hear from everyone. Future generations of Mount Holyoke students will benefit from your reflections. Seniors will be emailed an invitation to the Senior Survey in late April. Respondents will be eligible for graduation prizes.

Items for Purchase

https://www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/items-purchase

Health Center

Are my medical records discarded after I graduate?

The College maintains medical records for 30 years. All requests for medical records, except immunization records, must be accompanied by a signed written request by the patient.

How can I get a copy of my records?

The Health Center will be sending a copy of your immunization record to your on-campus address. This will be sent to you prior to graduation. If you would like a copy of any other portion of your medical record, please return a medical release form found at https://mtholyoke.edu/health/hsforms. You may complete and mail the form to the Health Center. You can also go to the Health Center to complete a form at any time. The Health Center is closed during the summer. There may be a delay in responding to requests for records between June and September. There will also be a fee of $15.00 once you have graduated. Please note that the Health Center cannot complete a graduate school admission or employment physical health form unless you have had a complete physical exam with the Health Center during the past academic year. The Health Center cannot write medication prescriptions after you have graduated.

Does health insurance end when I graduate?

Policies vary in the length of the eligibility period after you are no longer a full-time student.

This is a topic you and your parents should discuss ASAP. Students enrolled in the College-sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan are covered until midnight on August 15, 2017. A continuation policy may be purchased for a period of up to 12 months. This must be
done within two weeks of termination of the current policy. For more information, call Gallagher Student Health and Special Risk Insurance AT 1 (800) 457-5599.

Short-term medical insurance policies bridge the gap between the expiration of current coverage and the enrollment in a future insurance plan. This product provides coverage for major illnesses or accidents and may be purchased for a variable term, 30–185 days. This option is not available in Massachusetts but may apply to other states. A new option for students, who graduate and remain in Massachusetts, may be to enroll in one of the health plans available through Commonwealth Connector.

To learn about the eligibility requirements, available health insurance plans, cost, and the enrollment process, contact Gallagher Student Health and Special Risk Insurance at 1 (800) 457-5599.

**Career Development Center**

**Can I still meet with a career advisor after graduation?**

Yes, alumnae who've graduated within the past 5 years are encouraged to connect with the CDC Alumnae Engagement Team for personalized support in their professional development at [https://www.mtholyoke.edu/cdc/alumnae/advising-support](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/cdc/alumnae/advising-support). They offer in-person, phone, and skype appointments, just call the CDC at (413) 538-2080 to schedule a time.

**Is there a way to find out about job opportunities after graduation?**

Yes, keep your LyonNet profile current and continue searching jobs posted there. You can find more job search resources in the CDC at [https://www.mtholyoke.edu/cdc/strategy](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/cdc/strategy).

**Not sure how to use LyonNet?**

Stop by the CDC, email the LyonNet help desk at lyonnet@mtholyoke.edu, or call (413) 538-2080.

**What about letters of recommendation and references?**

If you plan on applying to graduate school, teaching jobs, or similar opportunities, you may find it helpful to create a "credentials file" of recommendation letters, work samples, and related documents. Learn more about the partnership the CDC has with Interfolio to manage your credentials file online at:

[https://www.mtholyoke.edu/cdc/credentials_and_recommendations](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/cdc/credentials_and_recommendations).

**I heard networking is the way to find a job, how does it work?**

Networking is one those "buzz" words, but it is true, the best way to shape your job search strategy and uncover job leads is through networking which is simply asking advice of those who have succeeded in a given field. To get started, search for the CDC's networking guide,
call (413) 538-2080 for a career advising appointment, or visit the Alumnae Association online at alumnae.mtholyoke.edu.

If I'm still looking for a job or not sure what to do?

Remember, even in the best of times, only 20-25% of graduating seniors have a job in hand by commencement day. However, year after year, 85% or more of Mount Holyoke graduates are either employed or in graduate school six months after graduation. The same is true for graduates of similar colleges around the country. The CDC and Alumnae Association are eager to assist you in making your way. You are in good company!

Auxiliary Services — Mail

Can I keep my mailbox over the summer?

Sorry, boxes cannot be held for students who have graduated.

How long will you forward my mail?

Mail will be forwarded for one year. Be sure you email the Alumnae Association your updated if your address changes at ais@mtholyoke.edu, or online at alumnae.mtholyoke.edu or (413) 538-2303. Hint: Please check your mailbox on Thursday or Friday of Commencement Weekend, even if you were not here spring semester. Honors notifications and other welcome correspondence just might be there.

What do I do with my mailbox key?

After you have made a final check of your mailbox, place your key along with a note stating your name and mailbox number in an envelope addressed to Mail Services. The envelope may be dropped at any campus mail pickup location (department offices), the mail drops in Blanchard, or left at the front desk of Mail Services (located in the Central Services Complex).

Residential Life

When do I have to vacate my room?

All rooms must be vacated by noon on Monday, May 22. Keys should be returned in a labeled envelope to the key box outside of the Residential Life Office at 1 Safford Hall.

When will Residential Life be open?

The Office of Residential Life will be open on Monday 9:00 am—1:00 pm for any questions or concerns. Seniors who do not return their room keys by June 5 will be assessed a lock change and key replacement fees.

How can I obtain my belongings from the trunk room?
The trunk rooms are unlocked and open on May 1 and will remain unlocked until May 22 at noon.

*Can I store my belongings in the trunk room over the summer?*

No, graduating seniors are not allowed to store any belongings in the trunk room following Commencement. Any item remaining in the trunk rooms after May 22 at noon, is assumed abandoned and will be removed and disposed.

**Assistance**

**Whom do I contact if I need assistance?**

Please contact Susan Martin in the President's Office at (413) 538-2663 or at smartin@mtholyoke.edu.