

# Mount Holyoke College

## Mount Holyoke's Mission

Mount Holyoke's mission is to provide an intellectually adventurous education in the liberal arts and sciences through academic programs recognized internationally for their excellence and range; to draw students from all backgrounds into an exceptionally diverse and inclusive learning community with a highly accomplished, committed and responsive faculty and staff; to continue building on the College's historic legacy of leadership in the education of women; and to prepare students, through a liberal education integrating curriculum and careers, for lives of thoughtful, effective, and purposeful engagement in the world.

— Adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees, May 2013

## 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  
[mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/academic-honor-board](http://mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/academic-honor-board)

## The Mount Holyoke Community

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 and civil discourse. An individual's right to free speech, free movement, free association, peaceful assembly and orderly protest extends to every member of the College. So does an individual's responsibility to uphold the law and to respect the rights and feelings of others.

The goal for the 21st century must be to build a community of faculty, staff and students devoted to intellectual and creative freedom, critical inquiry, personal honor, ethical discernment and responsibility. The College encourages openness and candor, dialogue and debate, and the creative engagement of all constituencies in building a genuine community. A college does not become a community by so naming itself. Community is a dynamic condition, difficult and necessary to achieve, reached by active synthesis, by the consensus of free wills and free intelligences agreeing to pursue

objectives in common, in an atmosphere of general empathy, forbearance, respect and trust. When such conditions prevail, there should be little occasion for coercion or violence, bias and discrimination or for punitive response, and the very occurrence of such actions suggests that the community has failed, at least for the time, to achieve its common purposes. Ultimately, the quality of life in the College is the property of the conscience of all its members.

### **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.

### **Statement of Nondiscrimination**

Mount Holyoke is committed both to its historic mission as a women's college and to providing access to talented students from all backgrounds. The diversity within our students, staff, faculty and curricula is a point of pride and a hallmark of the institution. The framework for our commitment to diversity sits within our active prohibition of discrimination in our educational policies, employment, campus services and activities on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national/ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran/uniform status and all other classifications protected by law. This same principle applies to admission to our graduate and extension programs.

With respect to admission to our undergraduate degree program, Mount Holyoke admits qualified women without regard to age, color, creed, disability, national/ethnic origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran/uniform status.

— Approved by the Board of Trustees, fall 2015

### **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 Auxiliary Services.

### **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 in locations including on the College website, in printed publications, on social media or in broadcasts. Students are responsible for notifying the Mount Holyoke's Office of Communications and Marketing in writing if they do not wish their images or recordings used by the College in any capacity.