ABOUT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Chemist and educator Mary Lyon founded Mount Holyoke College (then called Mount Holyoke Female Seminary) in 1837, nearly a century before women gained the right to vote. The first of the Seven Sisters—the female equivalent of the once predominantly male Ivy League—Mount Holyoke offered a rigorous program of study at a time when higher education for women was a revolutionary idea. The school quickly became synonymous with academic excellence and brilliant teaching and became a model for many other women’s colleges. In 1893, the seminary curriculum was phased out and the institution’s name was changed to Mount Holyoke College.

Today, Mount Holyoke is a highly selective, nondenominational, not-for-profit, residential, independent, research liberal arts college for women located in the Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts. The College’s 2,236 undergraduate students hail from 46 states and 49 countries. Twenty-seven percent of undergraduate students are international citizens. Twenty-five percent of domestic students identify as African American, Asian American, Latina, Native American or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or multiracial. Its 212 continuing full-time and part-time instructional faculty are devoted to undergraduate teaching and cutting-edge research. Over half of the faculty are women; a quarter are individuals of color; over half speak a language other than English and over a quarter earned a degree from an institution abroad. With a student-faculty ratio of 9 to 1 and with most classes averaging 10-19 students, faculty and students collaborate closely on academic course work and research.

The College operates on a semester calendar, with an optional January Intersession offering to undergraduates opportunities for research, independent study, projects of students’ own choice, travel, internships, and study.

The College’s Professional and Graduate Education program offers graduate degree programs and non-degree opportunities for study at the graduate level. 109 graduate students are enrolled in master’s degree programs; additional non-matriculated graduate students enroll in graduate-level courses throughout the year. Graduate programs follow the semester calendar, supplemented by a January term and a summer term comprised of two primary summer session periods.

Mary Lyon’s famous words—“Go where no one else will go, do what no one else will do”—continue to inspire the College’s students and its 38,200 living alumnae. By offering a distinctive combination of a rigorous liberal arts education, an unusually diverse and international community, a lifelong global network, and a legacy of educating leaders, Mount Holyoke is powerfully positioned to graduate women who will be successful and contribute to a better world.

Mission of the College

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.

Accreditation

Mount Holyoke College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., through its New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). This accreditation was approved in 2018 for continuation.

Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the New England Association should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact: New England Commission of Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, 3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100, Burlington, MA 01803-4514, email: cihe@neasc.org.

Facilities

Mount Holyoke College’s 600-acre contiguous campus is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful in the nation with its neo-Gothic buildings, spacious greens, two small lakes, and a magnificent tree canopy. It is home to more than 40 academic buildings and residence halls. The main campus is an arboretum with a diverse collection of trees and shrubs, while a nature preserve spans more than 300 acres and serves as a “living lab” for the community.

The College celebrated the grand opening of the College’s new Community Center in Fall 2018, a $50-million expansion and enhancement of the Blanchard Campus Center. The Community Center features the Dining Commons, a 34,000-square-foot one-story addition which serves as the campus’ centralized dining facility. Other components of the Community Center include a concert venue, a student art gallery, a student-life hub with offices for advising, residential life, student government, diversity programming, and religious life, a pub and grab-and-go store, and the Weissman Student Commons which serves as a base for Mount Holyoke’s 100+ student organizations.

Sustainability is a top priority at Mount Holyoke College. The College has set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2037, the College’s 200th anniversary. Mount Holyoke is committee to training the next generation of environmental leaders while also taking significant measures to reduce its own carbon footprint, improve the sustainability of its campus operations and foster a campus culture of sustainability. The new Dining Commons presented a leap forward in sustainable operations by consolidating six dining halls into one and featuring innovative energy-saving technologies and menus focused on locally-sourced food. The campus boasts five buildings certified through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program developed by the U.S. Green Building Council; these include one of the nation’s first LEED-certified science centers, the new Dining Commons built to silver LEED standards, and our newest residence hall, opened in 2008, which was awarded a Gold LEED certification. A photovoltaic array was installed on the Kendall Sports and Dance complex in November 2018 to generate...
and studios for dance, aerobics, yoga, and other activities. In 2007, the Kendall Sports and Dance Complex houses a swimming pool and a diving well, a gymnasium with basketball, volleyball, and badminton courts, a weight room and cardiovascular area, as well as a one-acre field house with indoor track and tennis courts, squash courts, racquetball courts, and studios for dance, aerobics, yoga, and other activities. In 2007, the College completed construction of a new track and field facility, featuring a multipurpose synthetic turf field with lights, surrounded by an eight-lane track with a nine-lane straightaway. In 2009, two new dance studios, a renovated dance performance theater and a renovated and expanded fitness center opened. In 2010, the College opened a new 4,750 square foot boathouse situated on the nearby Connecticut River. The equestrian center, one of the nation’s largest collegiate facilities, features a 69-stall barn, two indoor arenas, an outdoor show ring, a full cross country course, and a regulation-size dressage ring. Outdoor cross-country courses for riders cut through 120 acres of woods, fields, and streams. The Orchards, Mount Holyoke’s 18-hole championship golf course, was designed by the legendary Donald Ross and was the site of the 2004 U.S. Women’s Open.

Statement of Nondiscrimination
Mount Holyoke is committed both to its 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 professional and graduate education 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.