

Mount Holyoke College
Presidential Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues
Lesbian and Bisexual Alumnae Survey Results

Experiences At Mount Holyoke:

1. What activities were you involved in when you were a student at Mount Holyoke?
 - Academic focused clubs.....10.9%
 - Student Government/Leadership30.3%
 - Literary Activities.....16.5%
 - Arts.....35.2%
 - Athletics41.6%
 - Political Activities48.7%
 - Cultural/Religious groups32.2%
 - Community Service27.0%
 - Employment.....57.7%
 - Other.....17.6%
 - (responses to "other" included specific political, social, and academic activities)

2. During your time as a student at Mount Holyoke how would you describe the availability of social life for lesbians/bisexuals on campus?
 - Extensive 8.6% Nonexistent..... 24.0%
 - Satisfactory.....29.6% Unsure7.5%
 - Limited.....29.6%

3. How would you describe the availability of social life for lesbians/bisexuals off campus when you were a student at Mount Holyoke?
 - Extensive13.1% Nonexistent..... 14.6%
 - Satisfactory.....23.6% Unsure 24.0%
 - Limited.....24.0%

4. Were you aware of your sexual orientation while you were a student at Mount Holyoke?
 - Yes71.2%
 - No.....17.6% (these respondents skipped to #8)
 - Unsure.....10.5%

5. If you were aware of your sexual orientation as a student, did you feel comfortable being open about it on campus?
 - Yes39.1%
 - No.....21.8% (these respondents skipped to #8)
 - Sometimes.....35.5%

6. If you were open about your sexual orientation with some or all of the following groups of people, how would you describe your overall interactions with them while you were a student at Mount Holyoke?

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>No Interaction</u>	<u>Not Open</u>
Students in your dorm.....	36.1%	22.4%	11.4%	1.4%	1.8%
Students in your classes.....	22.8%	33.8%	5.5%	2.3%	10.0%
Faculty.....	33.3%	21.9%	0.9%	3.7%	15.1%
Staff.....	19.6%	23.3%	4.6%	7.8%	19.2%
Health Center (routine visit).....	16.9%	22.4%	5.0%	14.2%	16.4%
Health Center (counseling).....	19.2%	8.2%	7.8%	30.6%	8.7%
Public Safety Office.....	9.1%	11.9%	4.6%	38.4%	10.0%

7. How supportive were the following groups and departments on campus if you were open to them about your sexual orientation while you were a student?

	<u>Very Supportive</u>	<u>Somewhat Supportive</u>	<u>Not Supportive</u>	<u>No Interaction</u>
Organizations such as Lesbian Alliance, Lesbian Bisexual Alliance, SYSTA, Spectrum	38.4%	19.2%	2.7%	11.0%
Residential Life including Student Advisors, Hall Presidents, Head Residents	26.5%	28.3%	7.3%	11.4%
Counseling Services at the Health Center	15.1%	11.4%	7.3%	38.4%
Faculty and Staff	21.0%	32.0%	2.3%	14.6%

8. While you were a student, what services and opportunities do you wish were available that would have improved the quality of life for lesbians and bisexuals on campus? (See report for sampling of comments.)

9. Which of the following circumstances most accurately describes your relationship with your family during your time at Mount Holyoke?
 - Not out to your family because of possible financial repercussions.....6.4%
 - Not out to your family because of other reasons 48.7%
 - Out to your family and they continued financial support 34.5%
 - Out to your family and they withdrew financial support but you were able to remain at the College.....0.7%
 - Out to your family and they withdrew financial support to the extent that you had to leave the College.....0.0%

10. How did you feel about being open about your sexual orientation when you returned to campus for reunions or other events?
 - Comfortable.....43.4% Uncomfortable 8.6%
 - Somewhat comfortable24.3% Have not returned to campus21.3%

11. How do you view your affiliations with Mount Holyoke today? Please indicate the strength of your affiliations to the following:

	<u>Strong affiliation</u>	<u>Moderate affiliation</u>	<u>Weak affiliation</u>
To the College	65.5%	22.8%	10.1%
To your class.....	21.3%	35.2%	41.6%
To specific individuals in other classes	52.8%	24.3%	21.7%
To local alumnae in your area.....	6.0%	16.1%	74.2%

12. Among your philanthropic interests, where do you rank Mount Holyoke?
 - High..... 49.8% Middle26.2% Low 19.9%

13. Please feel free to share any experiences or comments with the Advisory Committee that you feel are important. (See report for sampling of comments.)

Life After Mount Holyoke:

14. What is the highest academic degree you have achieved?
 - Bachelor's.....34.1% (these respondents skipped to #16)
 - Master's39.0%
 - Ph.D., M.D., J.D., etc.....26.2%

15. If you were/are open about your sexual orientation in graduate or professional school, how did/do you find your experience?
 - Supportive.....15.0% Negative4.5%
 - Supportive in some areas/situations....20.6% Not open..... 16.1%
 - Neutral..... 5.6%

16. If you are currently employed, how would you best describe the workplace environment for you as a lesbian or bisexual?
 - Supportive.....37.8% Negative3.0%
 - Supportive in some areas/situations....23.6% Not out at workplace 16.9%
 - Neutral..... 4.9% Not currently employed.....8.2%
 - (respondents who are not currently employed skipped to #18)

17. If currently employed, how long have you been at your current job?
 - Less than one year.....19.5% Three to five years..... 10.5%
 - Two to three years.....27.0% Longer than five years 28.8%

Personal Information:

18. Mount Holyoke Class:
 - Prior to 1960..... 3.4% 1980-1989.....39.0%
 - 1960-1969.....13.1% 1990 and later.....25.5%
 - 1970-1979.....18.4%

19. Were you a Frances Perkins student?
 - Yes 3.0%

20. Please circle the age group that includes your age.
 - Under 25 9.4%
 - 25-34.....44.2%
 - 35-44.....23.6%
 - 45-54.....15.7%
 - 55-64..... 4.5%
 - 65+..... 1.9%