

Q & A about the Downtown Harvard Club and Holy Cross

What is the Downtown Harvard Club?

The Downtown Harvard Club in Boston sits high atop the 38th Floor of One Federal Street in the financial district of Boston.. It is primarily a dining and function Club, but there are numerous amenities available that are described below and some limited privileges at the main Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue as described in the enclosed letter.

Why would Holy Cross people want to be part of the Harvard Club?

Since opening the Downtown Club up to Holy Cross membership, about 200 of our classmates and friends have joined. The location is as prime as you can get in downtown Boston with views of the Boston Harbor, the State House, and Boston Common. It will be available for breakfast, lunch, drinks, and dinner every weekday. There is a Member's Pub and several attractive function rooms are available for personal, business, or Holy Cross related functions.

Why is Holy Cross interested in this?

Holy Cross has several reasons to be interested. Having a specific location like this has helped Holy Cross build attendance for some of its activities. Our monthly Alumni luncheons are hosted there on the 1st Wednesday of the month, for instance. It also benefits the College to have a focal point for some of its Boston functions. Finally, an opportunity like this also helps graduates to network and to tighten bonds between classes and graduates across different classes.

But it's the Harvard Club, not the Holy Cross Club...won't we be out of place?

While the rug is crimson and there is Harvard memorabilia scattered around the Club, there are no secret passwords or castes among the membership. Holy Cross members aren't distinguishable from any other members at the Downtown Club. We'll have full use of the facilities that will function like any exclusive private club – a golf club, yacht club, etc. On any given day there are Holy Cross people scattered through out the Club. We have a Holy Cross representative on the Downtown House Committee. It's our club, too.

Why not our own Club?

Boston College, with more than four times as many alumni as we have in the area, worked for 10 years to make their club a go and they have the advantage of also serving as the caterers for Fleet Bank's executive dining rooms. BU started one of their own at the old Bay Tower room but it is "lunch only" and is only possible with big subsidies from the University. We do not have a critical mass of graduates that could justify our "own" physical club.

What type of people join a club like this?

Based on the experience of the Boston College Club, the Harvard Club, and our own experience, we think this club will attract more than just downtown business people. These Clubs have many suburban members who come in to the Club for breakfast, dinner, family events, or functions. Many make use of the Reciprocal Club network, too. Members don't have to be weekly or even monthly users to get good value out of their membership.

What is the Reciprocal Club network?

The Harvard Club will be permitting Holy Cross members to make use of its extensive Reciprocal Club Network. This network involves more than 125 clubs in 27 states and 18 foreign countries. Members have the ability to use each of these clubs as their own when they visit these cities. Many have overnight rooms and fine dining; some have athletic facilities. All are available to Club

members with a “card of introduction” available for a \$10 administrative fee for each club you are visiting. Examples of clubs in the network include the New York Athletic Club, University Clubs in New York & Chicago, the Army Navy Club in DC, the Union League in Philadelphia, the Oxford & Cambridge Club in London, the Paris Country Club, and even the Lanam Club in Andover, MA.

How does the Club Quarters Suites affiliation work?

The Harvard Club has an affiliation with Club Quarters, a collection of 11 private “business” hotels in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, London, and Boston. The Boston club is on Devonshire Street, next to the Downtown Club. Through Harvard’s affiliation Downtown Club members can book rooms in Club Quarters at member rates. These rates are very favorable during the week and even better on weekends. More information is available at www.clubquarters.com.

What are the dues?

Downtown members have a choice of two dues plans: they can pay annual dues of \$888 (payable annually, semi-annually or quarterly or they can choose the new “dues with minimums” plan where monthly dues are just \$28 and members commit to spend at least \$200 per quarter at the Club. Virtually everything (except private functions) counts toward the minimum). There is also a one time initiation fee of \$400. Spouses can use each other’s membership, and members are issued Guest Cards that allow friends, family members and business associates to use the Club in the Member’s absence. The dues are about half what dues are for full-fledged Harvard Club members who have access to both clubhouses.

Why does the Harvard Club want us?

Having taken the plunge on a new lease and undertaken the \$2 million renovation, the Harvard Club is interested in increasing the usage of their facility. Holy Cross is just the right size for a partnership. We have 6,000 or so alumni in Eastern Massachusetts and about 1,500 or so live or work close to downtown Boston. They don’t want to open this opportunity up to just any college or group, but Holy Cross and Harvard have a long tradition of interaction on the athletic fields. And so far the partnership is working well. Our members are among the most active users of the Downtown facility.

How do I join?

You can go to www.harvardclub.com and click on the Become a Member link on the bottom of the home page.