

---

# Athletics

---

## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Athletics Department of the College of the Holy Cross is to promote the intellectual, physical, and moral development of students. Through Division I athletic participation, our young men and women student-athletes learn a self-discipline that has both present and long-term effects: the interplay of individual and team effort; pride and self-esteem in both victory and defeat; a skillful management of time; personal endurance and courage; and the complex relationships between friendship, leadership, and service. Our athletics program, in the words of the College Mission Statement, calls for “a community marked by freedom, mutual respect, and civility.”

Besides teaching these virtues, a few sports played at Holy Cross have the added value of focusing alumni and student support and enhancing our reputation locally and nationally. While Holy Cross continues to commit itself to accomplishment in these sports, which are a rich part of our tradition, we choose to do so in a way that complements the pursuit of academic excellence.

Holy Cross is committed to the guiding principles of the Patriot League, of which we are a founding member: presidential control of athletics; the cultivation of the ideal scholar-athlete; and participation in a wide variety of sports. Commitment to the last principle assures that the College sponsors, in a very evident way, gender equity.

The Department of Athletics is also committed to compliance with all College policies and regulations involved in Division I membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC). As a member of the NCAA, Holy Cross also advocates student-athlete welfare, diversity, gender equity, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct in its athletic programs.

## Intercollegiate Sports

Sponsoring a comprehensive athletic program at the NCAA Division I level, the College has 27 varsity athletic teams. Intercollegiate sports for men are baseball, basketball, crew, cross country, football, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, and indoor and outdoor track and field. Crusader women compete in basketball, crew, cross country, field hockey, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, and volleyball. A charter member of the Patriot League, Holy Cross competes with American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Lafayette, Lehigh, and Navy in conference play. In non-league competition, the Crusaders face numerous top Division I programs, including many opponents from the Ivy League, Big East, and America East Conference. The Men's Ice Hockey team is a member of the Atlantic Hockey Association. The Women's Golf team is a member of the Big South Conference.

## Facilities

The College's athletic fields are superbly maintained by its award-winning grounds staff. The football stadium seats 23,500. A lighted Astro-turf field is surrounded by an eight-lane running track. Baseball and softball fields are located on the lower campus. Construction of a 3,000-seat baseball stadium was completed in spring 2005. A soccer facility seating 1,250 became available for play in fall 2006. In 2009, the College debuted its newest field, a synthetic turf facility used by the Football and Lacrosse teams. The all-weather, state-of-the-art facility, complete with lights, has a seating capacity of 1,290.

The Hart Recreation Center serves as home to the Crusader Basketball, Swimming and Diving, and Hockey teams. In addition to the 4,000-seat basketball arena, 1,200-seat ice rink, and six-lane swimming pool with a separate diving area, the Hart Center features squash and racquetball courts, locker and shower facilities, exercise equipment and a rowing practice tank. Located within the Hart Center is a state-of-the-art wellness center, which includes a specialized strength and conditioning facility for varsity student-athletes, as well as aerobic equipment and workout areas for the general student body.

The fieldhouse serves as the home of the Crusader Volleyball team, which plays and practices on a Response Sport Court, installed in 2010. For general use, the fieldhouse has a tartan surface and contains basketball and volleyball courts, a running track, and locker rooms. The fieldhouse also serves as a practice site for several teams and clubs.

The Men's and Women's Crew teams have the good fortune of rowing on Lake Quinsigamond, scene for many years of the Eastern Sprints rowing regatta and considered one of the world's finest venues for crew. The lake also serves as the home port for the sailing club.