

Student Life

Residence Life and Housing

As a residential college, much of the campus life at Holy Cross is centered on the residence halls. Residence life is designed to complement and enhance the in-class learning experience. The halls are supervised by professional live-in staff members, Student Resident Directors, and Resident Assistants (RAs). Resident assistants are students who are selected for their maturity, responsibility and leadership qualities.

Many learning opportunities occur in the residence halls. The RAs coordinate a wide variety of social, educational and cultural programs. Additionally, a budget is allotted to each residence hall, allowing the elected house council members to coordinate programs and activities. Some faculty members affiliate with residence halls to enhance student-faculty relationships on a more informal level. Faculty may attend hall activities or plan off-campus outings. Other activities, such as informal get togethers, cookouts, intramural games, as well as other more spontaneous activities, have proven to be successful and enjoyable ways to build residence hall communities.

To assist in forming a positive living-learning community, each resident is expected to respect the rights of others, respect the physical environment and uphold the values of the College. An atmosphere of friendly cooperation and mutual consideration assures that the halls will be enjoyable places to live and learn.

Orientation and Leadership

New students and parents are introduced to the college at our Summer Gateways Orientation program in June. Students have the chance to meet classmates, their Class Dean, faculty, and administrators of the college. They meet with an advisor regarding course selection and become acquainted with many resources. A special program for parents includes introductions as well as topic presentations.

Students return to campus on move-in day and participate in a more comprehensive 3 ½ day orientation that addresses academic and cocurricular interests.

Leadership is a significant component of the student life experience. Opportunities for skill enhancement, self reflection, and competency development are offered throughout the year in cooperation with faculty and other administrative offices.

Student Programs and Involvement

Holy Cross offers a wide variety of student activities, co-curricular opportunities, leadership experiences, cultural events, and formal and informal entertainment that not only provides a respite from the rigors of academic life, but also encourages individual creativity, intellectual development, and an awareness of issues confronting society. Cocurricular involvement has long been considered an integral part of the College and all students are encouraged to participate in the wide range of clubs, organizations, events, and activities available.

There are over 120 student clubs and organizations devoted to academic pursuits, special interest activities, recreation, service, print and broadcast media and performing arts. Most student activities are financed through the student activities fee, which is allocated by the Senate Budget Committee, a sub-committee of the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate. The central representative body of Holy Cross students, SGA consists of elected officers and students who are appointed to serve on various student-faculty and student committees, as well as active College committees.

Events

Many organizations contribute to the planning and presentation of major speakers, social events, symposia, and other activities that range from the intellectually stimulating to the purely entertaining.

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) plays a major role in arranging for the appearance of prominent speakers. Major events in recent years sponsored by CAB and other organizations have included speeches by Judy Shepard, Arun Ghandi, and Holy Cross alum Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

The 11 Multicultural Student Organizations (MSOs) on campus contribute to the diverse entertainment offered. From traditional cultural performances to speakers and open discussions, MSOs encourage conversation and provide opportunities to experience their cultures.

Some of the student performance groups on campus include the Dance Ensemble, Alternative College Theatre, Instant Mayhem (student improvisation group), and the Student Musician Coalition.