

# First-Generation Student Success

*Maximizing your Holy Cross journey!*



## Welcome and Hello!

My name is Nikeitha Hallman and I am a graduating student in the Class of 2019. I am a sociology major with minors in Africana Studies and Education. As I reflect on my senior year, I look back to where my journey started.

Coming into Holy Cross my first year, I started my journey in the Odyssey orientation program. From there, I met other students who, like me, came from low-income backgrounds, were diverse in culture, and were first-generation college students. All those qualities were very important to my identity. Finding people on campus who shared some of those experiences and identities was a blessing. Having that foundation made my social transition to Holy Cross amazing!

Of course, there is more to college than just having fun - I struggled. That is normal! Instead of letting one bad grade get the best of me, I went to Academic Services and Learning Resources, where I was given a personal tutor, appointments in academic workshops, and one-on-one advice. From then, I always went to office hours to ask professors to look over my papers, talk through concepts, and just to check in on my progress and wellbeing. Once I felt fully acclimated socially and academically, I started to dip my feet in the world of extracurricular activities.

I started my first year on the Holy Cross cheer team, member of Black Student Union and the Caribbean African Student Assemblage, and a Dining Services worker. After that, I became more involved in giving back to the Holy Cross community.

By the time I graduate, I will have served for two years as a Resident Assistant in the first-year area, two years as an orientation leader, four years with Community Based Learning assignments, two years tutoring in the Worcester Public Schools, one year as a peer mentor, one year on the Student Government Association and obtained positions working in six departments across campus. After I graduate I plan on staying very connected to Holy Cross. I have met some amazing professors, students, and staff. Hopefully, Holy Cross is the first step in my journey through the field of education. I plan on obtaining a Ph.D. in education. One day, you will see me as the Secretary of Education and know that once you're at Holy Cross, you can be and do anything!

This resource booklet did not exist when I attended Holy Cross but it is a great way to learn how to advocate for yourself. Take advantage of every opportunity HC has to offer by speaking up and speaking out. Hopefully, by the time you are a senior you will be more knowledgeable and contributing to this booklet as well.

Have a great year and good luck!

Nikeitha Hallman  
Class of 2019  
[njhall19@g.holycross.edu](mailto:njhall19@g.holycross.edu)



**DEPARTMENT**  
Office of Financial Aid

**DEPARTMENT**  
Office of Multicultural Education

**Description**

Financial Aid Awareness Month is held in October each year. Experts from the Office of Financial Aid offer help sessions to assist students with completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS Profile (online financial aid applications) for the next academic year. Sessions are held on various days and times throughout the month. For 2020, all sessions will be held virtually. Students are encouraged to begin the FAFSA and CSS Profile prior to attending a session so that they can be better served. Participants should have with them all necessary tax documents to complete the applications.

**Contact Person**

Christa Gilmore, *Associate Director of Financial Aid*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**  
Yes

**Office Location**  
Hogan 314

**Contact Email**  
[cgilmore@holycross.edu](mailto:cgilmore@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**  
Fall

**Description**

This event encourages students to engage with faculty and staff based on similar lived experiences. OME hosts the #FirstGenCollegeGrad campaign, to help First-Generation college students on our campus easily identify faculty and staff who are able to help guide them through their time on campus. The purpose is to encourage participants to take time to converse and share stories with each other about the First-Generation experience at the College of the Holy Cross.

This campaign will include a pin to be worn the first week of classes. All participants will receive a pin, bookmark with tips to help students, and a booklet of resources. The campaign will also consist of decals posted on office doors or laptops, signifying faculty and staff who are willing to help answer questions or provide support.

**Contact Person**

Amie Archambault, *Assistant Director & LGBTQIA+ Specialist*  
*Office of Multicultural Education*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**  
Yes

**Office Location**  
Hogan 109

**Contact Email**  
[firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu](mailto:firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**  
Fall, Spring



## HCF1RST Mentor Network

### **DEPARTMENT**

Office of Multicultural Education

### **Description**

One great tool for success is finding a mentor to help you navigate your time in college and beyond. The HCF1RST Mentor Network is a collection of first-generation identifying faculty and staff or those who identify as allies to the community. A list of HCF1RST Mentors can be found on the [First-gen website](#).

### **Contact Person**

Amie Archambault, *Assistant Director & LGBTQIA+ Specialist*  
*Office of Multicultural Education*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Hogan 109

**Contact Email**

[firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu](mailto:firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Fall, Spring

## HCF1RST Mentor Dinners

### **DEPARTMENT**

Office of Multicultural Education

### **Description**

This event encourages participants to take time to converse and share stories with each other about the First-Generation experience at the College of the Holy Cross. This conversation includes perspectives from students, staff, faculty, and community members who are passionate about the success of our First-Generation college students. Each dinner focuses on a new topic from the First-Generation experience and community is build over dinner.

### **Contact Person**

Amie Archambault, *Assistant Director & LGBTQIA+ Specialist*  
*Office of Multicultural Education*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Hogan 109

**Contact Email**

[firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu](mailto:firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Fall, Spring



**DEPARTMENT**

[Office of Multicultural Education](#)

**DEPARTMENT**

[Office of Multicultural Education](#)

**Description**

Odyssey is a one-week summer program for first-year students who are First-Generation to college, people of color, or eligible for the Pell Grant. Odyssey helps incoming students build relationships with fellow students, faculty and administrators, and familiarizes them with campus resources and the local communities.

**Description**

The newsletter provides communication to students and their families about the programs and events happening at Holy Cross affecting First-Generation college students. This initiative bridges the gap between family engagement and the student's campus experience as a First-Generation college student.

**Contact Person**

Michelle Rosa Martins Director, *Office of Multicultural Education*

**Contact Person**

Amie Archambault, *Assistant Director & LGBTQIA+ Specialist*  
*Office of Multicultural Education*

Is the contact person First-Gen?

Yes

Office Location

Hogan 109

Is the contact person First-Gen?

Yes

Office Location

Hogan 109

Contact Email

[mrosa@holycross.edu](mailto:mrosa@holycross.edu)

When does it take place?

Summer

Contact Email

[firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu](mailto:firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu)

When does it take place?

All year/Ongoing



## The Mentor Program

### DEPARTMENT

Academic Services and Learning Resources  
and the Office of Multicultural Education

### Description

The Mentor Program is designed to support first-year students who are first-generation to college, people of color, and participants of Passport in their transition from high school to Holy Cross. A broad group of mentors can help define a truly exceptional academic experience for students. Groups of about five students are matched with a peer mentor for ongoing conversation, advice and friendship during their first year.

### Contact Person

Justine Fisher & Chris Campbell,  
*Co-Directors of the Mentor Program*

### Contact Email

[thementorprogram@holycross.edu](mailto:thementorprogram@holycross.edu)

### Office Location

Dinand 204/Hogan 109

### When does it take place?

Fall, Spring



## Peer Assisted Learning (PAL)

### DEPARTMENT

Academic Services and Learning Resources

### Description

PAL is a series of free, collaborative twice-weekly review sessions open to all students enrolled in CHEM 181: Atoms & Molecules, and CHEM 221: Organic Chemistry 1.

The sessions are led by Peer Assistance Leaders (PALs), strong chemistry students who have previously taken and succeeded in the course. PALs will help answer questions about course material and encourage work with other students to practice learning strategies designed to encourage success in chemistry.

### Contact Person

Haneen Jaara,  
*Assistant Director of Academic Services and Learning Resources*

### Is the contact person First-Gen?

Yes

### Office Location

Dinand 204

### Contact Email

[peertutoring@holycross.edu](mailto:peertutoring@holycross.edu)

### When does it take place?

Fall, Spring

**DEPARTMENT**

[Academic Services and Learning Resources](#)

**DEPARTMENT**

[Academic Services and Learning Resources](#)

**Description**

The STEM+E Tutoring Workshop is a peer-based tutoring program designed to provide one-on-one assistance and small-group support to Holy Cross students in intro and upper level scientific and quantitative courses, including accounting, biology, chemistry, economics, mathematics and computer sciences, physics and psychology. Peer tutors assist in several ways, including explaining conceptual material, guiding students on how to solve problems, and providing independent learning strategies.

- The workshop runs as a drop-in and appointment based service
- Students are welcome to walk in or join the waiting list at any time
- STEM+E Sessions last 40 minutes

Students can sign up for appointments online via [www.holycross.mywconline.com](http://www.holycross.mywconline.com)

**Peer tutors are available in:**

Dinand Library 205  
Sundays – Thursdays  
6 – 9 p.m.

**Contact Person**

Haneen Jaara,  
*Assistant Director of Academic Services and Learning Resources*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Dinand 204

**Contact Email**

[peertutoring@holycross.edu](mailto:peertutoring@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Fall, Spring

**Description**

Passport is an academic program designed to assist promising first-year students in their transition from high school to College of the Holy Cross. Admission to the program is limited to invited students only and is free of charge.

**Contact Person**

Justine Fisher,  
*Associate Director of Academic Services and Learning Resources*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**Office Location**

Dinand Library 204

**Contact Email**

[passport@holycross.edu](mailto:passport@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Summer, Fall, January Retreat



**DEPARTMENT**

[Academic Services and Learning Resources](#)

**DEPARTMENT**

[Academic Services and Learning Resources](#)

**Description**

All Holy Cross students are welcome to engage with Academic Services and Learning Resources for individual learning assistance. Professional staff members assist students with the various academic challenges and transitions they may encounter throughout their undergraduate journey. During one-on-one appointments, students engage in a collaborative process of developing a personalized performance-enhancing plan. Students learn to set academic goals, manage their time effectively, improve their study habits, and learn about different Holy Cross resources. Teaching students to embrace a growth mindset, ASLR empowers students and helps them commit to their academic and personal goals. Students leave advising appointments with concrete action steps and strategies to use moving forward.

**Contact Person**

Kelly Saintelus, *Director of Academic Services and Learning Resources*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Contact Email**

[academicservices@holycross.edu](mailto:academicservices@holycross.edu)

**Office Location**

Dinand 204

**Is there a cost?**

No

**When does it take place?**

Fall, Spring

**Description**

Academic Services and Learning Resources offers a variety of free academic skill building workshops. Workshop topics include time management, note taking, study habits, group projects, reading strategies, and more. The complete schedule as well as a description of each workshop can be found at [holycross.edu/ASLR](http://holycross.edu/ASLR). All workshops are free and open to all Holy Cross students.

**Contact Person**

Kelly Saintelus, *Director of Academic Services and Learning Resources*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Contact Email**

[academicservices@holycross.edu](mailto:academicservices@holycross.edu)

**Office Location**

Dinand 204

**Is there a cost?**

No

**When does it take place?**

Fall, Spring

## The Writer's Workshop

### DEPARTMENT

The Center for Writing

#### Description

The Writer's Workshop supports students' development as writers and communicators at any stage of the writing process as they write in any genre, and in any discipline. At the Writer's Workshop, Holy Cross students meet for 45 minutes with trained, peer consultants to talk about their progress as writers. Consultants guide students toward the path to becoming more confident writers by:

- discussing assignments
- brainstorming ideas
- creating outlines to organize and write a first draft
- improving organization and clarity of their already written drafts
- developing and better articulating their ideas from first to polished drafts

We take revision seriously and understand that writing and rewriting play a significant role in a liberal arts education. All writers, no matter their skill level, benefit from sustained conversations about their work. Consultants work with students on essays, seminar papers, lab reports, literature reviews, reflections, personal statements, and more. If a student is using words, we are ready to talk about it. Make an appointment at [holycross.mywcoline.com](http://holycross.mywcoline.com).

#### Contact Person

Professor Kristina Reardon

Is the contact person First-Gen?

No

Office Location

217 Dinand

Contact Email

[writersworkshop@g.holycross.edu](mailto:writersworkshop@g.holycross.edu)

When does it take place?

Fall, Spring

## Crusader Internship Fund

### DEPARTMENT

Center for Career Development

#### Description

The Crusader Internship Fund provides a stipend for students who secure unpaid summer internships. Last summer over 100 students received funding for internships in a variety of industries—nonprofits, government, communications, healthcare, business and the arts. Juniors and sophomores are eligible to receive funding once during their time at Holy Cross. Students apply for funding once they have secured an unpaid internship. Additional information is available in Handshake.

#### Contact Person

Katherine Sieminski, *Administrative Program Coordinator*

Is the contact person First-Gen?

No

Office Location

Hogan 203

Contact Email

[careers@holycross.edu](mailto:careers@holycross.edu)

When does it take place?

Fall, Spring



Alumni Mentoring Program (AMP)

**DEPARTMENT**

Center for Career Development

**Description**

The program offers First-Generation and students of color the opportunity to interact with and receive advice from Holy Cross alumni, those that came before them, based on career interests, industry interests and geography. The minimum commitment we ask is for the mentor and mentee to engage in at least three email communications before the end of the academic year, engage in at least three to five phone/skype/google hangout or in person conversations before the end of the academic year, and whenever possible, make a serious commitment to arrange to meet in person and engage face to face.

**Contact Person**

Shirley Konneh, *Assistant Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Hogan 203

**Contact Email**

skonneh@holycross.edu

**When does it take place?**

All year/Ongoing

Alumni Job Shadowing Program

**DEPARTMENT**

Center for Career Development

**Description**

The Alumni Job Shadowing Program is open to all class years (except first semester first-year students) and provides you with an opportunity to shadow an alumna/us in your career field of interest. Students are matched with Holy Cross alumni and spend ½-1 day shadowing during academic breaks.

**Contact Person**

Lauren O’Neill, *Assistant Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**Office Location**

Hogan 203

**Contact Email**

careers@holycross.edu

**When does it take place?**

Fall, Spring



**DEPARTMENT**

Center for Career Development

**DEPARTMENT**

Center for Career Development

**Description**

This is a unique one-day free event offered only to a small group of sophomores to help you consider where your academic passions, strengths, values and future goals can intersect in the world of work. The program will highlight various campus resources and opportunities that connect to your career goals, which you should take advantage of during your time at Holy Cross. Students who are interested in participating in the conference can reach out to Melisa Alves at any point during the fall semester.

**Contact Person**

Ben Cannon, *Associate Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Hogan 203

**Contact Email**

[bcannon@holycross.edu](mailto:bcannon@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Spring

**Description**

Career Communities connect students to specific, tailored industry resources and programs to effectively explore career paths, identify and apply to opportunities and cultivate personal networks that shape their professional journey. Students can log into Handshake to join one or more of the following career communities:

- Arts, Communications & Media
- Business, Consulting & Finance
- Education, Human Service & Nonprofit
- Government, International Affairs & Law
- Health Professions & Life Sciences
- Science, Technology & Engineering

**Contact Person**

Julie Draczynski, *Associate Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**Office Location**

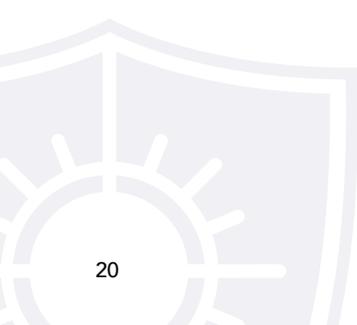
Hogan 203

**Contact Email**

[careers@holycross.edu](mailto:careers@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

All year/Ongoing



## Strong Interest Inventory

### DEPARTMENT

Center for Career Development

### Description

Are you not sure where to begin in the career development process? Are you curious about how your interests might align with careers and occupations? Stop into the Center for Career Development to talk to a counselor and complete the Strong Interest Inventory. This instrument looks at your interests and how those align with the interests of people in specific careers and occupations. It can provide you with a starting point to explore types of careers that you might enjoy!

### Contact Person

Noriah Nor, *Administrative Assistant - Center for Career Development*

### Is the contact person First-Gen?

No

### Office Location

Hogan 203

### Contact Email

[careers@holycross.edu](mailto:careers@holycross.edu)

### When does it take place?

All year/Ongoing



## Community-Based Learning Courses

### DEPARTMENT

Donelan Office of Community-Based Learning

### Description

Community-based learning (CBL) is a teaching approach that connects classroom learning objectives with civic engagement. Civic engagement occurs through service that meets community-identified needs or through research and experience that holds value to the community. In this mutually beneficial process, students are able to gain a deeper understanding of course content by integrating theory with practice, while communities gain access to volunteers, resources, and the wide-ranging research and scholarly expertise housed in the College's many disciplinary departments.

Two types of CBL courses exist: project-based (where students work in groups or as a whole class on a project that benefits the community) and placement-based (where students volunteer each week at a community-based organization). To enroll in a CBL course, students should simply add the course to their course backpack during enrollment period. A list of CBL courses is available on the CBL website and CBL courses are indicated as such in the registrar's list of courses.

### Contact Person

Michelle Sterk Barrett, *Director*  
Isabelle Jenkins, *Associate Director*

### Is the contact person First-Gen?

No

### Office Location

Smith 334

### Contact Email

[msbarret@holycross.edu](mailto:msbarret@holycross.edu)  
[ijenkins@holycross.edu](mailto:ijenkins@holycross.edu)

### When does it take place?

Fall, Spring

## Non-Profit Careers Conference

### DEPARTMENT

Donelan Office of Community-Based Learning

### Description

The annual Non-Profit Careers Conference is held in January (the week prior to classes beginning) for students considering careers in non-profit and community based organizations, activism, public service, and social change. The Non-Profit Careers Conference is a wonderful opportunity to build on your CBL experience, as it provides a window into the functioning of non-profits, the challenges non-profits may face, and the networks built in the non-profit world.

The workshop has three purposes:

- To introduce participants to the range of viable and diverse career options in the non-profit sector;
- To engage participants in reflection upon how they might utilize their unique skills in service to the broader society;
- To prepare participants to enter public service by providing experiences and skills helpful to them and their future organizations.

The program is taught by Holy Cross alumni, faculty and staff working within a non-profit or public service setting at the international, national, regional, and local levels. Housing and meals for the week-long conference are funded by the College. Over the course of the week, students will participate in workshops on various topics related to the non-profit sector, have the opportunity to meet alumni who are working in the non-profit sector at all levels (entry-level to senior management), reflect on their own gifts and career aspirations, and work in teams with a local non-profit agency on a case study. Through these experiences, students will leave the conference with a new network, new knowledge, and practical non-profit experience.

Students must apply to and be accepted into the conference to participate. Applications are available on the CBL website at the end of September and typically due at the beginning of November. Students from all course-years and majors are invited to apply and participate.

### Contact Person

Isabelle Jenkins, *Associate Director*

Ben Cannon, *Associate Director, Career Development*

Michelle Sterk Barrett, *Director*

Is the contact person First-Gen?  
No

### Contact Email

[ijenkins@holycross.edu](mailto:ijenkins@holycross.edu)

[bcannon@holycross.edu](mailto:bcannon@holycross.edu)

[msbarrett@holycross.edu](mailto:msbarrett@holycross.edu)

### Office Location

Smith 334 (CBL)

Hogan 203 (Career Development)

### When does it take place?

January



**DEPARTMENT**

[J.D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World](#)

**DEPARTMENT**

[J.D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World](#)

**Description**

The J.D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World is the central hub for experiential learning at Holy Cross. Whether it is an academic internship, a community-based learning course, funding for research, or funding for an independent project, each Holy Cross student should be looking for opportunities to move their education off campus, and to integrate the classroom with the global community. These experiences, especially for first-generation students, can have a profound impact on one's time at Holy Cross and beyond. Many programs offered by the Center, including the Washington Semester Program, the New York Semester Program, and the Weiss Summer Research Program, routinely provide some financial assistance or stipends to participants. Support for travel to internships in the Worcester area is provided through the Academic Internship Program. Staff in the J.D. Power Center are available for advising sessions, to help students identify which programs align most closely with their academic and professional goals.

**Contact Person**

Daniel Klinghard, *Director*  
Diane Girard, *Administrative Assistant*  
Chris Ricciardi, *Assistant Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**Office Location**

Smith 325

**Contact Email**

[dklingha@holycross.edu](mailto:dklingha@holycross.edu)  
[dgirard@holycross.edu](mailto:dgirard@holycross.edu)  
[ricciar@holycross.edu](mailto:ricciar@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

All year/Ongoing

**Description**

The nine-week Weiss Summer Research Program enables students to work closely alongside a mentor on their own research or to dive deep into a problem of their own devising. Although this is an ideal experience for students interested in pursuing graduate studies, it also provides valuable critical thinking skills, experience in planning and executing an extensive project, budgeting project expenses, teamwork, and written and oral skills — all experiences valued by employers in a variety of fields. And students develop real substantive expertise in ways that cannot be matched in the classroom. With over 100 students participating in summer research every year, Holy Cross is a national leader in providing undergraduate summer research opportunities. The program has three divisions: the Natural Sciences and Mathematics division; the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts division; and the Economics division.

**Contact Person**

Daniel Bitran, *Science Coordinator*  
Anthony Cashman, *Director of the Humanities, Social Sciences, & Arts Program*  
Melissa Boyle, *Economics Department Chair*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**Office Location**

Beaven 426 (Natural Sciences)  
Smith 333 (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts)

**Contact Email**

[dbitran@holycross.edu](mailto:dbitran@holycross.edu)  
[acashman@holycross.edu](mailto:acashman@holycross.edu)  
[mboyle@holycross.edu](mailto:mboyle@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Summer

**Is there a cost?**

There is no cost to participate; Summer Research Fellows are paid a weekly stipend and a housing stipend to cover their housing on campus. A modest meal plan is included.

The Washington Semester Program

**DEPARTMENT**

J.D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World

**Description**

The Washington Semester Program is a highly competitive, semester-long program offered in Washington, D.C., through Holy Cross. The program welcomes students from all disciplines to connect their academic learning with direct, professional experience in their major fields, providing them with dynamic opportunities for intellectual, personal and professional growth and development. Through the Washington Semester Program students have the opportunity to work with national leaders, engage in independent research, and live in the stimulating environment of Washington, D.C. Some financial assistance is provided to students with demonstrated need.

**Contact Person**

Gary DeAngelis, *Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**Office Location**

Smith 327

**Contact Email**

[gdeangel@holycross.edu](mailto:gdeangel@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Fall and Spring

The Semester Away Program

**DEPARTMENT**

J.D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World

**Description**

Through the Semester Away Program, students who wish to augment their studies with academic work not available at Holy Cross have the opportunity to apply to study for a semester or full academic year at another institution or fully accredited program in the United States and its territories or Canada. The Semester Away Program encourages applicants who are interested in participating in: special programs offered by other institutions; complimenting their program of study with courses not offered at Holy Cross; and experiencing a different social, cultural, or academic environment. Students have pursued studies in a wide variety of fields through this program, including architecture, urban planning, marine biology, film making, journalism, and engineering. In addition to proposals for study at institutions or fully accredited programs in the United States and Canada, proposals for specific environmental studies programs located outside of the U.S. are also considered.

**Contact Person**

Gary DeAngelis, *Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**Office Location**

Smith 326

**Contact Email**

[gdeangel@holycross.edu](mailto:gdeangel@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Fall and Spring

**DEPARTMENT**

J.D. Power Center for Liberal Arts in the World

**DEPARTMENT**

Office of Study Abroad

**Description**

The New York Semester Program is a highly competitive, semester-long program offered in New York City through Holy Cross. Students work and study in New York City, integrating the lessons they have learned in the classroom with their experiences in the greatest city in the world. The program welcomes students from all disciplines to connect their academic learning with direct, professional experience in their major fields, providing them with dynamic opportunities for intellectual, personal and professional growth and development. Through the New York Semester Program, students have the opportunity to work with cutting-edge firms in the areas of finance, marketing, the arts, and politics; engage in a collaborative capstone project with their peers; study principles of leadership; and live in the exciting environment of New York. Some financial assistance is provided to students with demonstrated need.

**Contact Person**

Alison Mangiero, *Director*

**Office Location**

Smith 327

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

No

**When does it take place?**

Fall and Spring

**Contact Email**

[amangier@holycross.edu](mailto:amangier@holycross.edu)

**Description**

The Study Abroad information sessions for HCF1RST will offer First-Generation college students the opportunity to learn about study abroad as well as to meet the staff and other First-Generation students who studied abroad. These sessions will be organized with the support and input from Study Abroad Ambassadors (HC students who studied abroad), who will share about their experiences, challenges and accomplishments (before, during and after) studying abroad. Topics will include finances, parents/family, academics, application procedures and more.

**Contact Person**

Jimena Collingwood

Chris Van Booven

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Smith Hall 217

**Contact Email**

[jcolling@holycross.edu](mailto:jcolling@holycross.edu)

[cvanboov@holycross.edu](mailto:cvanboov@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Fall, Spring

**Is there a cost?**

There is no cost to participate in the information sessions. However, this is not true for studying abroad.

Study Abroad is designed to be cost neutral, meaning, that you will pay Holy Cross Tuition, Room, and in some cases, Board or partial Board.

## Clifton Strengths

### DEPARTMENT

Office of Student Involvement

### Description

Clifton Strengths is a tool that provides students with the opportunity to develop strengths by building on what one does best – the way one most naturally, thinks, feels, and behaves as a unique individual. Taking the self-assessment allows you to discover your Top 5 Strengths. The Clifton Strengths system provides a variety of tools and resources that allow students to infuse their talents into their curricular, co-curricular, and even their vocational pursuits. A crucial aspect of Clifton Strengths at Holy Cross is participating in a workshop facilitated by a professional who is Strengths trained. These workshops provide students with the opportunities to more deeply explore their strengths, how they interact with one another, and how they can maximize their opportunities with at Holy Cross.

### Contact Person

Chris Holguin, *Associate Director*

### Is the contact person First-Gen?

Yes

### Contact Email

[cholguin@holycross.edu](mailto:cholguin@holycross.edu)

### Office Location

Hogan Campus Center 229

### When does it take place?

All year/Ongoing



**DEPARTMENT**  
[Office of Student Involvement](#)

**DEPARTMENT**  
HCAA

**Description**

The organization hopes to serve as a resource for first-generation and/or low-income college students, to educate the community at large about these aspects of society, to promote inclusion between all economic groups, and finally, to help perpetuate "a community marked by freedom, mutual respect, and civility", as stated in the Holy Cross Mission Statement.

**Contact Person**  
Patrick Rogers, *Assistant Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**  
Yes

**Contact Email**  
[progers@holycross.edu](mailto:progers@holycross.edu)

**Office Location**  
Hogan Campus Center 229

**When does it take place?**  
Fall, Spring

**Description**

This scholarship is awarded to two First-Generation seniors with the highest GPAs. There is no application process for this scholarship.

**Contact Person**  
Kristyn Dyer, *Director of Alumni Relations*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**      **Office Location**  
Yes      O'Kane 275

**Contact Email**  
[kdyer@holycross.edu](mailto:kdyer@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**  
Scholarship is awarded the summer prior to the students' senior year



**DEPARTMENT**

[The Office of Student Involvement](#)

**DEPARTMENT**

[The Office of Student Involvement](#)

**Description**

Gateways Summer Orientation will support you and your family in your transition to the College of the Holy Cross by introducing you to the academic, co-curricular, and spiritual identities of the College. For the Class of 2025, the program will be conducted virtually through a series of released modules, events, and student meetings. The program is an opportunity for families to learn more about what incoming students can expect of their Holy Cross education. In collaboration with other departments, we provide workshops and presentations to inform them about the various educational and co-curricular opportunities available to students and the responsibilities expected of them inside and outside of the classroom. We help students further understand what is unique about a Jesuit Catholic liberal arts education. In the Jesuit tradition, student leaders, faculty and staff share their personal stories and experiences to foster authentic connections and to demonstrate the college mission and to better prepare students and families for their transition.

**Contact Person**

Cathleen Doane Cannon, *Director of Orientation and Transition*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Hogan 229

**Contact Email**

[cdoane@holycross.edu](mailto:cdoane@holycross.edu)  
or [gateways@g.holycross.edu](mailto:gateways@g.holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Mid-June – July

**Is there a cost?**

Typically, there is a fee for students and/or parents/guardians who attend. The cost is to cover program expenses, however there is financial aid available. Contact [gateways@g.holycross.edu](mailto:gateways@g.holycross.edu) for more information.

\*For the summer of 2021 there is no cost

**Description**

The four-day Gateways Fall Orientation program assists new students in their transition to the Holy Cross community – to the academic, spiritual and co-curricular experience of the college. Through the work of orientation leaders and resident assistants, the program welcomes and connects students to residential living. It is an opportunity to connect with members of your floor and building community including the residence life staff living in your community. Fall Orientation offers a wide variety of academic, spiritual, community-building, and social programs and entails everything a Crusader needs during this crucial transition time. During Fall Orientation, you will get the chance to meet staff, faculty, administration, and most importantly your fellow classmates.

**Contact Person**

Cathleen Doane Cannon, *Director of Orientation and Transition*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Hogan 229

**Contact Email**

[cdoane@holycross.edu](mailto:cdoane@holycross.edu)  
or [gateways@g.holycross.edu](mailto:gateways@g.holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Fall: *begins with move-in day in late August and concludes the day before classes start*



## Family Weekend

### DEPARTMENT

The Office of Student Involvement

### Description

Family Weekend is a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents and siblings to see and learn about life at Holy Cross. Family Weekend provides a chance for families to witness life on the Hill through a variety of opportunities to participate in student life, connect with other families, and experience the Holy Cross community. Weekend highlights include athletic events, Family Weekend Mass, It's a Family Affair Brunch, faculty workshops, Happenings on the Hoval, and An Evening of A Cappella Music.

### Contact Person

Cathleen Doane Cannon,  
*Senior Associate Director in the Office of Student Involvement*

### Is the contact person First-Gen?

Yes

### Office Location

Hogan 229

### Contact Email

[cdoane@holycross.edu](mailto:cdoane@holycross.edu)

### When does it take place?

Fall: *late October*

### Is there a cost?

No

## Co-Curricular Extravaganza

### DEPARTMENT

The Office of Student Involvement

### Description

Holy Cross students are known for becoming — and staying — involved in campus life. The Co-Curricular Extravaganza is an browsing fair designed for students to get a sense of the more than 100 clubs and organizations you can get involved in. The Extravaganza happens in mid September and is your opportunity to sign-up for those organizations you are most interested in.

### Contact Person

Purple Key Society

### Is the contact person First-Gen?

Yes

### Office Location

Hogan 229

### Contact Email

[pks@g.holycross.edu](mailto:pks@g.holycross.edu)

### When does it take place?

Mid-September



Perspectives Program

**DEPARTMENT**  
Admission

**Description**

Perspectives is an overnight, weekend program for high school seniors from diverse backgrounds. This program is designed for culturally aware students who are intellectually curious and are potentially interested in exploring higher education at a Jesuit, liberal arts college. The Perspectives program provides a chance to explore the diverse environment Holy Cross has to offer, spend two nights in a residence hall with a current student, and explore the academic and social environment on campus.

**Contact Person**

Rachel Chenette, *Assistant Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Fenwick 105

**Contact Email**

[rchenett@holycross.edu](mailto:rchenett@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Late Fall

Visions Program Weekend

**DEPARTMENT**  
Admission

**Description**

There are many qualities that make the undergraduate Jesuit journey at Holy Cross special. The Visions overnight program gives admitted students an opportunity to explore the diversity on campus from our undergraduate community to the classroom. Students will engage in thoughtful conversations with professors, current students, and other admitted students while staying on campus and attending class!

**Contact Person**

Rachel Chenette, *Assistant Director*

**Is the contact person First-Gen?**

Yes

**Office Location**

Fenwick 105

**Contact Email**

[rchenett@holycross.edu](mailto:rchenett@holycross.edu)

**When does it take place?**

Mid April



## Working On The Hill

### Work-Study

Federal Work-Study is a federally subsidized employment program in which eligible students are placed in part-time jobs on campus. If you're awarded a work-study authorization as part of your financial aid package, you could earn as much as \$1,800 during your first year.

### How Does It Work?

You'll be paid directly on a weekly basis for the hours you've worked. These funds are not deposited in your student account to reduce direct charges, tuition, room and board or fees. They are intended to help defray your indirect costs, such as personal expenses, travel and books.

Although wages from work-study are not deductible from your semester bill, you may arrange with the Bursar to use weekly earnings in partial payment of direct semester charges. You may also arrange for your work-study wages to be deposited directly into your personal checking account.

First-year students eligible for Federal Work-Study are placed in Dining Services. However, upperclass students may obtain a work-study position in any number of capacities across campus. All student employment opportunities are posted on the Human Resources website. There are also additional opportunities to work in off-campus community service jobs as approved by the Office of Government and Community Relations.

### Government and Community Relations Work Study Positions

Government and Community Relations offers students a chance to serve through a paid internship. GCR provides students with real-life opportunities to live the Jesuit mission of service for and with others through its placement of students as interns or tutors with local organizations. The mission of each organization that we partner with is to better the community in some capacity - whether it be through food justice, voter engagement, ending poverty, access to and success in higher education, women's health, or community engagement (to name just a few). If you are looking for a job, and are work study eligible as determined by the Financial Aid Office, GCR may have the perfect position for you!

### How to Apply

GCR provides students with real-life opportunities to live the Jesuit mission of service for and with others through its placement of students in roles as interns or tutors with local organizations. The mission of each organization that we partner with is to better the community in some capacity - whether it be through food justice, voter engagement, ending poverty, access to and success in higher education, women's health,

or community engagement (to name just a few). The intern and tutor positions offered through GCR are available to students who are federal work study eligible. (Students who are unsure of their status should contact the Financial Aid Office for verification.)

## Financial Assistance

The Holy Cross Student Emergency Aid Committee (SEAC) supports students who have extenuating financial requests that are not typically covered by traditional financial aid. For more information or to fill out an application please visit the SEAC Website at [www.holycross.edu/sea](http://www.holycross.edu/sea) or write to [seasupport@holycross.edu](mailto:seasupport@holycross.edu).



Contact us at [firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu](mailto:firstgenstudentsuccess@holycross.edu)  
Visit [www.holycross.edu/firstgenstudentsuccess](http://www.holycross.edu/firstgenstudentsuccess)



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Office of  
Multicultural Education

