The pursuit of excellence has long been a hallmark of Harvard. Since its founding in 1636, the College has endeavored to assemble promising students and distinguished faculty in a community designed to stimulate, even inspire, its members to develop their talents to the fullest.

Women and men come from all 50 states and from around the world; from cities, suburbs, small towns, and farms; from public, private, and parochial schools; from every ethnic and religious background; and from across the economic spectrum. Based on longstanding principle, Harvard is committed to making educational opportunity accessible to all. Admission is based on achievement and promise without regard to financial need; about 70% of undergraduates qualify for financial aid, including many from middle-income families.

Students arrive with a remarkable diversity of interests. There are confirmed scholars, whose college experiences may focus on the library, the lab, or the seminar discussion; community volunteers who complement academic pursuits with significant political or social work; journalists who organize their lives around newspaper deadlines; artists, athletes, actors, musicians, and enthusiasts of many other kinds.

Students enter with a wide variety of ultimate goals — many with no clearly defined goals at all. What they share are keen intellectual curiosity, energy, and eagerness to fulfill their considerable promise. They seek a university with the resources to enable them to pursue their interests vigorously, whether their chosen area is philosophy, photography, or physics; literature or linguistics; engineering or environmental studies. They seek, too, fellow students and teachers with whom they can share their passions and discover new ones while forging friendships that will last a lifetime.

Harvard offers extraordinary scope: a curriculum with about 3,500 courses, most of which enroll 20 or fewer students, and over 40 areas of concentration; the largest university library system in the world, containing nearly 14 million volumes; a universally renowned faculty engaged actively in teaching undergraduates; resident advisers and counselors who take pride in a 97% graduation rate; more than 250 student organizations and 41 intercollegiate athletic teams, the most in
the nation; a residential House system that combines the intimacy of a small college with the rich and stimulating environment of a university; state-of-the-art research centers, laboratories, and museums; newly renovated dormitories, classrooms, and athletic facilities; the resources of 10 graduate and professional schools; and the varied cultural, educational, and recreational offerings of Cambridge and the Boston area, which is home to more than 50 colleges and universities and is near the seacoast and mountains of New England.

For generations, Harvard has played a major role in educating future leaders for every endeavor — from academia to the arts, from private industry to public service. We hope that every student who is committed to excellence in its many forms will explore the opportunities here and consider becoming a part of this continuing tradition.

Harvard offers the combination of an intensely motivated student body and a world-renowned faculty in the extensive facilities of what many consider America’s finest university.

The pursuit of excellence has long been a hallmark of Harvard.

HARVARD AND RADCLIFFE: THEN AND NOW

Founded in 1636, Harvard is America’s oldest college. An innovator for more than 350 years, Harvard leads in shaping a liberal arts education for the women and men who will shape the 21st century.

In 1879, Radcliffe was founded to provide women access to Harvard education. For many years, Harvard and Radcliffe were partners in providing an unparalleled undergraduate education. In 1999, Radcliffe merged with Harvard, which established the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (www.radcliffe.edu) as an integral part of the University.

Today, all undergraduates, women as well as men, attend Harvard College, a unified, coeducational undergraduate experience. The Radcliffe Institute is an interdisciplinary center where leading scholars promote learning and scholarship across a broad array of academic and professional fields.
My House Masters memorized everyone’s facebook photo over the summer, so they knew us all by name before we moved in. Masters’ open houses are great — the seven-layer bean dip is untoppable! They have really created a home away from home for me.

A special residential plan for freshmen followed by three years in the comprehensive House system for upperclassmen provides students more than simply places to live. Harvard guarantees every student College housing for four years. By design, residential life that brings together students and faculty is an essential part of the Harvard experience. Nearly all students choose to live on campus for their full undergraduate careers.

“My House Masters memorized everyone’s facebook photo over the summer, so they knew us all by name before we moved in. Masters’ open houses are great — the seven-layer bean dip is untoppable! They have really created a home away from home for me.”
Masters make each House a home by hosting frequent open houses in their private residences and by selecting an extensive staff of both resident and nonresident tutors and faculty fellows. Tutors, representing nearly every field of study, advise students on academic matters, fellowships, and graduate school admission. A 13th House offers a social and academic gathering place for students who elect to live off campus. For more information, go to www.fas.harvard.edu/~physres/houses.html.

The Houses

Adams House
Named for family of two U.S. presidents. Includes four buildings, three of which preceded the establishment of Houses and were part of the luxurious “Gold Coast” in the early 20th century. Some annual events: Disco Masquerade, Chinese New Year Dinner, Winter Swing, and Spring Waltz.

Cabot House
Includes six buildings surrounding large, open green. Includes two performance spaces, a darkroom, a dance studio, and student suites known for large common rooms. Notable events: Spring Musical, ice cream bashes, and pizza parties.

Currier House

Dudley House
Named for Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which chartered Harvard. A center for students living off campus or at the Dudley Co-op. Sponsors an orchestra, literary magazine, and coffee house. Events: dances, ski trips, films, and Dudley Profiles Concert Series.

Freshman Year

All 1,650 first-year students live in or adjacent to Harvard Yard, the University’s historic hub, where newly renovated classrooms and dormitories sit among ancient trees with Widener Library, the heart of the world’s largest university library system. The Freshman Dean’s Office (www.fas.harvard.edu/~fdo) assigns roommates carefully among 17 freshman dorms. Numerous proctors (residential advisers) and deans live among first-year students to help them explore Harvard’s broad academic and extracurricular opportunities. Students eat together in Annenberg Hall, our recently renovated freshman dining hall, and participate in an array of programs designed especially for first-year students — in the arts, intramural athletics, and Freshman Seminars, among others.

The House System

As sophomores, students move from the Yard to one of the 12 Houses — small residential communities of 350 to 500 students within the larger University community. A broad mix of students and faculty makes each House a microcosm of the College; Harvard has no theme housing. Each House has its own dining hall, library, common rooms, rehearsal spaces, and other physical resources. Houses also provide students a wide range of human resources. A senior faculty member serves each House as a Master.
Dunster House
Named for the first president of Harvard College, and one of the smallest Houses. Includes squash courts, four music practice rooms, and a pottery room. Some activities: foreign language tables, Goat Roast, cartoon breakfasts, and House Opera Society.

Eliot House

Kirkland House
One of seven original residential Houses, its first buildings were constructed in 1914. Traditions: House Opening Ceremony led by a Minuteman fife and drum corps, arts and drama societies, student-faculty dinners, and Boar’s Head Procession during holiday dinner and dance.

Leverett House

Lowell House

Mather House
Named for one of New England’s most famous early-American families. Two modern buildings overlook Charles River. Features DuBois Table on race and ethnicity, ceramics studio, chamber and early music programs, and biweekly Masters’ open houses, often featuring student musical performances.

Pforzheimer House
Formerly known as North House, renamed in 1995 for Carol and Carl H. Pforzheimer, benefactors who established a family tradition of leadership and service to Harvard. Consists of five buildings and a grand terrace. Activities: the House Forum, movie nights, music and drama societies.

Quincy House
Named for Josiah Quincy — Boston mayor, congressman, judge, author, and 15th Harvard president. Three buildings feature three distinct architectural styles. Activities: special interest tables; EQUUAL, fostering constructive dialogue about issues of diversity; Exorcism with Bagpiper; and Spring Arts Festival.

Winthrop House
Commemorates both the first Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony and first notable American astronomer. First buildings erected in 1912. Traditions: Thursdayfests, annual Thropstock Weekend, and societies for film, music, and drama.

“A twist of fate gave me a room in Old Quincy with a fireplace. I love that the room set-up allows me to have separate places within my suite for hanging out, sleeping, and studying.”
Harvard housing has historic character. Most dormitories date to the early 1900s and many to the 19th century. Each House includes modern facilities, however, and a recently completed $60 million renovation effort included installation of high-speed data ports allowing students to connect to their free Internet and e-mail accounts from every College suite.

### NUMBER OF HOUSES WITH...

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<thead>
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<th>Facility</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Computer rooms</td>
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<td>Dance studios</td>
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<td>Ergometers</td>
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