

2016

Harvard College

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STUDENT COMMENTS ABOUT SINGLE GENDER SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Survey Comments from AY 2010-2011 through AY 2014-15

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please use the space below to elaborate on any of the questions on the survey and to comment on any other aspect of your undergraduate experience not covered in this questionnaire

Socially, Harvard needs to address some social issues that they seem to neglect. I am deeply concerned about the house renovation projects, which, to my understanding, are essentially getting rid of private common rooms (replacing with "public" common rooms). In doing so, the university is naively and unrealistically not giving students ways to engage in social behaviors that college students will undeniably do. This also increases the demand and power of **final clubs** and other organizations that have great social spaces (pudding institute, lampoon, crimson, etc), which will exacerbate many of the negative social pressures that exist on campus (dynamics between **final club** students and others, gender-related issues - especially sexual assault, etc). The point is, Harvard needs to be mature about and accept the fact that college students engage in various social behaviors and thus do things to help students do these things in a safer and more accessible way. Pretending like they don't exist simply makes the situation worse and students have a much worse experience as a result.

2013-2014 Senior Male

1) I think there is a strong need for more **final club/fraternity**-type opportunities for undergraduate students. This experience is currently restricted to only a small percentage of the male student body, and could offer tremendous opportunities for growth. / 2) I think Harvard needs to have an Accounting course at this point. The number of students who regularly cross-register for Accounting at MIT is overwhelmingly high, and an indication of a short-coming of this university. / 3) More funding must be provided for the annual Yardsfest. The spring concert is generally an event students at universities highly anticipate in their spring semesters. Because of Yardfest's tight budget and lack of ticketing, this event is relatively unexciting for most of Harvard's student body. This could instead be a significant chance for the entire university's undergraduate body to unite around one big performance.

2013-2014 Senior Male

I really think that class unity is lacking at Harvard. Therefore, I really think we should think about the Housing system. Yes, the House system is traditional, however, I think the following housing system would have other benefits: Freshmen Live in the yard, sophomores in the quad, and juniors and seniors on the river. / / I think the Smith Center and its design and utilization will be key for future development of Student Life. I think its important to offer large spaces for student groups to rent out to create a more accessible social scene and something that can compare to "the **final clubs**". Having a bar or club space would be great, as well as large areas for students to convene for meetings or conferences

2013-2014 Senior Female

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I feel like Harvard sometimes doesn't treat us like adults, or trust us to make our own decisions. Just two examples: there are tutors in every entryway, and HUPD officers patrolling all around campus. What's passed off as "safety" or "security" can feel a lot more like "surveillance." / / This feeds into social life, which can feel very exclusive and limiting, especially if you're underage and not in a **final club**. Friends from other schools (e.g. Brown) are shocked to hear that we have to fill out party forms. There should be more social alternatives. / / The Gen Ed program feels more stifling than it does expansive and helpful -- I've always known that I won't go into a STEM-related career, and yet I've had to struggle through math and science courses. I don't feel that these courses have significantly added to my ability to navigate the modern world. Rather, I've heard a lot of student frustration about how irrelevant these courses often feel. I think if given the freedom of choice, students would be more likely to participate in things they're truly excited about rather than feeling frustrated by requirements.

2013-2014 Senior Male

One thing that surprised me as an international student, was how little sexual harassment and sexual assault was prosecuted at Harvard. Just being here for 4 years I have met a number of people that have had traumatic experiences but were unable to do anything about it. Most of the **final clubs** are essentially institutions of rape. I understand that they are not technically affiliated with Harvard, yet it is mostly Harvard students that attend these clubs and the university chooses to turn a blind eye towards sexual crimes that take place in its back yard on a regular basis.

2013-2014 Senior Male

Harvard needs to do better with sexual assault. It seems that after the recent buzz about sexual assault at the College I keep hearing about more and more friends of mine or friends of friends who have been assaulted, or roofied, or raped, at parties (particularly **final club** parties) - and it is NOT ok. I really hope we make a lot of progress in that area, and soon.

2013-2014 Senior Female

Final clubs are harmful to the cohesion/inclusiveness of the campus community by 1) making the social community exclusive and elitist, 2) dividing students along racial/socioeconomic lines, and 3) preventing students without privileged backgrounds from getting to know others with backgrounds different from their own

2013-2014 Senior Male

I definitely need that Harvard has to improve the social life on campus. New England weather is already miserable enough. Therefore, students need social activities to hang out, have fun and meet each other. Everybody here is already working quite hard, and often depressed with studies. I believe that a Student Center is necessary for students to hang out, where there would be lots of social events. I didn't specifically enjoy the dispersed social life of Harvard where people hang out separately in houses, **final clubs** and rooms. I believe that it should be more centralized.

2013-2014 Senior Male

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The presence of **Final clubs** on campus is socially cancerous. It bifurcates the social scene in a most undesirable way and provides a haven for sexual assault on campus. I know Harvard does not have formal ties with these institutions, but it should be a priority to minimize their influence on campus. This begins with relaxing alcohol restrictions in freshman dorms, which drives freshman women to **final clubs** for alcohol/social activity.

2013-2014 Senior Male

I really think Harvard should focus on providing more common spaces that foster a sense of community. For example, I saw that Yale's house basements were a lot more utilized with students as there were a lot more couches, fooballs, and boardgames. I also think the student center would be a good idea, and that students should be able to host open parties in student centers or other common spaces rather than their dorm rooms or turning to **frats/final clubs**. / Lastly, I really think that there should be an evaluation of UHS's mental health services because my own and my friends' experiences with this service have not been satisfying.

2013-2014 Senior Female

I am so disappointed with how all of the initiatives for "social spaces" are daytime spaces and also largely outdoors, which is irrelevant for at least 80% of Boston weather. What students need are night time alternatives and the ability to organize events that are alternatives to **Final clubs**.

2013-2014 Senior Female

as a female student, **final clubs** made me constantly feel unsafe in campus social life and excluded from important social / academic / extracurricular experiences. they made me feel terrible for much of my time on campus. if harvard could do one thing to vastly improve the lives of its female (and maybe male) students, it should shut down the **final clubs**.

2013-2014 Senior Female

Harvard has been a remarkable privilege. I relish the friendships I've made, the mentoring relationships I've benefitted from, and the extracurricular work I've invested myself in. My academic world has promoted scholarship and service, and cultivated empathy and understanding for the condition of others. I value all these opportunities, and would replace them for nothing. / / However, Harvard has A LOT of work to do to catch up to the 21st century when it comes to making an inclusive environment for women, minority groups, and students within lower economic brackets. / / I am literally in awe that the gender exclusivity and fundamental elitism of institutions like **Final clubs** (and other groups "on" campus...) are not held in higher/public contempt by the administration. / / It sends the message that my worth is less valuable as an undergraduate woman than the potential \$\$ value of contributions from wealthy male alums who may be perturbed by such a statements of condemnation from the University. / / On these few grounds, Harvard needs to change. Inaction is reprehensible.

2013-2014 Senior Female

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The **final club** system single-handedly keeps Harvard back 20 years in terms of social progress. It is one of the last bastions of institutionalized racism, sexism, and aristocracy left at the school, even if most of its individual members are not, in and of themselves, racist, sexist, or classist. Many of my best friends are in **final clubs**, and they're largely good people. That doesn't change the fact that any system that so explicitly enforces and strengthens the existing white, male, upper-class power structure at work in Harvard and in our society at large, is inherently, insidiously destructive. I know there's not much Harvard can do from a legal perspective to force the clubs the change, but I would also be surprised if the administration is doing all it can do on this front. A student like me would never have been able to attend Harvard 20 years ago, but I don't know how long it will be until a student like me actually feels like a Harvard student. I am forever grateful to have attended this school, and Harvard's efforts to improve diversity, both racial and financial, seem to be moving in the right direction. But there's a difference between getting us on to campus and making us actually feel like this is our home. I don't define Harvard, and Harvard doesn't define me. I'm okay with that arrangement, but I also know it wasn't really my choice. I was lucky enough to find an institutionalized counter culture here that I could call home, but I know that not everyone like me is so lucky. I don't think it would be news to anyone that Harvard is severely lacking when it comes to a feeling of community, but I hope we have the common sense to realize that the reason for this: Harvard's community is still the same as it was 50 years ago. It's tightly knit and incredibly proud. We're just not a part of it.

2013-2014 Senior Male

Social life is a problem. The **Final clubs** are a very present part of life because of the accessibility of "partying" (underage drinking and dancing). Every attempt to limit socializing and drinking in the dorms--such as eliminating suite-style living and moving to two-room doubles--pushes more and more students into these unsafe, unregulated, off-campus, exclusive, male-dominated environments. Officially recognizing **sororities** or **fraternities** would be a better option--at least those organizations are accountable to national bodies, have diversity and financial aid considerations, and do charitable work. The best option would be providing more funding to student groups for social events--expanding DAPA grants and Stein Club funding--to provide a safe environment for people to "party."

2013-2014 Senior Female

The administration does not feel attentive to the students. It's incredibly hard to make this institution feel like home. **Final clubs** and the other elitist organizations on campus segregate this campus and add an air of exclusivity and secrecy that really hinders the undergraduate social experience. Faculty members are so helpful when reached out to, but there are limited opportunities. It's very difficult to find research opportunities. Harvard is full of rejections and there is a lack of oversight in the upperclassman years.

2013-2014 Senior Female

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Dudley should absolutely not be a part of the Strauss cup. There should be an inter-grad school competition if they want to participate, but including them with the underclassmen houses makes no sense. They have a much larger pool to pull from. Also, undergraduates who play a varsity sport cannot play IMs for that sport, but grad students could play even if they played that varsity sport in college. I think it would be more competitive and foster a spirit of competition if it were exclusively for undergraduates. / / Also, social spaces at Harvard need to be improved. The school keeps building study spaces and, frankly, we have enough of those already. During my time here I felt like I never had space to have friends over. Particularly in Dunster, the rooms are not big enough to have people over. My club teams are a huge part of my social life here but I could never entertain them all. The **final club** scene feels like the only option for sociability. I think this would greatly decrease if there were more spaces in which to throw parties. It would also reduce the issue of tutors having to break up unregistered parties. If every basement had 2 rooms that students could reserve to have social events, it would go a long way towards solving some of the issues of exclusivity at Harvard.

2013-2014 Senior Female

The corollary to the problems with the house system I described above is that housing cannot be a true social space (House common rooms and dining halls don't feel like a home-- I write, too, as someone who never had a suite common room in my three years living in Harvard housing, so I never had that option either) or basis for community. Combined with that, Harvard students are encouraged by campus culture to use productivity as a measure of self-worth, a practice I consciously try to avoid but still find extremely insidious. Therefore, there's very little room for organic social life to develop. Instead, social life happens through organizations. I have my own ethical and personal objections to social organizations such as **final clubs**, **sororities**, the Signet, and so forth. Therefore, my chances for community were in the name of Doing Something Else, in order to cast the veneer of productiveness over interpersonal relationships, which weren't considered sufficiently valuable in their own right. This led to a lot of loneliness, especially in my first few years here. The origins of this dynamic are manyfold -- campus culture; lack of social space; culture within organizations, eg PBHA, to the effect that if you're not unhealthily stressed and underslept, you're not working hard enough for what you believe in; messages about what kind of work & activities are valued and important, and what it means to seize the opportunities (but only particular opportunities! academic, professional, or travel!) that Harvard offers; and so forth. This isn't an easy thing to fix, but it's vital.

2013-2014 Senior Female

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A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure to sit beside a fellow student in a course of the much-touted Gen Ed system. This classmate played internet games on a tablet while our section leader---a committed teacher and bright young physicist who oversees multi-million dollar experiments at MIT---explained the week's concepts to us, only a few feet away. At the back of the classroom, disengaged upperclassmen texted and whispered about last weekend's party at a **final club**. / / Such experiences---and I could supply many more---lead me to suggest that Harvard administrators have little reason to be complacent about the quality of undergraduate education here. (Relatively few faculty are, I would guess.) The Gen Ed system is widely considered a joke, an opportunity to "coast" through the easiest classes possible. This year I was made to fulfill multiple Gen Ed requirements when I might've taken graduate level coursework in my speciality, and was required to attend courses, in the name of my "citizenship," in which many of my classmates, often athletes and apathetic upperclassmen, slept through lecture and demonstrated an almost absolute lack of engagement with the subject matter. / / By contrast, when I had the opportunity to study at the University of Cambridge a year ago, I was amazed by the intellectual commitment and background of the students there. Even taking into account that British students specialize at an early age and so gain a "leg up" on their American counterparts, one cannot deny that the education one receives at Oxbridge is immensely superior to that at Harvard. Moreover, I do not doubt that any of my classmates would have received a more rigorous and more fulfilling education at any number of schools in the US: small liberal arts colleges like Williams and Amherst, Ivies like Brown and Columbia, and selective non-Ivy research institutions like MIT and Berkeley. The reputation of the College has long been conflated with our graduate school rankings and inflated by assiduous skills on the University payroll, but scandals about grade inflation and academic dishonesty have brought national scrutiny to bear upon it. How successfully the College emerges from these interrogations will depend, I am convinced, on initiative and courage of those most able to influence College policy and practices---in particular, upon administrators as a whole. / / I, more than most students, want to be proud of my university as an institution dedicated to the advancement of learning. But I fear that without dramatic and far-ranging institutional and cultural reforms on campus---at the level of the student body, the faculty, and the administration in particular---"Harvard" will become synonymous with a bastion of talented adolescents who are rewarded for mediocre work and who will, indeed, be rewarded for the same mediocre work as they manage the economy and government of this and other countries. I will not argue that Harvard ought to train academics and researchers only, and do not believe that all our waking hours ought to be spent on academic pursuits. But then, what overwhelming proportion of Harvard students prioritize preprofessional activities, internships, extracurriculars, and **social clubs** over the relatively limited academic responsibilities they have? By the force of its own recruitment and educational policies, Harvard has helped to create the profoundly anti-intellectual climate that today pervades this campus: a climate in which doing one's reading is an embarrassment, not a mark of commitment; in which decisions to pursue independent study and enter graduate school are rare; in which it is only too easy for students to forgo academic integrity and intellectual achievement for the quick paths to material gain and power, a phenomenon ultimately represented by the proportions of my class that will go on to finance and consulting as well as government. This, it may be said, is perhaps a hard line to take. I do not mean to imply that Harvard students are somehow substandard from the perspective of intellectual caliber: their achievements in this realm can hardly be underemphasized, and a driven minority of students learn much using the magnificent resources this University offers. Yet I dare anyone who doubts the essential validity of these propositions to visit any class this coming fall. Count the students browsing Facebook or shopping for shoes during a lecture by a world-class specialist; count the students who message on Google chat during section, or do not do the reading beforehand. So long as extracurriculars predominate and the College continues to subsidize and incentivize them to such an extent, intellectual imperatives, including "academic integrity," will be empty cliches, and the College's reputation as an institution of rigorous undergraduate study will decline. / / What I ask is that academic pursuits be taken seriously by students as well as faculty and administrators: that education become the overriding purpose of the College. Students, certainly, must hold themselves to higher

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standards, and can do much to craft a genuinely intellectual culture; and I will be the first to admit that I have often faltered in this task. But this survey is intended to inform policymakers in the College, not my fellow students, and so I take this opportunity to say that change can, and I think in this situation must, come also from "the top:" through the policy changes of administrators and to some degree faculty. Policymakers have before them moderate as well as radical options: recruiting first-year undergraduates more among high schoolers aspiring to be scholars, and less among the purely ambitious; scaling numbers of credit-hours up or down; restructuring homework policies to involve more daily work, more graded assignments, more engagement with professors and teaching fellows, and more emphasis upon each student grasping the subject for themselves; increasing the faculty-to-student ratio; instituting more courses pass-fail freshman year; abolishing the Gen Ed system; abolishing requirements that substitute token "participation" for serious discourse in section meetings; pushing for greater representation of minority faculty and students, to stimulate the creation of true "organic intellectuals;" and so forth. Even the most rudimentary change requires, I appreciate, a monstrous bureaucratic effort, and I underestimate the difficulties involved in such change, as well as underestimate the already considerable efforts in which policymakers are today involved. But if my time at the College has suggested anything to me on this point, it is that circumstances call for measures more serious than have thus far been employed. / / The above is, I know, a vague polemic against evils that cannot be easily traced to any specific body of people or cultural practices; it indicts a phenomenon whose origins and implications extend far beyond the walls of the Yard. But it is the heartfelt sentiment of a student who has distinguished himself academically at Harvard, in spite of an alienating student culture and frustrating College policies, and still while he maintained a social life and participated in extracurriculars. While I must each day acknowledge how less skilled I am than many of my classmates and how much more there is for me to learn, I am ultimately amazed by the obstacles the College itself throws up to impede the progress of undergraduate education through its hesitation to support the principle of student scholarship. Those who influence decisions at the College have the opportunity to make this place the jewel of East Coast educational institutions, and to create a climate in which students committed to intellectual as well as political engagement view their undergraduate education not as a means to obtain a formal laurel or business credential, or as a mere adjunct to their membership in a **final club** or **fraternity**, but as the first chapter in lives spent in the pursuit of justice through, and by means of, truth. Was Harvard not created to prepare us for this great vocation? / / Student activists in my class have often criticized perceived inconsistencies in the University's attitudes---to name just a few, towards sexual assault, the welfare of its workers, the mental health of struggling students, the experiences of its female, minority, and queer students, and the moral and intellectual consequences of its investment practices. As an activist myself, I have often raised such criticisms, always with an eye towards improving this institution for those it serves. But as I prepare to graduate, perhaps my greatest---at least, my most ironic---disappointment about my time in the College has been the relative poverty of my education itself. / / Disputable and ill-formed as these reflections are, they are genuine, and I hope they will be of use to those who read this. My view of this problem may be naive or even incorrect; it is certainly incomplete. But what I wish above all is that this problem be recognized, discussed, and redressed.

2013-2014 Senior Male

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Harvard does not consider or explain the impact of the **Final club** system on its students, especially minorities who are in general not allowed in to most. When all private property is controlled by the **Final clubs** (+ Sigma Chi, essentially, but at least they allow non-members into their parties), you are profoundly excluded on campus. This is unlike Yale (whose Secret societies are becoming diverse and whose parties are generally open) and unlike Princeton (where at least the vast majority can join eating clubs). / / I am especially surprised that this survey doesn't even ask us of our opinion of them, or of sexual assault. /

2013-2014 Senior Male

I loved Harvard my junior and senior year. Not so much my freshman and sophomore year. Harvard has so many things to offer, but there's a huge mismatch in when these things get discovered by most students and it tends to be later in the collegiate experience, but by that time it's way to late. ALSO GET RID OF THE **FINAL CLUBS** AND OTHER **SOCIAL CLUBS**. WE ALL KNOW THAT THESE CLUBS ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH HARVARD BUT THEY ARE A NUISANCE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. THERE HAVE BEEN COUNTLESS NIGHTS WHERE I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP BECAUSE OF THEIR RECKLESSNESS AND PARTYING. THAT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN. NOT ONLY ARE THEY ANNOYING, BUT THEY DETRACT FROM HARVARD'S REPUTATION AND IMAGE. I DON'T CARE WHAT HARVARD IS GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS, BUT GET RID OF THEM FOR GOODNESS SAKE.

2013-2014 Senior Female

I think that Harvard can do better in providing its students with space for social activities and parties. The reason why many students seek to go to **final clubs**, which are unsafe in terms of sexual, alcohol and drug abuse and foster a climate of gender inequality and exclusiveness, is because there are no good places provided by the university in which students can mingle and have a fun time. Dorm rooms are too small for parties and students often do not want to advertise a party in advance but decide last minute whether and when they want to go out. The Queenshead pub would be the optimal place (although too far from the river houses) but is often occupied by grad students and therefore avoided by many undergrads. If the university were to provide a centrally located house with an outdoor space and a bar, in which houses or clubs could host parties where students who are over 21 could drink and younger students could hang out, then **final clubs** would have less of an influence over Harvard's social life. It is very sad to see that Harvard is allowing old but rich clubs that represent bad values (exclusiveness and gender division) to have such great sway over its students' social life. I really hope that Harvard will make an effort in the future to provide students with a more relaxed party space, and believe that the university's reluctance towards parties, alcohol and social space is helping **final clubs** control Harvard's social life. College is a time to celebrate with friends and there is no way to get around student parties. If the university would stop denying the role of parties, maybe we could have more inclusive party spaces where students could not only relax, but also form deeper friendships and learn from each other.

2013-2014 Senior Female

Final clubs should not be a part of Harvard's social scene. Harvard must improve its social climate on campus.

2013-2014 Senior Female

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The Harvard student body is plagued with extensive arrogance and self-absorption. The Harvard community is grounded in exclusivity and elitism fostered by a social culture that is 100% centered on the **final clubs**. As someone who had been invited to join a **final club** (but did not) and who has several classmates/roommates that belong to one, I can attest that these organizations are damaging to the community and a major cause of the pervasive sexual assaults on campus. They segregate the community and impose a social class system on campus that generates barriers to collaboration, respect for others, and overall harmony. They also are incredibly demeaning and demoralizing for women who are consistently taken advantage of by this system. Moreover, the organizations are generally damaging for members, who are pressured to participate in this social culture since other social options are viewed as illegitimate and are marginalized by the clubs. Classmates from **final clubs** have generally struggled to find jobs, perform well in school, or get accepted into graduate/professional schools as a result of the time and cultural pressures associated with the clubs. Friends have attributed their participation in these clubs to the aforementioned outcomes. Ultimately, Harvard is responsible for this unacceptable facet of undergraduate life, as it tremendously shapes the college experience. The university should seriously consider the concerns raised by the student body and alumni regarding the social system engrained at Harvard and explore solutions to better regulate/oversee this social atmosphere. MIT and their **fraternity** system offers a model by which a university's interests and the desires of students can coexist and succeed. / / Additionally, another major concern is the materialistic/superficial character of many accepted students. I continue to be shocked at the lack of integrity amongst students, which extends to cheating on exams and assignments, deliberately acting to prevent the success of peers, and falsifying applications (current 2014 Rhodes recipients, job and graduate school applicants, etc.) to ensure personal success at the expense of others. This attitude has become an accepted facet of the student body that is reinforced by a culture that values success at all costs. The educational system should be tailored to dispel this lack of integrity by fostering an environment that encourages students to take risks (personal, career-wise, academic etc.) and recognizes failure as a critical element of the learning process. / / Ultimately, responsibility for the concerns outlined above lies in both the students and the administration. Harvard must take tangible measures to address these concerns by refining their admission process, the methods for evaluating students (fellowships, awards, honors etc.), and the manner by which they structure the social community. A student's character/personal qualities should play a larger factor in admissions decisions, as seen in the Harvard Medical School admissions process which values compassion/character equally with academic potential. At the current time, I am deeply concerned by the generations of graduates that Harvard College has produced and continues to produce, and the negative effect these students will have on our society. /

2013-2014 Senior Male

I also wish that people had been more encouraging about the joint-concentration option or the "design your own concentration" program. I feel that's something I would have liked to pursue but it was generally discouraged. I also belonged to a women's **final club** while here, and witnessed both personally and second-handedly the trauma that so many girls undergo at this school - dealing with the pressures of trying to be perfect academically, socially, and aesthetically, to maintain a sense of dignity in a deeply unequal and oftentimes demoralizing social scene, etc. etc. Women at this school in general work SO much harder than men, in my experience, and it did at many times really get to me that men seemed to be able to coast through.

2013-2014 Senior Female

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As a member of a women's **final club**, I think that the **final club** scene is not a healthy social scene. I know the school chooses not to affiliate with the organizations, but I think Harvard should pressure the male clubs to accept women. I think this would completely change the atmosphere of the clubs for the better, and probably ameliorate a lot of the issues that have come up with the male **final clubs** in the past few years. I'm sure that Harvard has the power to put pressure on these clubs, I just think it has chosen to ignore the situation.

2013-2014 Senior Female

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If you could change up to three things about the way Harvard educates its students, what would you change?

Re-structure the Gen Ed program so that it is less of a hurdle and more of an exploratory part of the curriculum. I would abolish the incredibly, sexist, heteronormative social spaces that are the **final clubs**. They are a disgrace to what I find to be a generally positive social environment at Harvard. And to focus more of teaching the students well. The professors often don't care and the TFs often don't care. There needs to be a better system in place to reward good teachers and to incentivize good teaching.

2013-2014 Senior Male

Let people rank their house preference instead of random housing; provide social space and funding for students so that **final clubs** aren't the only answer; dial back the Harvard bureaucracy, because dealing with it is a nightmare

2014-2015 Senior Male

1. I wish Harvard took a more morally responsible, active hand in its students' social life and happiness. The existence of **final clubs** and groups like them are detrimental to every student's mental health in a way that I'm not sure faculty realize. I was severely depressed for about a year during my undergraduate career, and I blame **final club** processes for a large part of that. I understand Harvard's reasons for dissociating itself from these clubs, but if Harvard really cared about its students' mental health and happiness, they would take a more active role in social life on campus, including **final clubs**. This includes taking a more active approach to racism and sexism (especially sexual assault and rape) in these clubs and social spaces. Life here is already competitive enough--I shouldn't have had to feel socially inadequate for the majority of my undergraduate career. / 2. Harvard needs to increase the diversity of each new freshman class, especially geographically and socio-economically. I shouldn't have struggled to find people like me the entire time I was here. / 3. I wish my concentration offered more courses of the kind in which I was interested. Harvard's English department is renownedly stodgy, and I wish there were more contemporary literature, but especially postwar and post-modern lit, classes offered alongside more canonized lit classes. /

2014-2015 Senior Female

I would certainly attempt to change the idea around social organizations at this school. It seems like mostly ~20% of the college can benefit from **final clubs/fraternities/sororities** while the rest of us (while under 21 at least) have to suffer at dorm parties, which get shut down 80% of the time even when registered. Either clubs need to be opened up to more people (which seems impossible) or there needs to be way fewer restrictions on parties equally across all of the houses.

2014-2015 Senior Male

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1. Get rid of **finals clubs**/exclusive social organizations and create a more House-centered social environment. This would make Harvard a more fun, safe, and inclusive school. / 2. Make blocking for freshmen happen much later in the year--maybe April. Also provide more support for freshmen in the transition to Harvard. / 3. Make all students participate in reflection activities at the beginning and end of each school year (like the Reflecting on Your Life series that the Senior Class Committee runs).

2014-2015 Senior Female

Eliminate **final clubs**. Although they are not recognized by the college, the influence and presence that they have on campus is pervasive. / / Get rid of general education requirements where the concentration fulfills the point of a category... For example, just because a professor doesn't apply to have her class be a gen ed class doesn't mean students that have taken that class or classes like that that should count for SLS should have to take another SLS class that specifically has that label.

2014-2015 Senior Female

1) abolish Gen-Ed system, no requirements besides concentration like at Brown / 2) abolish House randomization (let students pick) and loosen alcohol policy (let HoCos organize events without supervision as student orgs do, and give them more money), to make students identify more strongly with Houses and to bring more social life into the Houses and out of **final clubs** and exclusive student orgs / 3) more counselling resources, more awareness of BSC, less clinicization of counselling (I wish I and other students had discovered the Bureau of Study Counsel earlier - I was able to meet with a counsellor about once every 1.5 weeks the last half-semester. If only I and all other students had been doing that our whole college career! Why does counselling need to be reserved for the diagnosed?) / 4) more leg room in classrooms

2013-2014 Senior Male

Get rid of **finals clubs**

2013-2014 Senior Male

Smaller classes and more seminar style classes, more emphasis on teaching and Q scores for tenure rather than research, more funding for undergraduates (better student center, more funding for student groups, etc), more efforts on decreasing level of stress and intensity on campus (better mental health services, etc), better sexual assault policies and education (especially relating to **final clubs**)

2013-2014 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Relax boundaries dividing Gen Eds from other departmental courses. For instance, I wanted to take an introductory philosophy class in college, which seems to me a reasonable expectation from a liberal arts degree. However, neither Phil 3 nor Phil 8, the best introductory philosophy courses I could find, met the Ethical Reasoning requirement. I had to use an elective to take a real philosophy course (Phil 34), and this seems to me an unacceptable failure of a system designed to expose us students to many different fields. The Gen Eds on offer are often too easy or watered down to impart intellectual satisfaction. While I managed to find good Gen Eds that met my intellectual interests, I know many friends who did not. I think the best way to solve this problem would be to allow students to fulfill Gen Ed requirements by taking a wider range of department classes. / / 2. Greater embrace of opportunities for students to enjoy themselves (or at least more of a laissez-faire attitude about drinking at Houses, which is going to happen regardless of how hard the administration tries to stamp it out). An important part of education is finding a responsible balance between work and play. There are not enough opportunities for play and socializing, especially for freshmen/sophomore males (girls can always go to **final clubs**). Oftentimes, the opportunities for play that do exist are based on class lines (private school kids get into exclusive groups that provide access to parties and other socializing). This is a structural inequality hardwired into the Harvard social scene. To promote a greater sense of community and well-being, Harvard could provide more opportunities for play with a few simple measures: a) a campus bar closer to the Houses (e.g. in the Holyoke Center) where undergraduates can hang out and (if 21+) buy beer for cheap; b) looser regulations on party forms, such that students can have friends over in the Houses more often, in the rooms they are paying for; c) less stringent ID requirements at stein clubs and other House-sponsored events, to increase undergraduate participation (and also improve the House community). / / 3. Remove the pervasive attitude that "grades don't matter", an opinion that even academic advisers often repeat. Not only is this attitude false (grades matter for graduate school and medical school, if nothing else), it also discredits the ostensible reason that we are paying tuition: to learn from our classes. All too often, we equate "grades don't matter" with "classes don't matter", maybe even "learning doesn't matter." When people don't care about their grades, they don't apply themselves in their classes, and as a result everyone has less enriching intellectual experiences. Many worthwhile parts of the Harvard experience lie outside of the classroom, but the administration really could repeat more often and in different ways that we should be celebrating and encouraging academic achievement.

2013-2014 Senior Male

1) That we ought to make ourselves more vulnerable before one another (to mitigate the fear that we should all be well polished before our peers), 2) That we should stop seeking constant societal validation (socially, professionally, academically), 3) That those in sports teams and **final clubs** ought to be more inclusive of other students

2013-2014 Senior Male

There should be greater social common spaces. The **final clubs** cripple social life on campus and create an exclusive environment that is toxic to cohesion of the larger community. / / A particular complaint is that some of the languages, Norwegian in my case, are not eligible for a language citation. This was extremely frustrating, as it was the language I chose to devote part of my academic career to. / / Interhouse dining restrictions also block the formation of a larger community by insulating students to their own houses.

2013-2014 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

(1) remove the requirement that students concentrate in a single field, and add more interdisciplinary courses / (2) stop ignoring the effect that **final clubs** have on the social atmosphere and take responsibility / (3) provide resources for first-generation students so they don't feel lost and confused and drop out of college

2014-2015 Senior Male

Forget academic problems. The biggest problem with Harvard is the fact that dorm parties are discouraged so the main social scene is in the **final clubs**. Harvard talks about inclusivity, but if it actually cares it would let people socialize in their own spaces. / / On that note, the housing renewal is killing Harvard's history. Actually. NOBODY likes the hallway common rooms OR the horizontal layouts OR the hallways bathrooms (who the hell thought that was a good idea?). Harvard is taking some of the most beautiful historical buildings in the country and making them just like any state school while at the same time ruining any trace of freedom that students have left to create their own social spaces. / / Do us all a favor: keep vertical entryways, private common rooms and bathrooms, and STOP cracking down on dorm parties (while giving **final clubs** a free pass). There, that's three things.

2014-2015 Senior Male

My points concern, most importantly, the community-at-large. The community drives the education (formal and informal) of the students. Thus, my suggestions are: / / 1) Stop NCAA recruiting. Athletes, in my (controversial, but humble) opinion, saturate the quality of education at Harvard. We need smart, interested, kids. / 2) Take more deliberate action against **final clubs**, whose cultures are not aligned with the 21st century. / 3) Develop genuine interest in the students; curiosity and a desire to enter a public discourse on topics.

2014-2015 Senior Male

More social spaces. Harvard is absolutely abysmal at providing spaces where students can gather socially in large groups. As a senior in Dunster who got shafted with N-housing, I had no place to host people or parties. The Lowell Grille is a great space as far as being able to be reserved for student parties and I think every house should have at least two of these spaces and it is GREATLY DISAPPOINTING that the renovation plans for the houses do not include these spaces. It is just horrible that there is no place for students to congregate in large groups on a Saturday night. The Queens Head is nice but so far away from drinking-age students who live in the houses and not the yard. The Smith Center should have a bar in it where students could all meet and hang out. / / Not having a space that I could host a party left me with no agency as far as how I could determine my own social setting and leaves people so dependent on **Final clubs** for a party space where people can drink and dance. Harvard does not take enough accountability for the fact that these clubs dictate so much of the social scene. What you need to do is provide alternative spaces where students can host things because honestly this has been the worst aspect of my Harvard career and is enough to make me not recommend Harvard to people who are similarly socially inclined. PLEASE INCLUDE LOWELL-GRILLE TYPE SPACES IN THE HOUSE RENOVATION PLANS PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE FOR THE FUTURE OF HARVARD STUDENTS OTHERWISE OTHER IVIES WILL WIN OVER ALL OF THE STUDENTS WHO ARE SOCIAL AND HARVARD WILL CONTINUE TO BE REMARKABLY ANTISOCIAL RELATIVE TO ITS COMPETITORS, WHICH IS THE EXPERIENCE THAT I HAVE FELT HERE AND WHEN I VISITED FRIENDS AT OTHER SCHOOLS THAT HAVE EQUALLY AS SMART PEOPLE WHO HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE FUN WITH OTHER STUDENTS.

2013-2014 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. I would like more of an emphasis on preparing us for the real world. Harvard is quite cushy in some respects. / 2. Mental Health Services are terrible in getting appointments and many practitioners are terrible. Student input would be wonderful from the peer counseling groups. The BSC is wonderful though. / 3. Social life here is quite limited if you're not in a **final club** or **sorority** or **fraternity**. Harvard should make an effort to foster social activities that can be student run and that are accessible to people of all SES backgrounds.

2013-2014 Senior Female

More social spaces, better qualified TF's, and no **final clubs**

2014-2015 Senior Male

1) more focus on fostering a healthy and dynamic social life -- the way that social life revolves around the **final clubs** is highly problematic, and largely stems from a lack of social space; 2) ability to have choice in house picks, as this might contribute to a greater sense of community; 3) better system of academic advising

2014-2015 Senior Female

Demand more rigorous academic participation from all students (athletes especially), stop trying to fight **final clubs** and come up with a cooperative solution for all parties that takes into account fixed variables, accept more southern students in admissions.

2014-2015 Senior Male

I think that there needs to be more general academic advising available to us, even after we have chosen a concentration. My concentration advisor was really not a helpful resource when I was thinking about bigger academic questions about changing my concentration or studying abroad. I also think that mental health services should be more available and more focused on the students. I received mental health services, but it was obvious that they were more concerned about following the university's strict rules about how many sessions we got or where I was getting my services (BSC vs. CAMHS) than on my actual wellbeing. I also have seen many friends who didn't feel supported by the administration through their mental health issues and were worried about seeking the help they needed because they didn't want to be seen as a liability and risk being forced to take a leave of absence. Finally, I wish that Harvard was a more inclusive place. So much of the social life is centered on spaces that are inherently exclusive (whether this be on a gender basis like with **finals clubs**, or exclusive **social clubs** which require comping, etc.). I think there should be more spaces that are open and inclusive, and that Harvard needs to do work to counter the exclusive culture that pervades its social life.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Better, more comprehensive remedial science classes. You need a place to start for kids who didn't have a strong science background in high school but want to study science. If you didn't take an AP science class, it is really hard to catch up in LS1a or PS1. Please, please do this. / 2. Actually take a stand on **final clubs** and the culture of exclusivity here.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Experiment with more interdisciplinary classes. / Experiment more with everything. / Do more to discourage the presence of **final clubs** - they are toxic. I know that they are not officially recognized by the university but they still have a significant impact on student life and consequently student education. I think they are a scourge on our community.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Harvard will never be an institution that fully fosters the true academic liberty and growth of women on campus while remaining institutionally complacent to the existence of **Final clubs**. You want to make a change in the betterment of undergraduate education, make a change in the social climate on campus: 1. Take a stand against **Final clubs**. 2. Take a stand against **Final clubs** 3. Take a stand against **Final clubs**.

2013-2014 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Harvard is very good at providing students with academic instruction, but is strongly lacking in deeply instilling in its students a sense of awareness of others and different ways of perceiving life. In other words, while the majority of Harvard students are very smart, they are often very ignorant and very unwilling to consider other ways of thinking about things. I think many of Harvard's students, particularly those in **final clubs**, are still racist and discriminatory toward minorities and LGBTQ students and often date-rape Harvard undergraduate girls at parties. I know this for a fact. This is embarrassing and shameful and Harvard should really do something about it besides free itself of the legal responsibility of the goings on at **final clubs** by saying that they're not on Harvard property. These are Harvard undergraduates being racist and discriminatory against and raping other Harvard students. Do something about this !! Come on. / / 2. I would also suggest that Harvard give out fewer As and A-s. Grade inflation at Harvard is ridiculous - why is the median grade an A-? This doesn't make sense. It should be lower than that. Also, there are many Harvard courses that Harvard students refer to as "gems". This term doesn't refer to courses which are interesting, engaging, and awesome. Rather, it refers to courses for which a student has to do little or no work, usually doesn't have to attend class, and will be almost guaranteed to receive an A. What ends up happening is that students take the A and don't get anything out of the course. There's something wrong with that. / / 3. In this spirit of academic/ethical/health balance, I think that Harvard should require students to take one course that includes the topics of: nutrition, mental health, AND mindfulness. I think that Harvard students are very successful and efficient, but when it comes down to it - happiness is the ultimate goal for everyone. Unfortunately, I think many Harvard students are unhappy and I think that this is partly a result of mental health services egregiously freely over-diagnosing mental diseases such as adhd, anxiety, depression to students at Harvard and stuffing these students with medications. The medications will not solve the problems- they are bandaidsolutions and will have many side effects, cause students to be dependent on these medications, and will also help students victimize themselves instead of helping students realize that they have so many things for which to be so so so thankful and happy. These courses should also require students to have conversations with each other, in a constructive setting, about difficult topics such as immigration, politics, sex, rape, discrimination, **final clubs**, etc, given that there is a lack of discussion of these topics on campus due to people's unwarranted aversion toward discussing them.

2013-2014 Senior Female

No tuition / Alter **final clubs** / Alter gen ed

2014-2015 Senior Male

i wish harvard was a bit more transparent about things / i wish harvard allowed parties in dorms more so that fewer people would feel the need to go to **finals clubs** all the time

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Care about sexual assault and DO something. / / 2. Stop giving complete bull answers "task force?" (how about redefining policy) and deal with this embarrassing issue. / / 3. Be an institution of moral and ethics you claim instead of ignoring and dragging on not doing anything regarding sexual assault because it's embarrassing to you. **Final clubs**, all that debauchery, and skewed sense of privilege that leads to sexual abuse is what you should be embarrassed about.

2013-2014 Senior Male

Change the gen ed system to have substantive courses, and to count courses that should count for each gen ed field! Oversee theater much better than it does now, and consider the role that race plays in Harvard's theater scene (we have a black theater company and a predominantly white theater company). MAKE THE **FINAL CLUBS** CO-ED!

2014-2015 Senior Female

Get rid of **final clubs**, don't make classes unnecessarily hard, and don't make homework require going to tfs for help

2014-2015 Senior Male

Make all sophomores live in the quad instead of the current system. It is so unfair that people live in the quad, it's removed from campus and a distinctly different experience. / / Make CS50 mandatory for more majors. / / Engage with **final club** members when shaping social policies.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Gen Ed: As a humanities concentrator, the Gen Ed system wasn't so bad. I got through it and that was that. But that shouldn't be the case. There really isn't much to choose from in the science departments -- yes, realize that humanities concentrators say this about science, and science says this about humanities -- and that is backed up by numbers. The course offering for "SLS" and "SPU" are small and abysmal. Sure, Science and Cooking was easy and fun at times. But that is one class that I had to take as a senior and other people get lotteried out of. More classes like Science and Cooking that are fun and not too hard. Otherwise, students should be able to freely navigate the course selections and apply for what counts as what. / / 2. See earlier notes about the house system; Social spaces question is easy, Harvard -- and its not the **final clubs**. Buy the empty, huge building where the movie theater once was. Turn it into a bar/ student activity center like shooters/toads. If its a bar, have 21+sections and 18+ sections. Alternatively, or in addition, convert those community gardens into some sort of student space. Like an outdoor bar /restuarant for students and run by students. Someone reading this is going to say 'oh, why does it have to be about drinking.' Well, thats what the **final club** question is, right? The only reason they matter more is because the drinking age is 21 instead of 18. When the drinking age was 18, **final clubs** really didn't matter and no one was saying how they had a monopoly on social spaces cause the houses could provide alcohol/parites. Harvard's adminstration needs to get creative about finding the solution to that problem. One of the ways to do this is to listen to students with opinions based on four years of lived experience. / / 3. Personally, I think everyone should live in the Quad sophomore year. There is great comraderie amongst the class freshman year and then it just disappears. Perhaps the way to ensure that those 9 month long connections stay, or that other connections are fostered, is to move as a class to the Quad. This would retain great culture, eliminate the "quad sucks" vibe, and, as previously stated, keep friends together. Sophomore year is a huge year at Harvard (ascending up the sports roster, leadership positions, dating, **final clubs**), and it would be nice to have another blanket of stability with the friends you've met freshmen year. I really can't name a single blocking group that stays together all four years or are true friends by the time they gradaute. People change, yes, but perhaps one way to combat that would be having eveyrone live together sophomore year to retain a cohort-like cohesion.

2014-2015 Senior Male

1. Gen Ed program needs improvement. More classes to choose from. / 2. Smaller sections so that participation would not have as much as a competition and more of an intellectual conversation. / 3. More facilities to do work. For example, more places in libraries to work. All available library work space was taken and working in student dorms was extremely difficult with either construction noises from outside or obnoxious noise from **finals clubs**. Found it extremely difficult to find a nice quiet place where i could concentrate and do work or study.

2013-2014 Senior Male

1, 2, and 3: Take responsibility for fostering a healthy social life and better community. Adapt a reasonable, more tolerant alcohol policy to bring the social energies away from the **final clubs**. I am in a **final club**, and I have benefitted tremendously from being a member, but I am conscious of the damaging effect it has on campus culture. Harvard would be much better of if they did not exist, or at least if they did not hold such monopoly over a certain portion of the student body's social life. / /

2013-2014 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Reduce the power of the faculty in determining class schedules, general education requirements, etc. 2. Give students more input into administrative planning 3. Fund House life significantly more as a buffer against **finals clubs** and to create a campus community feeling that cuts across socioeconomic lines.

2013-2014 Senior Male

create meaningful social spaces so that **Final clubs** become less of a default for socialization and partying / more encouragement to use the Bureau of Study Counsel / better freshman advising + support for the transition to college/Harvard

2014-2015 Senior Male

Final clubs, legacies, the power structure in general

2014-2015 Senior Male

1. I would have classes on things people wanted to learn: graphic design, basic web design, financial modeling, entrepreneurship etc. / 2. I would have more focus on building community: there need to be places where people see each other regularly and do events together. Campus wide events like during senior week would be great. It would also be helpful to have houses based on interest and to have events around that interest area. There should also be more social space that can be used for parties and fun events and more funding for said events. Also, **final clubs** should be banned: they are antithetical to the goal of building community / 3. I would get rid of grades. They just distract and create the wrong environment for learning

2014-2015 Senior Male

1) Make a GenEd requirement that everyone has to take about social inequalities in America / the world, especially in its racial, socioeconomic, and gender dimensions. Like a year long version of Community Conversations. / 2) Offer more fully funded grants for public service or public interest internships. Give us financial incentives to do meaningful work that is uplifting to yourselves and society. Don't let all the bankers and consulting firms snatch us up. Show us we can provide a good life for ourselves and our families without selling our souls. / 3) Provide more social spaces for students, that aren't regulated by strict rules. Shut down all **Final clubs**, or at least enforce legal sanctions on them that are similar to those faced by other groups in less powerful positions.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Burn down the **finals clubs**

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Get rid of the GenEd program and let Harvard students take whatever classes they want, with the only requirements being in their concentration. / 2. Harvard should recognize all **fraternities, sororities**, and male and female **final clubs**. / 3. Only let professors teach that actually want to teach and will do a good job. Just because someone is a huge name in their field doesn't mean they can teach an intro course well, as was the case with many of my professors in the sciences.

2013-2014 Senior Female

1) Career services: I think it is unfortunate that there is such social pressure in the undergraduate community to pursue a career in finance or consulting. It is a waste of talent. Many students become disillusioned with their original goals to work for the greater good by the time senior year recruiting season comes around. This dynamic is fostered by OCS, which only offers constructive advice to people seeking careers in finance and/ or consulting. / / 2) Housing: Sharing a bedroom beyond freshman year is mentally taxing. At the College, students undergo tremendous change and often have to endure psychological hardship. For many of them, having a private space to retreat to and reflect is extremely important, but most students do not get their own bedroom until senior year. Even then, students live extremely close to others. There simply is not enough privacy to gain perspective on college life and its social pressures and whirlwinds (including social anxiety about getting into **final clubs**, grades, landing a particular kind of job, etc.). The lack of common spaces and open social events in the houses and on campus in general means that people rarely branch out from their blocking groups.

2013-2014 Senior Female

1. Fix the Gen Ed system / 2. More smaller, seminar-type classes (with smaller classes and sections) / 3. Fix the **final club** system (yes, this is part of educating your students)

2014-2015 Senior Female

Fostering genuine class conversations - See USW35 / Smaller class sizes - not like in pre-med classes / Find ways to break barriers set up by **final clubs** and other social groups

2014-2015 Senior Female

1. Less teaching/grade determination by graduate students--they are not teachers, and just because they are good at a subject does not mean that they are good teachers or qualified to be determining students grades / 2. Harvard owns just about all the real estate in Cambridge- if it really cares about the "rape culture", gender-exclusivity in social spaces, etc., it will use some of its hold on Cambridge to establish places (even an 18+ nightclub would help) where both genders have equal ownership or no ownership over the space, and all people are welcome. College students are going to party occasionally, and disassociating from **final clubs** yet leaving students with no other options, as house rules are very strict, is irresponsible and doesn't show a real commitment to making change.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1. Admit a class of students who actually represent the economic diversity of the United States as a whole! Harvard undergraduates heavily skew wealthy (40% of us don't receive financial aid! 14% come from the top 1% of incomes! And only 25% of us have family incomes below \$65,000, which is above the median family income for the United States), which has a number of adverse effects on the student body. For one, it leads working-class and poor -- as well as middle-class -- students to feel isolated, alienated, and excluded in many situations. Furthermore, the lack of economic diversity at Harvard creates classroom discussions and extracurricular and social experiences that often feel cloistered, sheltered, and privileged, lacking in perspectives representing the vast majority of Americans. / / 2. Invest in the various "adults" who help students along our journey. Rather than cutting library jobs, provide support to librarians so that they can assist students with research. Cap section sizes at 12 to help undergraduates learn and graduate students teach. Allow grad students to unionize so that they can advocate for themselves and work under fair conditions -- this will improve their morale and commitment to teaching and working with undergrads. Treat dining hall workers, security guards, and custodians fairly and negotiate with their unions in good faith, so that they can provide a good living environment for all of us. Help women faculty and faculty of color advance through the ranks (and hire more women and people of color on faculty!) so that students can have mentors with similar experiences. Don't keep so many faculty members off tenure track in contingent positions. / / 3. Take steps to ensure that all students -- but especially students of color, working-class students, queer students, female students, undocumented students, students with unsupportive families, sexual assault survivors, etc. who all face extra challenges -- have the support that they need to succeed. Provide universal summer funding for thesis research and summer internships, so that all working-class students can have the same opportunities as their wealthier peers. Decrease or eliminate the work requirement in financial aid packages, so that working-class students can invest as much in extracurricular activities -- which are so important intellectually, socially, and professionally -- as their wealthier counterparts. Get rid of dorm crew as a pre-orientation program; it only serves to economically segregate the freshman class. Give working-class students the stipends they need to pay for books, clothing, other necessities, travel to and from home several times a year, funding for their families to come visit (especially for freshman/junior parents' weekend and graduation), etc., with extra funds left over to deal with the emergencies and contingencies that inevitably come up in life. Increase financial aid for students whose families refuse to pay their expected contribution, so that they don't have to choose between dropping out and enormous debt. Establish affirmative consent as the basis for Harvard's sexual assault policy, and prioritize the needs of survivors. Include sex ed (including protection/birth control, affirmative consent) in the list of trainings students have to complete over the summer (like alcohol.edu). Educate students about the problems with **final clubs**, **fraternities**, etc. (such as exclusion and high sexual assault rates) and pressure these clubs to go coed. Train HUPD officers on issues of race; too many students of color have been profiled. Ensure that all houses have a diverse tutor core, in terms of race, gender, sexuality, etc. Diversify the faculty. Extend community conversations through freshman year. Establish identity- and interest-specific mentorship systems with grad students and professors for women, POC, queer students, working-class students, etc. that students are automatically enrolled in unless they choose to drop out. HIRE MORE COUNSELORS AT UHS so that students don't have to wait for a month to see a therapist and can be guaranteed to see someone every week (rather than every other week). Take additional steps to secure student privacy in counseling. Provide spaces on campus for students of color in general or specific identity groups in particular (black students, Latino/a students, etc.), queer students, women students, working class students -- ideally spaces that are not in basements. Establish Latino/a studies and Asian American studies majors, and hire faculty in these areas. Don't deny tenure to professors who speak up about sexual assault. Secure gender-neutral housing in all the houses. / /

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Empower students in Harvard's decision-making processes!! Right now, students have functionally no say over how the university runs, but more importantly, almost no say over issues of curriculum (most students, myself included, think there should be MAJOR reforms to the GenEd program) or issues of student life. The UC is often seen as ineffectual because the administration does not take them seriously. Harvard's disempowerment of students leads students to feel that they should focus on themselves rather than actively working to improve the school. Students know best about what changes they want and need; rather than simply requesting feedback in an exit survey, students should be actively involved in discussions about all of the above issues (and many more) and should have decision-making power in these areas for all four years of their undergraduate education.

2014-2015 Senior Female

More project based learning / More exposure to the rest of the world / Do something about the lack of diversity within **finals clubs**

2013-2014 Senior Female

1) The Gen Ed program does not add to the quality of the academic experience and serves only to encourage easy 'buffer' classes be used to fulfill these well-intentioned but misguided requirements. The fact that a humanities concentrator can graduate without knowing basic calculus but a math concentrator is expected to write dozens of pages of prose does not reflect cross-disciplinary appreciation. / 2) The **final club** debate is another topic that the University is failing to understand properly. The portrayal of the clubs as bastions of old money and discrimination is appealing to those in the opposition but blatantly false in reality, as the clubs issue thousands of dollars in financial aid and make specific efforts to include a diverse sampling of the greater student body. Additionally, the myth that a mixed gender club is in some way "safer" of "less hostile" is being grossly exaggerated. In my time at Harvard, I have attended somewhere around 8 OSAPR events and in each of them, the sexual assault statistics indicate that there are an extremely small fraction of men performing a disproportionate number of assaults. Such behavior is grounds for immediate revocation of club membership, thus representing a concrete social cost for would-be perpetrators -above and beyond the possible legal ramifications- irrespective of the club's gender makeup. There is accountability in the membership because there exists a clear understanding that such actions can jeopardize the club as a whole, while in a non-club setting, incentive alignment is not as well-defined. / / My hope is that the University open its eyes to the good that these clubs represent and consider ways in which it can operate in communion with these assets to the university social environment.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Improve Gen Ed classes, especially for the sciences. They should be the keys to a liberal arts education. For example, Gen Eds should ideally be courses like Social Studies 10 or the Humanities Colloquium, with less work of course, after which you can truly be "learned" in the classical sense. / Be more lenient about House social activities. I think **final clubs**, frats, and **sororities** have gained prominence during my time here, and it's because Houses are too uptight about social activities. There is more freedom to be had in these social group, but that also contributes hugely to exclusivity and prejudice. / I would create more events for self-reflection. Students should take at least 2 time a year to pause and ask themselves, where am I going and why? What do I value? When I reach the end of my life, as far as that is, what do I want to be remembered for? How do I value success? How do I want to give back? We do not think about this often enough nor with enough structure on a daily basis.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I would reform the **final club** system to make Harvard a more equal, safe, inclusive environment for all. I would make more of an effort to hire tutors who will actually contribute to the lives of students by fostering friendships with and between students, giving them new perspectives on career and academic goals, and being an available and interested advisor for students so that there could be a stronger sense of house community.

2014-2015 Senior Female

The male **final club** scene should not dominate the social space.

2014-2015 Senior Female

1. Calm down about alcohol on campus. There is one reason that **final clubs** dominate Harvard's social scene, and that is because the university makes it literally impossible for students to have anything remotely close to the same experience in their dorms because proctors are so strict. / / 2. Fix the advising system - I literally flagged my Senior Gift donation for Financial Aid only because I couldn't imagine donating to such a terrible advising system. Right now the primary goal of the system seems to provide money and jobs to grad students and others, rather than actually helping undergrads get guidance. The worst was freshman year, but it was consistently bad throughout college. /

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please use the space below to elaborate on any of the questions on the survey and to comment on any other aspect of your undergraduate experience not covered in this questionnaire.

More web apps!! They are incredibly low-cost and helpful.

Social spaces are a huge issue. The College needs a true student union. The SOCH is office spaces, not centrally-located, and nobody uses it. The FAS should move out there. There is no reason why professors ought to have the most central building in the school. Yes, I am suggesting moving the heart of FAS to the SOCH, and letting University Hall become the student union. Or the Malkin Athletic Center. Until Harvard itself gives us the space we need, don't be surprised when students turn to outside social organizations with real estate (namely, **Final clubs**) for diversion.

On that note, please don't be afraid to distinguish **Fraternities/Sororities** from **Final clubs**. **Fraternities** and **sororities** have done amazing things for Harvard Students (their membership and yours overlap, don't forget!) but also for the Harvard and Cambridge community. Their philanthropy deserves recognition.

Dining hall food needs to improve. Consider having fewer hot entrees but making the rest tastier, warmer, and more nutritious. We don't need basmati rice, white rice, brown rice, and jasmine rice all in one night. We don't need one night of delicious dishes at every station followed by days where nothing is appetizing (spread out the goodness!).

Fix the lighting in Leverett dining hall. It is too dark in there.

Encourage professors to assign reading materials that are online. Much cheaper (often free) than textbooks and more accessible.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

While I'm sure I'm not the only student to comment on Harvard's deficient undergraduate social life, I am compelled to express some of my sentiments here. The House system allowed me to make friends and feel a part of a strong community, and organizations allowed me to expand my friend networks in other houses. However, this all happened sophomore year, which, in my opinion, is a year too late; freshman should be exposed to the house system or given a similar support system (i.e. tutors, housemaster figures). Even though houses foster a sense of community, they are still lacking when it comes to providing access to social spaces for informal gatherings and, at times, for tolerating the inevitable habits of underclassmen, which includes permitting gatherings that do not end promptly at 2 AM. Additionally, the rules regarding alcohol consumption in the houses that developed over my four years here prohibit a house from strengthening its sense of community and indirectly encourage dangerous binge drinking done away from the eyes of tutors and housemasters who would be best fit to monitor student behavior. It's not surprising that the most social students resort to **Final clubs** to preserve their social lives. The problem, it seems, is that many of these clubs embody values that clearly oppose those that we are taught as scholars and as human beings. While the University may be too timid to do anything but turn a blind eye to some of the obvious concerns regarding **final clubs**, I would hope that administrators would make a valiant attempt to give students less reason to entertain the idea of joining a **final club** by providing more funding for organizations, better social spaces, and devolving certain powers to the housemasters. It seems as though the University made some attempts to create social events for students (e.g. Disney karaoke in Annenberg, yardfest), yet these types of events do not usually appeal to most students and seem forced.

Financial Aid is something I would like to address. Firstly, I must express my gratitude for all that Harvard has done for me and my family over the past four years. To have been able to learn, grow, and interact with so many fascinating people while not having to further jeopardize my family's financial situation was nothing short of a blessing. I hope that I can one day enable another student in need to attend this wonderful institution. While I am not ashamed of where I come from, I must say that there were times when I felt as if the Financial Aid Office made me feel that way. At a place where every student is so concerned about image, there should be no need to highlight socioeconomic status. The SEF is a wonderful creation, yet many students would rather there be a more discreet way to redeem tickets so that others are not privy to their personal financial matters.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Should have asked more questions about the social experience. I have a whole lot to say on that. Harvard completely passes the buck to the **final clubs** when it comes to kids having fun; speaking personally, I was so discouraged by the social options freshman year that I think I was discouraged academically and socially for the rest of my time. I don't think I ever recovered. Harvard needs to give kids more options and do a better job of letting them have fun. Look at Yale's social system - kids are allowed to drink in Freshman dorms. There is no space for freshmen to have fun, and it truly takes a toll. If I had known what a miserable time it was, I most likely would not have come to Harvard.

2010-2011 Senior Male

The administration, and the OSL in particular, seem completely out of touch with the student body. The office is preoccupied with policing the students and limiting liability, and in the process is severely limiting social options on campus.

The new push to "more uniformly enforce alcohol policy" is a net detriment to the quality of the Harvard experience. It is now nearly impossible to throw a party (or even a small gathering), either as a student group or as an individual. The bizarre amnesty policy doesn't offer actual amnesty, only a transfer of official culpability to the registered host of the event (even if they never actually supplied alcohol to the person in question).

There is no longer a point in attempting to host on-campus events, let alone ones that include alcohol. The OSL's policies cause two things to happen - first, students pregame more. They drink a lot of alcohol very quickly before going out, often in small, secretive settings. Second, it gives **final clubs** (which are completely unregulated and have a safety history that is spotty at best) a monopoly on legitimate social options. Students don't want to spend their Saturday nights watching movies and playing Scrabble. The OSL isn't going to change that.

2010-2011 Junior Male

I am not in a **fraternity** but I am in a **final club**.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

The College needs to take an active stance against the sexual abuse that happens regularly in **final clubs**. It is ridiculous that College administrators are not willing to speak publicly about this, even though it's pretty well known that most admins oppose the Clubs. Sure, there are political considerations here, but do those outweigh students' health? And, in terms of inclusive social space, the College should make an effort to have more of it to make sure people feel included and provide an alternative to unsafe social space. **Final clubs** are an elitist institution of the past and it is embarrassing that they still exist - imagine what people will think when they look back in 30 or 40 years, after they've been abolished. You want to be on the right side of history. Don't defend the indefensible for short-term political considerations. Think about the comparative number of people affected in a positive and negative way by the Clubs (and of course those who are ambivalent). Students will lead the charge, but we need support!

In the mean time, we'll keep calling Cambridge police with noise complaints.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Harvard does not care about how undergraduates live or interact. We do not have a good budget for the UC, dorms lack so many basic necessities and social spaces. The only social spaces on campus are dining halls and exclusive social groups like **final clubs**.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Man up and ask students if they're members of **final clubs**. Why is it permissible to ask students if they are members of **fraternity** or **sororities**, but not if they're members of **final clubs**? Neither type of club is recognized by Harvard. The double standard is frustrating and only gives **final clubs** greater allure and power.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Generally, I am satisfied with my time academically and socially at Harvard. I do believe, however, that the administration does not properly focus on key concerns of undergraduates. On social issues, the college comes off as apathetic toward improving social spaces on campus (lack of student center, funding for parties, paternalistic approach toward serving alcohol at House events, ignorance of role of **Final clubs** in social scene). Go read some of Toby Stein's articles in The Crimson--maybe respond to these concerns in a thoughtful, transparent manner.

Academically, though many large departments like Government and Economics attract top professors, the classes they teach (when they do teach) are generally too large to allow for meaningful interaction with Professors. Yes, we know Professors have office hours, yet this is not the only way to improve undergraduates interaction with Professors. Reduce class sizes.

2010-2011 Senior Male

You need to change the social scene at Harvard...it is very unsustainable. The sheer fact that you have this survey and ask students if they are in a "**fraternity/sorority**" and do not provide a space for "**final club**" shows a level of ignorance or deliberate avoidance that is embarrassing. I wish Suzy Nelson and Dean Hammonds cared enough to have an honest conversation with resident deans, tutors, or students to see how terribly misguided their policies are. An overwhelming majority of the student and house population feel this way, yet, it seems that no one above notices/is doing anything about it.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

The classes I have taken have been quite interesting, but often large and not much interaction with actual professor. Most of the useful learning for life does not take place in the but through extracurricular organizations. The social life at Harvard is pathetic. **Way too many restrictions leading to exclusive **final clubs** having a monopoly on the most fun.** This is a huge problem and a reason prospective students should consider not coming to Harvard. Social space for nightlife open to everyone is a real need for Harvard, and something I wish the administration would support more.

2010-2011 Junior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

It is really unfortunate that the administration seeks to strangle student life in the houses with onerous alcohol policies, limited funding for the houses and a complete lack of commitment to students' happiness besides a cursory nod to mental health. The reason that drinking hospitalizations have gone up sharply is because students are driven off campus to **final clubs** where drinking is completely unmonitored. The decrease in funding for house activities and ridiculous regulations leaves the house committees and masters little options for how to improve house spirit. Harvard students are socially frustrated because the school has no commitment to students' happiness, not because they are overworked. When the best example of a common space on campus is a cafe in a library, Harvard needs to rethink its approach towards providing a healthy environment for its students.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

I am satisfied with my social life because of the strong friend groups and extracurriculars I am a part of; however I think that the college itself does not support social life well. Party space is too limited and restricted and the new reforms are simply going to drive dangerous drinking practices more towards the **final clubs**. The college needs a realistic approach to the **fraternities** and **final clubs** on campus rather than the "don't ask, don't tell" approach coupled with harsh restrictions on House life that is currently being used.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

Interesting that you ask "are you in a frat/**sorority**" and not "are you in a social organization". I'm in a **final club**, wasn't sure how to answer that question.

2014-2015 Junior Female

I think that the most negative aspect of my Harvard experience has been related to the social life. I personally consider myself a really social person. I have a lot of friends, and I enjoy going out almost every Friday, Saturday night. However, my ideal Saturday night does not involve the dark, sweaty, hypersexualized parties of the **final clubs**, frats, or **sororities**. I'm totally fine with that, but I think that the **final clubs** have still had a negative impact on my life at Harvard. Even if I had been interested in getting into a **final club**, I truly believe that it would not have been accessible to me because of my personal background. This type of exclusivity has no place on Harvard's campus. I'm also a peer adviser, and I have had countless freshmen guys ask me "How do I get into a **final club**?" and being in a club is something that is extolled by the general population at Harvard. I think this is a symptom of a greater fetish for exclusivity that is pervasive on Harvard's campus? Why should being in a **final club** offer connections and benefits for getting a job and future personal success compared with my ideal social life? Why should certain clubs that are considered more competitive/exclusive have the benefit of better networking/better social spaces in comparison to an activity that anyone can join? Even though I have no desire to be in a **final club**, I think that there are countless ways in which my inability to do so has placed me lower on the social ladder at Harvard, which I think is inconsistent with our community values.

2014-2015 Junior Male

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Why is Harvard's atmosphere so toxic? / Stress, culture of competition, sleep depravity, self-consciousness, MONEY/LACK THEREOF, extracurriculars, internships, race relations. It's too damn much. Help us; we are obviously not happy. / / Let breaks be for breaks. Don't give students assignments due on the day they return. Create a central space for relaxation. Oh wait, no one ever has time to relax. Either eliminate exclusivity or eliminate **final clubs** altogether.

2014-2015 Junior Male

I love the people I've met and become close with here. I wish there were more social opportunities on campus outside of **fraternities, sororities, and final clubs**. I wish the entire institution as a whole had more respect for athletes and the year round time commitment (currently, I feel that being a "DHA" is a derogatory term for a dumb person here).

2010-2011 Senior Female

I have loved my experience and am incredibly grateful to the numerous individuals, from Amanda Sonis Glynn to Walter Hryshko, who have made my Harvard career such a great one. That said, I do not think my experience would have been as positive without my willingness to seek advice and experiences, as well as my parents' ability to help guide me through academic and professional decisions. My assigned advisers have generally been inaccessible, but I have been fortunate to find others who have been reliable and insightful. I have had excellent experiences related to public service but have had to work to connect those experiences, given the disparate nature of public service (from PSN to ABL to PBHA to CPIC) at Harvard. By far my most rewarding experience was leading the Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter at Harvard, and my biggest dissatisfaction with Harvard has been its refusal to recognize Greek life and even more so its continued efforts to equate women's **fraternities** with **Final clubs**. Female Greek life made me feel welcome at an otherwise large and scary place and gave me the confidence to succeed personally and academically here at Harvard. I could not be more grateful for that experience and, as an alumna, hope to see the University at least differentiate among academic, social, and philanthropic organizations and **social clubs**.

2010-2011 Senior Female

Again, my undergraduate experience was largely tainted by how egotistical and unfriendly most people are here. Everyone is ambitious, but this emerges in a cutthroat manner that negates the formation of a healthy community. Some people never do any work and can scrape by with decent grades, and other people figure out how to cut corners, and the overall effect is that people here care a lot more about the place giving them a degree than the education they receive. It's about LOOKING smart, not BEING smart, and success is more important than personal development. In addition, the continued presence of discriminatory and even dangerous traditions--such as **final clubs**, the lack of LGBT resources (until this year, thanks Working Group), and Harvard's seeming preference to turn a blind eye to problems of misogyny, homophobia, and other bigotry because it doesn't want to harm its precious reputation)--keeps us back in 1636 and makes this a very uncomfortable and unwelcoming place for anyone who questions its antiquated power structures.

2010-2011 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

To Whom it May Concern:

While I realize that running a university like Harvard must be difficult, I have been shocked by the level of ineptitude, poor planning, and lack of consideration shown by certain members of the administration over the last four years. Though some of your less popular policies may make sense, or even be necessary, the way in which you have been instituting new policies has been very negative in recent years - it would be much better to work WITH the UC and other student groups to find solutions rather than simply "banning" things or "re-evaluation" resources without any clear purpose or consideration of the student body.

Furthermore, Harvard has perhaps one of the worst reputations in the country for student life. Ignoring **Final clubs** does not make them go away - they have an established member and alumnae base and will continue to flourish with or without university support. But by preventing any other type of **single-sex social organization**, such as **fraternities or sororities** to be recognized, you are simply encouraging this **Final club** dominated social scene. The House system is great, but you are simply not going to find the level of support needed at Harvard in 500 randomly assigned people. This campus is stressful enough as it is and it is absolutely necessary to have a group of people around you who support you.

I have found this in my **sorority** - I have NEVER been hazed, I have never been put in any uncomfortable or awkward situation, I have never been forced to do anything. As a woman, having a group of other women who support me and with whom I am in no ways competitive has been essential to my college experience. I would have had a very different and much more negative experience at the college without this organization of women. You can throw around all the excuses you want for not recognizing these social organizations, the ones I've heard are:

1. They lead to dangerous drinking... Counterarguments: 1) I don't drink, nor have I ever been asked to do so by my **sorority** or any of the **fraternities** I have interacted with, 2) even if that were true, recognizing them would not make it worse, in fact it would give you greater control to ensure that dangerous practices do not occur
2. The house community is a sufficient substitute... This is definitely not true (see topic addressed above)
3. There would be problems when University rules conflicted with the national **sorority/fraternity**/PanHellenic/IFC rules... Such as?! If anything, the national organizations' rules are much stricter than University rules (no underage drinking, no hazing, no drinking at all in any **sorority** spaces, etc.). There is nothing that the national organizations require us to do that would in any way violate a University policy!

The point is that Harvard desperately needs better social organizations - both single-sex and co-ed, which serve very different and equally important purposes! Unlike **Final clubs**, the **fraternities** and **sororities** actually WANT to be recognized, they WANT to work with the University and make these things work. I have seen my fellow sisters and **fraternity** members try to work with the University and I am always disappointed to hear the negative response received, a response which doesn't offer any positive alternative. I am graduating this year and I will ALWAYS look fondly back on my **sorority** - I will help them in any way that I can as an alumnae. I have faith in that organization to provide for its members, to help hundreds of women navigate

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the uniquely difficult place that is Harvard. I hope that one day I will feel the same way about the University as a whole.

Sincerely,

Graduating Senior who is in a **sorority**, is a natural sciences major, has an A average, doesn't drink, and is on financial aid... enough "contradictions" for you?

2010-2011 Senior Female

Why is there an option for identifying yourself as a member of a **fraternity** or **sorority** but not for identifying yourself as a member of a **final club**?

Why is there no section for study abroad students? The university needs to better incorporate students who study abroad so I feel feedback from this group would be useful.

2010-2011 Junior Female

I am a member of a **final club**, it was not an option but I think is integral to my Harvard experience although the University refuses to acknowledge them.

2010-2011 Sophomore Female

Social life!!! The university has completely failed to understand the social scene at Harvard. Male students now idolize **final clubs** specifically for the reason that Harvard does provide opportunities for partying.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

GET RID OF **FINAL CLUBS**!

2014-2015 Junior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

There were some questions about racial/socioeconomic exclusion. I don't think Harvard excludes people, but definitely clubs make people feel like they are inferior. I don't personally care because I didn't want to be a part of a social club coming into Harvard, but **finals clubs**, and other clubs like Hasty and Key are very clearly for the wealthy, and it took a lot of my friends a while to realize that. Also, I know a lot of people who are really close-minded about their own privilege and don't recognize the oppression of others. They say that "social justice warriors" like Renegade magazine are too confrontational, among other things about social justice causes. Although I'm not really involved in a lot of social justice movements on campus, I don't think privileged people here make any effort at all to understand the point of view of people in oppressed groups, such as other races, lower socioeconomic classes, women, and people of other sexual orientations. I have spoken to too many white men here, including today, who refuse to understand that other people live oppressed lives, here at Harvard, and that these white men too are part of a bigger problem. By denying the oppressed their oppression, and telling them to "calm down" and "stop taking things so seriously," they are denying suffering and a very valid point of view. It's something that hasn't really been addressed here that much, and I really genuinely think people of privilege need to understand that they are living privileged lives.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

The social life here is a disaster- either you can go to **finals clubs** or you can wander around looking for parties. The university/UC should made concerted efforts to improve this.

2010-2011 Senior Female

Final clubs and the general culture fail to create an environment where males and females interact in a way that the two are viewed equally. I believe it is the school's responsibility to improve upon this circumstance.

2010-2011 Senior Female

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During my four years at Harvard, I have felt that the administration has never made the undergraduates a priority. We need a student center that is actually worth going to and is more accessible to students, we need/deserve hot breakfast. I realize that the real groundbreaking research is coming out of the grad schools, but the undergraduate is still what makes us HARVARD to the rest of the world. I would like for the administration to start treating us that way. I don't care if you don't really put any more money or what not towards us, but at least try and make us feel important.

Social life is a huge problem on campus. The administration needs to start recognizing that it is a very gender-imbalanced environment where men have all of the power and women are constantly objectified. I do go to **final clubs** because they are the best parties but self-esteem has plummeted since being here because of that. The only real outlet or positive space that I have found for women who want to be social - you can't just tell us not to party - has been in my **sorority**. They are the strongest, smartest, and most beautiful people I know and I think that it is a shame that the administration does not recognize the vital role that these organizations at playing in women's lives on campus. Girls on campus are struggling to find a way to negotiate this horrible gender dynamic that exists in the social life on campus and this needs to be addressed, recognized, and improved by the administration. Joining Delta Gamma was the best decision I made outside of academics at Harvard, hands down.

Academic Advising has been somewhat of a joke over my four years. My freshman academic advisor did not help me in the slightest and was actually looking more for tips for his daughter who wanted to apply here. Since freshman year, I feel like no one has really reached out to check in on me and see how I'm doing - its all just about paperwork and forms. I think more of an effort should be made by the adults and administration on campus to reach out to students and keep track of each and every one of us.

2010-2011 Senior Female

I play two sports and am in a **final club** here, which has had a very positive affect on my happiness. I work very hard academically, and have been generally satisfied with academic life at Harvard.

2010-2011 Junior Female

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The overarching theme of my time--and I believe that of many of my classmates--at Harvard is that I do not mater as a student, individual, or member of the campus community. This, combined with a culture of competitiveness and exclusivity that pervades academic, extracurricular, and social life, have made my time at Harvard an unhappy one. I have concluded that matriculating here was a mistake.

ACADEMICS: Lecture classes are, in general, wasted opportunities. The professors, even if they great lecturers and brilliant scholars, are generally approachable. Attending their office hours is a one-time deal, since their schedules are usually packed. Moreover, they seem uninterested in interacting with their students on any meaningful level, especially students who may not be the very best and brightest (but obviously still want to learn

Seminar classes do not really provide a workable alternative, since most only meet one day a week. That's only 12 times a semester; I have found that by semester's end, I don't know the names of many of my seminar classmates, and my relationship with my professor (even after attending office hours) is unremarkable. Moreover, the seminar classes I have been a part of have featured professors that may enjoy teaching in small settings, but lack the skills necessary to do it effectively.

EXTRACURRICULARS: The extracurricular scene is more important to students than academics. Some campus organizations, such as the Lampoon, pride themselves on their exclusionary cultures--cutting 95% of their compers (this is not an exaggeration) for no reason other than to reinforce their own mystique on campus. Others, such as the Crimson or IOP place absurdly high demands on their members in terms of hours spent working for them. Most members of these organizations devote far more time to such activities than to academics.

SOCIAL LIFE: **Final clubs** dominate the social scene at Harvard, but providing more places for socialization will do little to change anything for the better. The very existence of the **final clubs** reinforces a social pyramid that places wealthy, preppy, and often white men and women at the top as well as a few token racial, ethnic, and social minorities. The **final clubs** posses a monopoly not just on social space, but on the quality of social activities. More importantly, though, is the fact that membership in a **final club** grants the individual supreme social status on campus and access to a very exclusive world of students and families. **Final clubs** exist solely for the purpose of excluding the vast majority of students in order to make their own members feel important. Exclusivity is the name of the game.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

Final clubs control the social scene. They may not be recognized by Harvard, but how can you not recognize buildings closer to campus than the Quad?

2014-2015 Junior Male

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I feel like adjusting to college should have had more focus, because that was difficult. Homesickness is a big deal. I also feel sexualized by **Final clubs** and am annoyed that they are such a big part of the social scene here. Although I may refuse to go, my friends don't, and I end up feeling left out for wanting to feel safer.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

We all know why you are keeping **Final clubs** around, and that it's largely bullshit.

2010-2011 Senior Female

I have absolutely loved being here at all levels: academic, social, extra-curricular, fitness/nutrition, etc. I would have liked, nonetheless, for there to be more inclusive options for nighttime parties. I have disliked the importance of **final clubs** in the nightlife experience of students here, and I think the university could help provide more alternative options for social experiences during weekend nights. That said, my social life has felt rich and rewarding here. Thanks for reading!

2010-2011 Senior Male

Social Life -- the OSL is terrible. They are hopelessly out of touch and really need to interact more with students to know what is essential and what is detrimental to healthy, happy student life. **Final clubs** suck, but until the university throws itself behind solid alternatives, they'll remain central to this school's really sick, weird, competitive, elitist social scene. Currently, the OSL seems to be struggling to strangle, rather than assist, these alternatives. Toby Stein's column this spring is full of useful suggestions to the administration. Please read his stuff and act on it.

Advising -- I think the advising was pretty useless. I would have liked an adviser who could have given me good student-life, rather than [pointless] academic, advising. I think that would have changed my experience substantially.

Core/Gen Ed -- It actually kind of backfires. Lessen the requirements, and people will take (and actually learn from) what interests them.

Reading -- there's too much of it. Teachers seem to be in some sort of assign-too-much competition. Almost nobody does all their reading, which is pathetic, especially at a university like this one. Assign less, and people will engage more and struggle less.

OCS -- they try really hard and do a mostly good job, but the OCS makes Consulting and Banking seem like the only real options for graduating seniors. They are not, and OCS needs to put more effort into counteracting those two fields' exaggerated presences on this campus. It's sad and unnecessary that all these smart, unique, interesting people are being funneled into identical desk jobs in NY, SF, and Boston.

2010-2011 Senior Male

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The administration does not do enough to restrain rowdiness of some social activities. I understand loud parties at the **final clubs** (that one can hear from 300 yards away) are beyond the administration's control, but resident tutors need to take more active roles in restraining parties during exam periods and late at night.

2010-2011 Junior Male

Social life here sucks here because of **final clubs**. There really needs to be better social spaces. / Also: the housing system traps you for 3 years - it makes it difficult to live with real friends if you made a mistake choosing your blocking group in the spring of freshmen year, which is really problematic.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

I think that the college needs to focus more on social spaces. There has been a lot of conversation about the **final clubs** this year and how they need to be more inclusive and such. I don't disagree with that but I also think that is never going to happen, so Harvard needs to buy space in the square and make it accessible to all students so that everyone has a place that they can go to socialize. This is especially important because this school is extremely high pressure and if no one is going out and having fun, people are much less happy and fulfilled.

2014-2015 Junior Female

I think we need a central social space. I know it's been said, and it doesn't need to replace **final clubs** (I personally feel as though my **final club** was the group that got me through the most stressful times at Harvard) but it could be in addition.

2014-2015 Junior Female

With all of the commotion about **final clubs**, Harvard should support an alternative place for people to party instead so there is not a monopoly on the social scene. Maybe allow the soch to be rented out and leave whatever group rented it liable?

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Harvard doesn't do enough to encourage student social lives outside **final clubs**. In fact, it seems more concerned with issues of liability than livability at times.

2010-2011 Senior Male

I took "**fraternity**" to include things like **Final clubs**, since there wasn't a separate section to fill that out.

2010-2011 Junior Male

Need more house events that involve alcohol to take power away from the **final clubs**

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

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Exempting Economics concentrators from Moral/Ethical Reasoning requirements IS A TRAVESTY. Please, just think about current (and past) events. Knowledge of "optimal decision-making" is not enough.

House tutors are an important part of my life. The housing lottery was a source of unnecessary and excessive drama. A university as wealthy as Harvard should not have "railroad" rooms. New buildings ought to be built, with elevators and a tiny amount of privacy. Stop packing Winthrop to the gills.

I am glad that a BGLTQ resource center is being developed. This is an important first step, but I wonder why all spaces devoted to gay life and to women on campus (QRC, Women's Ctr, BGLTQ Ctr, WGS department) are in basements.

As Harvard Students, we should have some limited amount of free printing, or we should be able to use Board-Plus as printing money.

Poetry seminars are extremely important. Please don't let the administration "cut back" on them, or require more assignments to promote "rigor." People will get what they need to get out of these classes. Poems, unlike problem sets and theses, do not improve when a student feels that the GPA gun is being held to his or her head.

There should be space for parties on campus. The administration should cannily strategise about how to mitigate the bad effects of **finals clubs** (noise disruption during study times, rape environments, etc). They are disgusting institutions, and they have an unfortunate near-monopoly on "big parties" on campus. Events like Mather Lather are great, but infrequent. Room parties are good, but often crowded, again because Harvard College does not prioritize student housing. The Dudley Co-op, a former home for inclusive parties, has begun to use guest lists and secrecy in the same way that **finals clubs** did, because the lack of social options on campus led to too many people coming to Co-op parties and making a mess. Brightly colored chairs on Harvard's lawn are a first step to solving Harvard's social ills, but they can't be the only one, especially when it snows.

2010-2011 Senior Female

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I noticed several times you asked whether I was a member of a **fraternity/sorority**. I am a member of the Delta Gamma **sorority** and it has been by far the best experience I have had in college. It gave me a community when my blocking group fell apart. The girls brought me soup when I was sick and helped me get through work when I had mono for an entire semester. I took a leadership position working with alumnae and planning a reunion which was an extremely rewarding position. It is only through my **sorority** that I have spent considerable time in doing charitable work. The only downsides of the **sorority** has been not having a space of our own, and not being recognized by the University. We were forced to cancel a fundraiser for Perkins School for the Blind because we couldn't use Harvard space. We can't advertise to freshmen girls who don't know the perks of being in a **sorority** (I didn't know anything about **sororities** myself until sophomore year, and didn't join until my junior year because even then I still NEEDED something beyond the community I had). For most of my time here, we have rented space from the AD, which makes us feel like a marginalized group on the **final club** scene, plus has given the male clubs even more money to perpetuate their dominance. Harvard's official policy for not recognizing Greek life is that it is exclusionary based on sex. But you're really hurting women more by not recognizing us, because we are forced to exist at the whim of the male groups who let us borrow or rent their space. They have the money to continue, but it is very challenging for us. Only this year, after 16 years, have we rented our first space, but we could only afford something that is so small that not all of us can meet there at once. If the University recognized us, we could use common spaces, and would also be regulated by University rules, which honestly are less strict than our national **sorority** rules. I think it would be hugely positive for women across campus for **sororities** to be recognized. It really allows for community and a social outlet that doesn't exist otherwise. And I say this as a person who LOVES my house community. I served on HoCo all of college, and was HoCo co-chair and events chair. But my house community was not enough and even when I had many friends and relationships with tutors, it could still be very impersonal.

2010-2011 Senior Female

I think the College has to be more out in front as a moral voice -- it should be more actively encouraging its students to live lives of public service, more actively discouraging exclusive social worlds like the **Final clubs** (even if they do boast lots of big-donor graduates), etc. Harvard & its students are the stewards of a lot of gifts -- financial resources, natural talents, etc -- that can only really be justified if they result in progress for the world in a variety of ways.

2010-2011 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Other aspects not covered:

1. My concentration (Social Studies) gave me fantastic academic and thesis advisors, but the advising I got before and outside of Social Studies - in my first 1.5 years here - was a disaster. My freshman year residential advisor was the same person as my academic advisor (that should not be allowed!), and this person was a woman studying to be a veterinarian with nothing relevant to tell me about the things I was interested in. My sophomore fall advisor was a second year law student at BU (a house tutor because she was married to a harvard grad student). It would have made a big difference to my freshman year if I had been given a real academic advisor - a faculty member in Gov/Econ/Philosophy/etc.
2. An astounding number of my classmates (40%? 50%?) are immediately or eventually going into finance/consulting, and most of them didn't arrive on campus planning to do that. Harvard is institutionally complicit in this - no professors, university officials, president, anyone, ever speaks out against this - and the culture of the school actively promotes it. This is the most prestigious university in the world, with some of the brightest students, and the university doesn't try to instill us with any moral conception of what we should do with our lives (compare this to the inscription on the gate in the yard - 'depart to serve thy country and thy kind', or the religious seminarians who founded this college in the 17th century). The only time I hear from the president of my university is when i'm getting an email about a campus-wide "jogging initiative".
3. I think it's pretty crazy that the university allows the **finals clubs** to exist at all (i know they're technically private, but if Harvard really wanted to, it could obviously shut them down - expel any student who was a member, etc.). these wealthy, elitist, all-male organizations dominate much of the social life of the college. the feeble, perennial university efforts to convene committees to discuss alternative social spaces don't change the basic social fact of the hegemony of these organizations. they should just be shut down (although obviously this will never happen, and the dudes who sit on the corporation who have the power to change this were probably once members themselves).

I doubt anybody will read this, but for whatever it's worth, I've talked with a pretty large and diverse group of kids at Harvard who agree with most of the above.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

The administration needs to take student concerns re: social life more seriously. I am a member of a female **final club**, however I recognize the validity of the concerns of students who are not affiliated with a social club. There is a lack of social space and the administration seems to make every effort to deter social activity on campus. Putting chairs in the yard/quad is not a solution to the very real lack of social outlet on campus. Furthermore, the administration should take a stronger stance on promoting gender equality within the social scene. In addition to supporting social activity on campus, the administration needs to take note of the concerns of students in the quad.

2010-2011 Senior Female

There is not nearly enough emphasis on social experience in this survey. Harvard's social scene is marked by elitism and paternalism that is crippling and has made many, many people miserable here socially. For elitism, the 8 **final clubs** dominate the social scene to an extent that is, frankly, disgusting. Many of my friends are in **final clubs**, and as someone who is not, it is really quite terrible to be constantly surrounded by the Mt. Auburn St. scene and excluded from it. (And I feel as though I have taken it quite well compared to many others.) There is a lack of social space for people to come together, and as a result we are stratified by the clubs, by socioeconomic status, by race, by preferences. It is ugly, and from my view, the administration just looks the other way because it is easier to let the **final clubs** take on the risk of underage drinking than to actually do something about it. Which brings me to paternalism -- I am so sick and tired of Harvard's administrators pretending like they are generous about allowing socializing because party forms exist. Party forms are bullshit. A vast majority of undergraduates drink while underage, and there is not a single party or fun event on campus that excludes alcohol. Yet there are no spaces for parties or gatherings or anything without the express written consent of house admins (which is just horribly annoying - we are expected to turn in a form for a shitty dorm party days before we are going to have it. NO ONE PLANS LIKE THAT FOR A DORM PARTY!!) And that requires being 21+. I spent half of my college career trying to dodge judgmental tutors and apathetic house administrators just to gather up some friends and relax. But because the majority of the time, music + beer = not allowed and tutors tell people to get lost, the whole social experience is pushed even harder toward the **final clubs**, and more alienation occurs. The whole thing is pretty disgusting, and I've gotten the distinct impression over my four years that anyone ranked tutor and higher doesn't really care at all. Just let us be when we are in our rooms, or give us somewhere else to go that isn't an elitist, racist, overprivileged mansion on Mt. Auburn Street. A LOT OF PEOPLE FEEL THIS WAY.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Another one of my best experiences at Harvard was joining Delta Gamma **sorority**. This organization helped me to build a great sense of community that I was lacking my freshman year. Since joining, the **sorority** has provided me with countless opportunities to be a leader and to solve problems. I have helped to build an alumnae network for the Harvard chapter of Delta Gamma. Harvard can be a lonely place without the right support group. Fortunately, I have never felt homesick, depressed, or lonely because I joined a group of girls who have been such an essential part of my daily life here. After spending hours leading the volleyball team and being immersed in the athletic community, it was such a breath of fresh air to have the opportunity to meet such a diverse group of girls. I have explored Boston, attended musical/theatrical/political/community service/ethnic cultural events, and learned how to be a better person and member of my community through my experiences in Delta Gamma **sorority**. I cannot speak more highly of this organization and this group of girls. I have always felt safe, accepted, and free to be myself (something that can be hard to do in college when you are miles away from your family and home). Although I joined DG not for the social scene and more for the sisterhood, it was very nice to have structured events outside of the house community. The social scene at Harvard is not ideal--and I think it is evident by the fact that many more girls are attempting to join female **finals clubs** and **sororities**. I believe that this should be addressed.

I also wanted to comment on project-based learning. I really wish I could have had an opportunity to do things related to social innovation in the classroom. I am a huge supporter of interdisciplinary studies, and some more structured opportunities would have been great for social innovation studies (along the lines of the Ethnic studies secondary--which by the way, I would have loved to learn about earlier/before my senior year).

I also wanted to comment on the tutors in Mather House--they deserve recognition for fostering a great sense of community and for being such knowledgeable, kind, generous resources for students! It is such a contrast to my freshman proctors who were not always very welcoming and friendly.

Finally, I wanted to comment on the fact that I wish I had had more opportunities to take more risks and to fail. Although I have had my moments, I think I have learned the most when I have tried new things and left my comfort zone. I just wish that there had more opportunities (where the stakes were lower and the space felt safer) to do that.

All small criticisms aside, Harvard has been one of the BEST experiences of my life. I feel so fortunate to be here, to be a graduate, and to have called it home for 4 years. The people here are extraordinary!

2010-2011 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

It is disappointing that there was no substantial section on social life at Harvard. The sense of community at the school is weak, which is too bad considering the students are the school's best resource. The house life scene is highly fragmented and varies widely between houses. School spirit and support to the community is low-- few people attend games or performances unless they are required to or their roommates are directly involved. It is also hard to meet other students after freshman year, and the drinking rules are too up-tight on campus, which forces students to socialize in the male-dominated social scene (**finals clubs**) or be frustrated. Harvard has a lot of potential, but the life-developing parts are weak and cause a lot of distress for most students. Unfortunately, a Harvard degree usually gets students what society deems important, so students justify things this way. Furthermore, allowing other students and faculty to know that you are not totally satisfied is considered weak and Harvard students are too proud to admit to having weaknesses. All in all, Harvard has incredible Academics and resources, but the advising and social life is weak, so it is hard to fully take advantage of the opportunities.

2010-2011 Senior Female

The survey should clearly ask if the respondent is a member of a male or female **final club**. While I answered no to the **fraternity/sorority** question, I am in a **final club**.

2010-2011 Junior Male

If I had known about importance of **final clubs** in the Harvard social scene, I probably would have gone to another school with more inclusive options. If the school weren't so stringent on holding social gatherings in dorm rooms, campus life for non-**final club** students would be immensely better. I don't go to parties anymore because I can't be certain that I'll get into any. However, if I want to invite friends over, I risk getting in trouble because of excessive noise, if I don't do it in the designated 8 hours a week for having parties. The social scene at Harvard is extremely depressing.

2010-2011 Junior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I love Harvard as displayed by my generally positive answers to most of this survey. That said, I am not always convinced of the administration's (I recognize it is unfair to lump everyone together) care for student life and student well-being and is often more concerned with Harvard's liability and image.

I think Harvard's recent tightening of alcohol policies is rooted in protecting itself legally, not because of care for students. One reason - albeit a minor one - that Harvard appealed to me was its sensible, relaxed alcohol policies, allowing students to make their own choices and recognizing that college students will drink. Tightening alcohol policies will simply make students hide their drinking, making their drinking less healthy, and drive students to **final clubs**, which do not need an increased role in social life.

2010-2011 Sophomore Male

The social scene is enjoyable, but it is too male dominated. Harvard needs to take control and recognize the **Finals clubs** so that they can begin a process of integration, which is too far delayed.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

To be blunt: the social scene at Harvard is horrible. If you are not wealthy and well-connected enough to join a **Final club**, you are fucked (excuse my language, but this is just how I feel). The eating clubs at Princeton University are the perfect model for social life at any Ivy league school: these clubs are inclusive enough to offer all students the chance to belong, regardless of what boarding school they went to or the size of their bank account.

2010-2011 Senior Male

I am appalled by the striking absence of a student life/social section within this survey. I have had an excellent academic experience at Harvard, but I leave the school regretting my decision to come here. The University's negligence of the social failures here is frankly embarrassing. It could not be more obvious that the University has allowed the **Final club** system to flourish, despite the objections of many students both male and female, because it offers plausible deniability and legal protection from any incidents that may occur. Harvard is so worried about protecting its image and name that it has largely sacrificed the social wellbeing of its students. Further, when combined with the exclusive, elitist **Final club** system, I have found that strict House Party policies lead to the marginalization of female students and of male students who did not get into **Final clubs**. I leave this school with memories of courses that pushed me and taught me about the world and myself. But my remembrance of this institution will always be tainted by a pervasive feeling of exclusion, which was tacitly ordained by the University itself.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

A student center is absolutely necessary to improve the social experience of the student body. Queenshead Pub, the SOCH, and houses are not adequate alternatives for **final clubs**.

2010-2011 Sophomore Female

I think that Harvard's biggest problem is its social spaces. The lack of a student union and the presence of the **final club** scene are huge problems. The social scene on campus is quite divisive and exclusive, and I think the university needs to address ways in which it can encourage a positive, cohesive community. My experience at Harvard would have been far more positive in all areas had my social experience been more satisfying (as social experiences that are positive carry positive energy over into one's academic performance and willingness to be more involved in the extracurricular community).

2010-2011 Senior Female

I cannot emphasize enough how instrumental the Classics Department was in making my Harvard experience extraordinary. The courses, the people and the community they work to build is so welcoming, supportive, and fun.

Socially, rather than academically, Harvard was more of a challenge. I found the **final club** scene a major source of insecurity and unhappiness in my own social life and that of my friends. The clubs are an unavoidable aspect of socializing, and I frequently felt left out and rejected by these groups, and barred from interacting with friends who frequent them.

2010-2011 Senior Female

Someone in the administration needs to walk down Mt. Auburn street on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night. The prominent landmarks-- e.g. **final clubs**-- dominate the region btw. the yard and the river houses. They are a problem, someone in the administration needs to deal with them, but no one seems to want to take responsibility. This survey did not acknowledge their existence, which is silly, every student is affected by them.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Fraternity/Sorority does not equal a **final club**. You should change the survey to reflect both

2010-2011 Senior Male

The fact that there is only one question on this survey about social life on campus is ridiculous and shows just how out of touch the university is with the social life of its students. Social life at Harvard is probably this school's weakest aspect for several reasons. The university seems to be unwilling to increase the social space around campus for its students and is perfectly content with shoving all of the social responsibilities on to the **Final clubs**.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I love Harvard! The university doesn't do enough for social life, but with **final clubs** and **sororities**, etc., I had the time of my life! I made the best friends of my life, and I LOVE Lowell House. Also, the Bureau of Study Counsel essentially saved my life on so many occasions. What a useful service!

2010-2011 Senior Female

It's a bit laughable that the administration thinks they can fix the **Final club** issue by opening it up to women-there already are female **final clubs**. If you think turning exclusive, single sex organizations into exclude coed organizations is going to make a difference you're delusional. Best way to address the issue is to sponsor Greek life on campus, like they have at Penn or Dartmouth.

2014-2015 Junior Male

I feel that Harvard encourage an atmosphere of courtesy. However, I do not feel that we are yet at a point of openness. I have friends of different backgrounds--friends whom I know well enough to feel comfortable staying at their homes over break. Yet, I would never feel comfortable bringing up the issue of **final clubs** and their role in campus social life, or having them know I qualified for a Pell grant.

2014-2015 Junior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on the best aspects of your freshman experience not / already mentioned.

final clubs arent THAT tough to get into

2013-2014 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on the most disappointing aspects of your freshman / experience not already mentioned.

Lack of social spaces as a freshmen guy. Parties in college rooms can feel cramped, and invasive when tutors check in. Both **fraternities** and **final clubs** are not open as a social area, so places to party and have a good time are limited. The fact that there were no officially sanctioned (other than Annenburg) activities for the night before housing day. There should have been some sort of celebration at or way to get to know each upperclassmen house. Some proctors from other entryways were invasive. There was no relation between us so it was ridiculous to be punished or patrolled by them. There were no activities to do the Friday night before the Harvard-Yale game, especially since parties were not allowed, leading to a boring Friday night.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

final clubs are tough to get into

2013-2014 Freshman Male

There are very few social spaces. This includes spaces to hang out outside of parties as well as spaces for parties themselves. This makes **finals clubs** seem more enticing since there is not really another place to party and you can't get in if you're not in one. This has been disappointing. / / I have also been underwhelmed with how easy some classes are. Part of it is the ease of the class, but also the grade inflation not only causes stress due to what people outside of Harvard think but also more pressure to get an A since so many others are getting As.

2013-2014 Freshman Male

The whole elitist vibe of the student body really bothers me. I honestly think Harvard should do something to tamper down the **final club** scene and stop endorsing obviously useless clubs like the Hasty Pudding which caters to rich kids. You can do better Harvard.

2013-2014 Freshman Male

It has been somewhat depressing to find that at Harvard I am a much smaller fish in a much larger pond than in high school. Certainly this did not come as a surprise, but I did not fully realize how disappointing the realization would be. I don't really know how you might go about trying to prepare students for this, but I think it is important, because I think I am not the only person who feels this way:

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2013/5/8/rejection-happens/>. Furthermore, as one who is not interested in (or eligible to join) the various elitist **social clubs** at Harvard, I am disappointed that the University seems to have no power over the **finals clubs**, and mad that there is institutional support for the Hasty Pudding social club which I have seen change a few of my close friends in uniformly negative ways. The Pudding club (and this is not a comment on the theatrical group or the Kroks) seems to serve literally no positive purpose, and further perpetuates the negative stereotypes of Harvard students that affect us all, even those like myself who are vehemently opposed to the outdated elitist message they promote.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Disappointing to find out how much misogyny and sexism exists at the college. especially in the **final clubs**, which are students' (especially freshmen girls, the most vulnerable) only party outlet because the proctors crack down so hard on the parties in the freshman dorms. to truly meet the social needs of freshmen girls, freshman parties should be more allowed, because there freshmen girls are far more likely to be treated with respect in contrast to the meat market venue that they enter when they enter a **final club**. I was also disappointed to find out how much more the male sports teams are supported by the administration and coaches. Furthermore, Harvard Department of Athletics is severely lacking in knowledgeable, invested personnel in the areas of strength and conditioning and sports medicine. very few of my encounters with those departments left me feeling like there were adults i could talk to who would know more about my injuries than i do.

2012-2013 Freshman Female

I have found that there is a sharp social divide between the very wealthy/boarding school/varsity athletes and the rest of the students at Harvard. I have found this divide to be distracting and unnecessary. Harvard culture seems to place too much emphasis on getting into **final clubs** and other social organizations that generally promote this culture. I think that this could be remedied by promoting the social activities of other, egalitarian institutions and extracurricular activities rather than the misogynistic and elitist culture promoted by these other social organizations.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

I was probably most disappointed with the social life here. **Final clubs** dominate the social scene, and I have so many problems with them that I can't even begin to list them. I wish that there were more dorm parties, or that parties were more inclusive.

2013-2014 Freshman Female

The administration's alcohol policy for freshmen is entirely counterproductive. As I understand it, the reason for having "dry" freshmen dorms is to keep Harvard's younger, perhaps less experienced, students safe. But the fact that freshmen can't have parties in their rooms without risking severe consequences means that, 1) freshmen are forced to drink hard liquor (shots) quickly, rather than beer or mixed drinks more socially, so that they don't get caught, and 2) freshmen, particularly freshmen girls (since freshmen guys are generally less welcome) are driven to **Final clubs** or other off-campus parties, because they can't have their own in their rooms. This is bad for everyone: for freshmen guys, they're left no parties to socialize at, for freshmen girls, they're thrust onto a scene where they're constantly targeted and objectified, and for the administration, there's simply more heavy drinking, frankly, more rape, and certainly less socializing for all freshmen. I am absolutely convinced that this situation would be greatly alleviated if the administration allowed parties (with alcohol, within reason) in freshmen dorms, or at least were much less strict about them (as at peer schools like Yale, Princeton, Penn, and Dartmouth). **Final clubs**/off-campus parties wouldn't be such an issue if they weren't the only place for freshmen to go to parties. The next time the administration tries to rail on the ills of the Clubs, it should take a close look in the mirror, and realize that all it's doing is perpetuating the status quo.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Really I've had an amazing time here, and I haven't had many significantly disappointing experiences. Being a freshman male who isn't like some popular jock but who still wants to go party and socialize was a bit of a bummer at the beginning because the **final clubs** seem to suck a lot of the social life out of Harvard. But even with that, I - and most people, I think - figure out how to have a good time with their friends here and discover a lot of things to do. / / I guess I'm a bit disappointed that I don't get out into Boston more, but that's more a function of just being busy than anything else. There honestly isn't that much specifically coming from the University that was disappointing. / / Actually, one thing - having to semi-frequently deal with pests (mostly MICE, augh!) was really kind of crappy and not something I thought I would have to deal with. Idk how much Harvard can deal with this issue, but having mice run around at night when you're trying to work or having to deal with "caught" ones in traps was pretty gross.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Most agree that being a freshman (heterosexual) male at Harvard is not a great situation. For the most part, we're insulated from students other than freshman, so our social options are relatively limited. Wealthier students often buy fake IDs and a good bit of alcohol to attempt to compensate for the fact that most freshman girls would rather go to **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

The whole social scene. As a freshman guy, we're basically cut off from the entire Harvard social world. The upperclassmen steal away our girls with their **Finals clubs**, and we're left to ourselves. It's unfortunate but seemingly inevitable.

2013-2014 Freshman Male

I did not appreciate the lack of community on campus. I feel there is definitely a bubble but the school does not provide a "college" environment like other colleges do. Life is mainly individual-based. Social life is dominated by **final clubs** and **social clubs** which are overexclusive. Also, I feel a lot of effort has to be taken to get to know people. Perhaps the college could have more mixers? Lectures also iffy

2012-2013 Freshman Male

I strongly feel that Harvard needs a common social space outside of the upperclass Houses or **Final clubs** where people can socialize, like a student union building.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

There is not really a social scene for people not interested in hooking up. Many of the larger school-sponsored activities, like the First Chance Dance and Freshman formal, and the major weekend activities (i.e. **final clubs**) are all geared toward the same party-going population. There aren't many well-organized, well-attended events for people who are not interested in drinking and/or having sex.

2013-2014 Freshman Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Overall the Harvard social scene leaves a little to be desired. Social life is generally very exclusive and male-dominated. **Final clubs** don't accept freshmen, frats and **sororities** have rushes, and many organizations known for throwing parties have a vicious comp process. The college shuts down many parties in dorms and Houses that can make it difficult for friend groups not related to a larger group to throw parties.

2013-2014 Freshman Male

The amount of drinking was really shocking to me. I don't drink for personal reasons and parties are not my preferred method of socialization. Before I arrived I read the guide to living at Harvard and naively believed that there would be no drinking in freshman dorms because alcohol is prohibited. Obviously I should have known better, but the amount of drinking was appalling to me. Since almost my entire entryway took part in those activities I felt very socially isolated for my entire first semester. I didn't feel like there was an obvious alternative or activity that I could do on a Friday or Saturday night that would not involve drinking or going to a **final club** and getting hit on by drunk guys who are spilling their drinks on you. There were a lot of factors that made my first semester miserable, some of which were not Harvard's fault, but alcohol played a very large role in that. When I was really unhappy my parents got in touch with Dean Currie trying to come up with some strategies or solutions. In their conversations with her it became apparent that she had no idea the extent to which alcohol is a presence in the freshman dorms. That's because when proctors find alcohol they never report it to the next level, the resident deans, it just stops at the proctors. Your no alcohol in the freshman dorms policy does not work. There needs to be substance free housing for people like me. I know there are others like me out there but it is really hard to find the people who don't drink when you are only surrounded by those who do. I felt very isolated first semester because of my choice not to drink and the seeming lack of social activities besides parties. Thankfully second semester, I have managed to find people and activities that don't involve drinking but it took me a really long time to get there and a lot of unnecessary unhappiness and stress which could have been prevented. It got so bad that I would go home to Milton every weekend just to avoid feeling alone and isolated on a Friday or Saturday night. Something about Harvard's approach to alcohol and freshman needs to change. I really support the addition of substance free housing to the freshman experience at Harvard.

2013-2014 Freshman Female

The way that the proctors were both supposed to be in an advising/friendly position and disciplinary position put stress on that relationship. The strict rules regarding alcohol forced a lot of my peers to binge drink a lot and depressed the ability for social interactions between frosh without the imposition of a (not very friendly) frat or **finals club** atmosphere.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

I was pretty dissatisfied with the social scene. Not that this is the job of the university, but the **finals clubs** and such all seem to be member exclusive or somehow objectify women so it is not always enjoyable to go out.

2012-2013 Freshman Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Seeing how much the **fraternities**, **sororities**, and **final clubs** really inhibit those unaffiliated students who wish to have an active social life.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

social scene... for the most part, people here are really unfriendly/ not interested in making new friends. After visiting friends at other schools (I have visited Stanford, Penn, USC, Duke, and Brown for reference) I was shocked by how different the student body was at all of those schools. I think that the hostile social environment results from the **finals club** scene in general. Because all parties at Harvard are so exclusive/ listed, it is not conducive to going out together in large groups and meeting new people. Most people here generally self-segregate friend groups along socioeconomic and racial lines.

2013-2014 Freshman Female

Hard to find social outlets if you don't enjoy social groups like **sororities** or **finals clubs**. Easy to feel alone - people are so busy that they don't have time to devote to friendships. Food is also repetitive and not great.

2013-2014 Freshman Female

I was disappointed at the prevalence and ubiquity of exclusive **social clubs** on campus. I felt left out for not being involved in Greek Life, pre-punched for a **final club**, in the Hasty Pudding Social Club, or something of the like. I also feel like people expect more extracurricular involvement than is reasonable at all hours of the day.

2012-2013 Freshman Female

Final clubs really exaggerate an elitist, misogynist atmosphere. Really sad that I couldn't let my guy friends into any of the parties, especially since I always had visitors.

2012-2013 Freshman Female

The culture of alcohol has been disappointing. Also, the social stratification (in the **Finals clubs**, the **sororities**, and the **fraternities**) has also been disappointing.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

It seemed a significant amount of the social life at Harvard revolved around **Final clubs**, making the life of a male Freshman much more difficult.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

There is very limited interaction between Freshmen and the rest of the college outside of extracurriculars and athletics. After housing day, there are many more opportunities, but there's also generally a lot more work to be done. Freshmen should be able to get to know different houses even before they're assigned one. Also, the administration cracks down hard on dorm parties, especially in freshman dorms and especially at the beginning of the year. All this does is send freshmen elsewhere (ie. **Final clubs**) -- it does absolutely nothing to create a safer environment for anyone.

2013-2014 Freshman Male

Socially, the parties were centered at the **finals clubs**, which was disappointing for freshman boys. Drinking in freshman dorms was strongly discouraged, and if it wasn't for being on a varsity sport I think i would have felt particularly couped up and bored on weekend nights. / / In terms of the student body, I was also somewhat disappointed to find the dichotomy between the kids who go out and those who are smarter. I definitely think there's a strong negative correlation. / / Overall it bothers me that Harvard doesn't really care about their undergrads. We have significantly less power than our peers at other equal schools, which I think is sad.

2013-2014 Freshman Male

Finals clubs are really not nice at all.

2012-2013 Freshman Female

Honestly, I would say that there weren't any major disappointments in any area of life during my freshman year. The only thing that was sometimes an impediment to socializing was the typical exclusion of freshman guys from a lot of parties and most **finals clubs**, but I wouldn't consider those to be issues that mattered to me that much.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

The social aspect is driven largely by extracurricular clubs and **final clubs**. As a freshman male, Harvard was fun, but it could have been better.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

male **final clubs** tend to dominate social lives of some groups of women on campus. If Harvard supported or endorsed Greek Life more openly, we would have more opportunities for both men and women to join non-exclusive social groups and foster a sense of equality between genders. Also, even though there are a wealth of extracurricular opportunities it was disappointing at times how competitive the comp/application/audition process was for many groups, but I guess that's what Harvard is about!

2012-2013 Freshman Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I am also disappointed in the silly stigma that **final clubs** hold over the majority of the student body.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

social life sucks for freshman, especially guys. It's a really bad system that **final clubs** hold all of the parties but don't let freshman guys in. and nobody likes the hasty pudding. so there are no other **social clubs** for freshman guys that have regular parties etc. this detracts from the traditional college experience, which honestly does involve going to parties. harvard should look into creating a social space similar to the **final clubs** that are freshman-friendly

2012-2013 Freshman Male

I hate how lacking the social scene is here. Besides **final clubs** (which the school does not even establish), the only set up social events are several dances, the only one of which I really enjoyed was scaritas. I would have wanted more relaxed social events such as cookouts in the yard (cut off from all of the tourists).

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I've heard from upperclassmen that freshman year is a good time to make mistakes. I've certainly made a lot of those over the course of this year, but, hey, at least I'm still here. My second semester here was much, much more difficult (not just academically) and stressful than the first. Some of that was definitely due to academics (taking a freshman seminar last semester didn't really give me a good picture of what it was like to be taking four 'real' classes all at once), but I think some social aspects of life here also added to what occurred during this semester. Working out issues with my blocking/linking group was an extremely stressful and dramatic experience for me, and while I really do appreciate the fact that Harvard allows students to pick who they'll be living with (unlike Yale, for example), I think blocking can create extremely closed-off and exclusive friend groups. After Housing Day (and even well before, since some people have been thinking about blocking groups since the beginning of the year), I've felt like many people are at least on some level quite unwilling to branch out and become close to anyone who isn't already included in their circle of close friends. So, while I definitely agree that the whole blocking process has a lot of positives, the negatives still definitely have quite a strong impact, in my opinion. Also, I don't really know what I was expecting before coming here as far as social life/parties at Harvard are concerned, but I must say I was pretty disappointed with what I've found. **Final clubs** really do dominate the social scene here, and I think it's really sad that organizations whose only apparent motives are to provide a select group of young men the chance to hook up with/take advantage of as many women as they like are basically the only available option for (female) people who want to party/go out on certain nights. Doesn't the administration find it strange/a bit morally questionable that women who want to go out with their friends on a Friday night might not have any other choice other than going to a **final club** to dance in the middle of the dance floor while **final club** members stand against the walls in order to pick out the girls they'll be getting with that night? (Also, this dislike for **final clubs** doesn't stem from some frustration I might have about **final clubs** taking away my chances to hook up with girls or anything, since I'm gay. Also, I've never been inside a **final club**, either, so maybe I have a skewed perception of them, too. But the descriptions I have from my female friends who have been to them have certainly not painted a very nice picture in my mind) Also, less space for parties in dorms/houses will only cause more people to go to **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

At times, the social scene was very negatively skewed towards guys. It is difficult for guys to go to the same parties and events that girls can, particularly at frats and **final clubs**. Also, not allowing freshman to have parties in their dorms really limited the social scene for freshman guys.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

The most disappointing experience of my freshman year has been my social experience. Last summer, I was so excited about starting college at Harvard. I had gone to a low-performing public school in California and felt so fortunate to be going to Harvard where I believed my peers would be welcoming, friendly, intellectually-engaging, and spirited. I loved the concept that Harvard seemed to cherish of building community on campus within the freshman class, and I was so elated to have the opportunity to be a part of that community. / / Unfortunately, within a couple weeks after I arrived, I realized that fitting-in would be a challenge. Others around me were whisked away to prominent **social clubs** (e.g. the Hasty Pudding, **final clubs** for girls) or spent time exclusively with their sports teams. But this did not bother me. I still felt that I could be a part of the Harvard community and make friends even if I was not in these clubs or special organizations at first. / / As time went on, though, I realized that the social alienation that I felt was not a temporary state that I would experience solely at the start of the year. Instead, it was an exclusion that I continued to feel throughout the year. Socially, my first semester was very troublesome. I witnessed the incredible benefits that come with having gone to one of the nation's elite high schools: instant circles of friendships and a natural social ease. I felt that, before I even set foot on campus, a social hierarchy had already formed, and I had been prevented from joining simply because I did not go to a school like Horace Mann or Brunswick. Additionally, my roommates and I never established great relationships with one another. / / I tried to get involved with extracurricular organizations and meet people through different activities, but this proved socially futile. Despite being involved with a number of community service programs through the IOP and meeting individuals through that organization, I found myself in my room on the weekends, listening to shouts of revelry from the Yard, as I watched countless episodes of Hulu or wished that Lamont was open 24-hours in the weekend so I could go read in peace. While the FDO sponsored many programs on campus, I found these to be very structured and lacking in energy. / / I did not know what I was doing wrong. Although this account may paint me as an unsociable person, I actually love interacting with others! I have great relationships back home. I've studied abroad meeting new people in foreign countries. Part of my father's work involved hospitality, and I've had a lot of experience with social interactions! When I went home for winter break, I enjoyed having time to reflect about what I wanted to do differently in my second semester. I knew that I needed to be more engaged with others in my class. / / The second semester has in fact been much better. I got involved with extra-curriculars, like the Harvard Political Review, that were less community service-dominated and had more of a focus on campus. This helped me meet more people. However, I still feel that there are definitely social divisions on campus. In my history class, I became friends with most of the other freshmen in the class but saw how most of them were connected in some way to the "upper echelon" of Harvard's social life (e.g. most popular **sororities**, **final clubs**, varsity sport teams, etc.). However, I became more optimistic about fitting into the Harvard culture and being able to feel a sense of belonging. / / However, this hope was eventually dampened a couple weeks ago when I was rejected by the Crimson Key Society (CKS). In February, I started competing for the organization with the hopes of eventually becoming a member. I loved the concept of giving tours and being able to represent Harvard because--despite my complaints about the social atmosphere here--I have really adored and been humbled by the incredible academic opportunities that I have been given and by the awe-inspiring history of this place. I worked really hard to perfect my model tour stop and model tours and made it to the final round of the comp. I gave two tours that I felt were really good, and later heard that both of my evaluators really liked me and liked my tour. I eventually, however, found out that I was rejected. Now, I've been deservedly rejected before, and, at the moment of my CKS rejection. I realized that there were potentially many other people who gave better evaluated tours than myself. But as pictures popped up on Facebook of the Crimson Key's new members celebrating at their rented-out party at the Fox **Final club**, I began to realize how virtually every member of the new Crimson Key class was somehow connected to the elite Harvard social scene. Many had older siblings who were prominent on campus, many were in the best **sororities**, many were varsity athletes. It seemed to me, and many other unsuccessful--yet incredibly deserving--compers that, despite CKS's claims of meritocracy, they are looking for a specific type of Harvard student. / / Now, CKS's exclusiveness does

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

not necessarily annoy me in its own right--after all, I have already experienced this social tension as described above. But what was really infuriating was the fact that, this time, the university seemed directly involved in propagating the CKS methods of selection. Harvard pays CKS to serve as tour guides and chooses CKS members to serve as ambassadors for the university (despite the fact that, at least I do not believe, CKS's membership is not representative of Harvard as a whole). Additionally, after being rejected, I was dismayed to reflect on the fact that Dean Dingman was prominently featured in the CKS Comp advertisement talking about how great CKS is. I would strongly encourage the FDO to consider analyzing the effects that CKS and its comp process has on campus, specifically during the freshman year. I know many freshmen who were rejected from CKS, despite having spent hours upon hours perfecting their tours, only to experience a feeling of deep dismay when they find out that their peers who were more well-connected are accepted, when these individuals may be more interested in CKS's thriving social scene than giving tours. / / As I have said, I really have loved my Harvard experience, and I do not mean to rant. However, if I am going to be honest, I must tell you that, despite having served on a number of prominent university committees, having been involved with many extracurricular organizations, and having loved the academics at Harvard, I still do not feel like I belong and am truly a member of this community. Hopefully, this feedback helps so that future freshmen do not feel the same sentiments of exclusions and alienation--because I think that there are problems on campus that must be solved.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Finals clubs, culture of elitism, limited social opportunities

2013-2014 Freshman Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on the most disappointing aspects of your freshman experience not already mentioned.

I don't really feel that the school did enough to encourage socializing/friendship-building among students at the beginning of the year (I really felt lost and it was a bit hard for me to make friends at first; I didn't feel that the environment was extremely conducive to my development of friendships). I'm also not so happy with the social scene - it seems like the fact that the university can be a bit tough on partying (especially among freshmen) just means that people are forced to go to sketchier parties (ex. at the **final clubs** - actually, just EVERYTHING about the **final clubs** is creepy).

2011-2012 Freshman Female

Bad entryway/dorm. Presence of **final clubs** initially intimidating (but have realized that just one part of campus).

2011-2012 Freshman Female

I was disappointed to see that there is some social division at Harvard with the **finals clubs** for example.

2011-2012 Freshman Female

The lack of social events in a party setting. The fact that much of the social life is dominated by exclusive groups (**final clubs**, **social clubs**, etc..)

2011-2012 Freshman Male

Two major complaints. (1) Dining at Harvard, particularly Annenberg but other dining options as well, is unreasonably poor considering the school's endowment. Schools such as MIT and Wesleyan which spend comparable per-student amounts on student dining have incomparably better food options for students, with much more reasonable hours (dinner ends at 7:15??!). Please consider giving up on HUDS and moving to a different caterer. (2) The drug and alcohol policy at Harvard, particularly for freshmen, is outrageously severe and drastically harms Harvard's social life. (Please do not disregard this suggestion as immature/unreasonable and read on for examples.) The amnesty policy, for example, is a straight-up scam — a friend of mine was forcibly admitted into UHS, his parents were notified, and he was told he'd have to take a semester off if he was readmitted for similar reasons. Another friend was forced to take mandatory drug therapy when he was found to be possessing marijuana — while I understand that illegal drug possession and underage drinking are crimes, it is possible (and incredible common!) for colleges to have more lenient drug/alcohol policies to allow for more social opportunities while still promoting a safe environment. In case the administration or whoever is reading these surveys is not aware, the party scene at Harvard is very difficult to break into for freshman guys. **Final clubs** and frats are restricted to members and girls, and other parties are typically organized by an extracurricular group (which you'd need to be a part of), in an upperclassman dorm (freshmen not invited), pay-to-enter, or overcrowded and shut down by campus police. Harvard could maintain a strong policy toward responsible drinking without endangering the social well-being of its students (as a majority of universities do). Drastically increasing security during river run, for example, was unnecessary.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Honestly, it was the social aspect. With the **Final clubs** and the very exclusive party atmosphere at Harvard, it's incredibly hard, especially for an Asian freshman male. During those weekend nights, that's when I felt the most alone and felt no belonging to Harvard. If that could change for the upcoming classes, I hope that others don't need to endure what I felt being excluded.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

The social scene is very unwelcoming for freshman guys, and there is not much prospects for having a fun freshman fall even if your on a team unless you're a 10 generation harvard student with siblings at Harvard etc. Even in older years it seems like there is a sharp social division in terms of those in **final clubs** and those not, so there is definitely a lot of anxiety amongst my friends about next fall.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

I was disappointed with the large role **final clubs** play in campus social life. Admissions tours and other resources played them off like some fringe population, and I found that very misleading.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

The restrictiveness of social life that is not **Final clubs**. I have gone to **Final clubs** throughout the year, but at times it frustrating not being able to party in dorms as well as having the women we hang out with ditch us for the clubs.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

harvard's failure to recognize **greek life** on campus has been a major disappointment to me throughout the year. the chapters that currently see themselves as harvard social groups are all non-hazing **fraternities** and **sororities** with rich traditions in brotherhood and sisterhood and commitments to serving their communities and to giving undergraduates a positive social outlet. in recognizing **final clubs**, i feel as though harvard is being hypocritical with respect to it's anti-hazing policy and desire not to come off as "elitist." **greek life** has been a major part of my freshman experience and it will continue to guide my social life at harvard. school-affiliation would benefit the **fraternities/sororities** on campus and the greater harvard community as well.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Even though I went to all the panels/open houses, to OCS, and to the summer international experience office, I had no idea how to go about planning this summer, and I didn't apply for summer funding because I didn't know I could. The only things that are clearly described are the summer study abroad programs, and while these sound great, I knew I didn't want to spend that much money or to spend my summer doing basically the same thing I'd done all school year, just in a different country. It's really too bad how exclusive the social scene and the extracurricular scene is here. I hate that freshmen have to leave the yard, where we're comfortable and feel at home, and go to upper class houses, frats, or even **final clubs** if we want to go to a party. **Final clubs** and clubs like the Pudding have so much social clout because they can feel like the only options. At the same time, I feel like clubs get unnecessarily competitive to try to seem as cool as the exclusive clubs--the Advocate, the Lampoon, etc. I joined the Advocate this semester after coming twice--and while I understand the value of an educational, intense comp process, I don't think it's necessary. If people are trying out for these clubs, it already means that they're talented Harvard students who are passionate about literature, humor, etc.--there's no reason to exclude them or to make them jump through hoops.

2011-2012 Freshman Female

I'm disappointed in the college's social scene. Although I'm on a sports team, a member of a **sorority**, and a member of another social club on campus, I still feel like there's no consistent space for me to have fun with my friends who are freshman males. I realize that the **final clubs** are out of the college's control, but I feel like if the college's drinking policy in the freshman dorms was changed to something similar to Stanford's policy (open door policy) this problem would not persist. Moreover, the college's current alcohol policy encourages freshman to drink quickly and quietly in our dorms to pre-game before heading out, and this in turn causes problems like binge drinking and blacking out. It also contributes to alcohol poisoning. Please seriously consider doing something about this. Not only does the current social scene exclude freshman males, it also encourages unhealthy drinking habits.

2011-2012 Freshman Female

personal disappointments with my work ethic. i also wish there was a little less of a feeling of exclusivity to some of the groups here (**final clubs**) but i also dont mind them too much

2011-2012 Freshman Female

Making friends has been very difficult for me, which was unusual for me in the past. Somehow I feel like I don't connect with people here as much I would have liked. Every day I realize the individuals I considered to be close to me are not whom I thought they were, and I can't stand that. I also think **Finals clubs** are a disgusting and shameful aspect of the Harvard social scene. They kill the sense of community I usually feel with other social events.

2011-2012 Freshman Female

Being put in Canaday :(just kidding. Disappointing...my advising, also the ridiculous **final club** system. Also having no basic science courses for ppl who never took bio haha.

2011-2012 Freshman Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please do not punish future freshmen by rooming varsity athletes with other students. My roommate was a filthy person, but that has nothing to do with him being an athlete. The problem with him being an athlete was that he always had his team in the room drinking and turning it into a shithole. The fact that athletes are so close-knit and revered in college is what probably contributed to a sense of entitlement about what they could do, both in the room, the classroom, and on the social scene. Proof positive: what social group features most prominently in the **finals clubs**?

2011-2012 Freshman Male

Final clubs

2011-2012 Freshman Male

I found that the social scene was deeply lacking. The emphasis on off-campus social environments such as **final clubs**, social organizations, and Greek life I think really detracts from the environment and adds to Harvard's feeling of elitism and exclusivity. While I'm glad Greek life is much more limited here than at other schools, I think that overall the social scene should be structured in order to emphasize inclusive socializing. Whilst visiting a friend at a small liberal arts college, I was surprised but excited to find that many parties were open to all college students, free, and widely attended--in a way that events like the parties thrown by the Freshman Social Committee are not usually. I think Harvard needs to work on building better free, open social spaces for all on campus.

2011-2012 Freshman Female

Social scene -- I do not really like the **final clubs**, but it feels like is not much else to do for fun. Programming is not always appealing, and it's a little hard for freshman to take the initiative and plan things for fun. A centralized hang-out space, or more resources to plan off-campus excursions would be great!

2011-2012 Freshman Female

It is a trend everywhere I know, but the disparity of social opportunities available to freshmen men as opposed to freshmen girls is really acute. It's not that I was real disappointed about not "getting to go to parties", but the social atmosphere emphasizes a strong rift between freshmen. It's typical anywhere that girls have more to do than guys, but I don't think it's typical that guys have almost nowhere to turn to. Harvard likes to champion itself as a school of equality, and in that spirit rejects the **greek fraternities** system, but those are so much more inclusive than the current cluster fuck of **final clubs** it implicitly endorses and supports by preventing development of alternative **social clubs** and opportunities. That's not to say there isn't a lot to do at Harvard. The range of activities is inspiring and awesome, but the school could do so much more in the way of fostering a better social environment by sponsoring inclusive **social clubs**.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on your experience with the General Education requirements. What did you like? What didn't you like? This feedback is extremely important to us and will help improve our program.

1. Gen Ed is not a good system for Harvard students. Let's take a step back and think about who you try to admit--very aggressive ambitious students. Well, we are and we don't want to be told after working really hard to get here what to take. It would be better if you trusted us to learn this stuff on our own with our various extra activities or interactions with friends. I know you want to make us better citizens but consider this if you as the administration set the example of what an institution should do by allowing the rampages of the **final clubs** and black face at the lampoon than we learn that such morally reprehensible behavior is condoned by the very institution I attend. Frankly, I've learned more about how to be a good person by my interactions and discussions with my friends. Let us explore our interests on our own. Forcing us to go to lectures by a prof. that doesn't want to teach isn't going to make us learn the material. All the gen eds where I actually learned something I would have taken anyways. If you aren't interested you won't learn and making these gen eds a requirement (a graded requirement) will not motivate students to suddenly become interested.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on your most positive academic experience at Harvard.

honestly, being a member of a **final club** was the best part of my undergraduate experience due to the friends, space, and events that I had.

2010-2011 Senior Male

joining a **final club**

2010-2011 Senior Female

my **final club**

2010-2011 Senior Male

Being in a **final club**.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on your most disappointing academic experience at Harvard.

The social scene is in extreme disrepair. This is an issue that the administration continually turns a blind eye. **Final clubs** are the only outlet for traditional college fun. Yet these are extremely exclusive, and continue to become more exclusive and perpetuate Harvard stereotypes. "Normal" students who want to have fun are left at the mercy of **Final clubs**. This also creates a community that is segregated by race, socio-economic background, athletic status, etc.

I wish I had more small courses. I only had one course that was small enough where a professor knew my name, and this was probably my favorite course. As a Gov concentrator, I believe something needs to be done to provide more small courses. This would also help to challenge and develop my ideas, which I feel did not happen enough here at Harvard.

The Resident Dean / Ad. Board system is horrific. Being required to use your assigned Resident Dean leaves you at the mercy of an often inept individual, who is the only person allowed to advocate on your behalf when sometimes the Resident Dean is not suited to do so. Anytime something is slightly out of the ordinary -- and life DOES throw you curveballs -- Harvard makes it extremely difficult (and sometimes embarrassing) to deal with. The Ad. Board needs to be more transparent -- students should be able to speak with a board that often makes decisions that influences the rest of their lives.

I wish there were courses in public speaking. Right now there is one course -- Expos 40 -- on public speaking. It is capped at 15 people and each year has 10x that many lottery for it. There is clearly a demand for this important skill.

The strength of Harvard facilities is weak -- classrooms and otherwise. Some sort of student center is needed.

There is a sense among students that the Administration does not care about students' concerns -- and I have not seen any evidence that would prove this belief false.

The school is too bureaucratic. Each department might as well operate as its own school. Communication between entities is weak. Rules exist that not only conflict with one another but are unknown not only to students but also to faculty members. There is no sense of "one." (Even something as small as there being 100s of different styles of business cards among the departments; or there being dozens of different class rings for students from which to choose.)

Academic advising is weak.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I am not a fan of the really elitist parts of Harvard (**final clubs**, etc.)

2010-2011 Senior Female

Lack of student social space. How can Harvard let the **final clubs** continue this way? This was the most sexist and ridiculous social experience I've ever experienced. I was directly involved in **final clubs** and spent most of my time there, but I still realize how terrible and elitist they are. It's a shame and hurts Harvard overall because it decreases the amount of intellectual involvement in favor of social involvement.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Not meeting enough people freshman and sophomore year. Feeling that **final clubs** control the campus.

2010-2011 Senior Male

The **final club** scene. It's misogynistic and elitist.

2010-2011 Senior Female

The social scene. When looking at reviews of Harvard from different organizations, it is true that the campus is not dominated by a Greek Scene. It's dominated by something much worse. The **Final clubs** are the most horrific part of this University. They are sexist, racist, dangerous and represent portray every negative stereotype that Harvard has. They have a stranglehold on the University and if you are not cool enough, white enough or rich enough to join one, you are stuck wondering around Cambridge on weekend night searching for probably an awful party because a great majority of the social people are at the clubs. The most frustrating part is that the University ignores that they exist and are failing miserably to offer students an alternative which is driving more and more people to the clubs, putting more people in dangerous of excessive alcohol consumption and sexual attacks. I have had first hand encounters with the administration laying down barrier after barrier to limit the non-club students from having a good time. The Administration is attempting to rid itself of all liability when it comes to student drinking and because of this is forcing students to drink in more secluded or dangerous settings, which is no safe for the students at all. Harvard needs to think about the students first. This has been the worst part about Harvard and would cause me to question my support for the University.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Harvard makes no effort to provide social outlets for students. In fact, I think Harvard does its best to stifle it. It would be awesome if tutors were more understanding of parties in rooms and if there was a communal social space. I am in a **final club**, but there should be more social options for students other than **final club** parties.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Social life is too focused on organization-exclusive parties/events and **Finals clubs**

2010-2011 Senior Male

The social life is at times hard, if you don't enjoy **finals clubs** there aren't a lot of options to go out with your friends, especially when you are under 21. I also wish there had been more 'hangout' spaces in the freshman dorms, in the hallways of upperclassmen houses and as a student center to encourage relaxing and talking with others. I never felt like I had a space to go and chill with other people outside of my direct friend group, as most 'common rooms' are pretty gross and without a lot of windows and typically smell pretty bad and aren't in a convenient location. Maybe- chairs in the entrance to Weld Dorm to help encourage kids to take a break on their way to classes?

2010-2011 Senior Female

Finals clubs. The fact that the university allows those elitist pricks to run the social scene sickens me. Don't kid yourselves about "house life." The average student doesn't give a damn about it. If you're going to have a respectable social scene (which you can't do with house life. seriously.) then recognize the **fraternities/sororities**. You can at least exert some forms of control over them and prevent them from becoming the centers of sexist behavior and entitlement which currently embodies the Harvard social scene.

2010-2011 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

What can Harvard College do, if anything, to help reduce student stress?

Continue to support policies that allow for other "partying" then just **final club** parties.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

The social scene here is honestly so terrible. 1) freshmen dorms = so strict/ alcohol policy is terrible. 2) the **finals club** scene is so incredibly divisive among the student body. Separates freshmen girls and guys, classist, elitist, misogynist, racist to some extent. Tackle THAT.

2013-2014 Freshman Female

Fix **final clubs**. And give more money to the Foundation to contribute to conversations of identity.

2012-2013 Freshman Female

Get rid of **final clubs**

2013-2014 Freshman Male

Socially the **finals club** situation is obviously bizarre and difficult for freshman, particularly freshman boys. But i'm not sure what Harvard College can do about them, and i'm not sure they're in fact a net negative.

2013-2014 Freshman Male

Endorse clubs, **fraternities**, something. Give freshmen a social space. As of now, they have none (except girls, who can go to male **final clubs**)

2012-2013 Freshman Male

There is a hilarious creation of stress among much of the student body in terms of accomplishing "the" social status, particularly around **final clubs**. I have happily avoided this and watched many friends spend ridiculous amounts of time and energy to try and just get into "feeder" organizations, such as the Crimson Key Society. All to maybe get into a **final club** full of terrible people. Harvard College should rid this stigma from the student body. Greek organizations are far and above better than **final clubs**, and Harvard should embrace them.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

I think the resources that Harvard provides are great. I just wish my fellow students (and myself included, of course) didn't try so hard to seem perfect all the time. Also, I think **final clubs** and what they represent/how they objectivize women are really awful.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

What experience at Harvard had the most significant impact on you?

I was a member of the Fox Club, one of Harvard's 8 all-male **final clubs**. I held three important positions for the club, including Undergraduate Treasurer. This was by far the most meaningful experience I had in developing meaningful bonds of friendship and my own leadership skills as well as learning how to be a good citizen and good neighbor within my community at Harvard. In terms of career, my experience at the Institute of Politics directed me towards strong interest in a career in politics or public service.

2013-2014 Senior Male

Football, interacting with professors outside of class, **final club** life

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Failing to get into a **final club** - I have zero social life now. / / Getting lied to by a professor about the grading process for a course and getting a much lower grade than I had earned because he decided to curve his course without telling anyone.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Hard to say one but three things that really define my Harvard experience: my concentration (History), the friends I've made, and my **final club**. I know they are complicated spaces and can certainly be problematic, but my relationship with my **final club** and with the people in it has deeply strengthened my ties to Harvard, and is/will continue to be one of the biggest reasons I will attend reunions and contribute financially to the school.

2013-2014 Senior Male

Playing on the hockey team and belonging to a **final club**.

2014-2015 Senior Male

I have only been here for the semester, but there wasn't anything in particular that had a significant impact on me, besides the Crimson story that broke news about the Spee's sexist invitation to one of their parties. I think that there are deep issues that Harvard needs to address regarding the **Final clubs** and the sooner that happens, the safer and more tolerant our community will be.

2014-2015 Junior Female

Final club, Lightweight Crew, senior thesis

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Having a bunch of my friends get into a social club I didn't get into (Signet) and stop hanging out with me. Realizing how bad it is at Harvard specifically to make friends because people spend first few year trying to get into things like the Lampoon and **Final clubs** because they have celebrities, tons of money, and insane benefits and prestige so people don't really make close friends (it's not "cool" to make friends outside of specific organizations that are old like Advocate, Lampoon, Signet, etc.). This is exacerbated by people getting so involved in all the awesome extracurriculars that they have no time to hang with people outside of organizations.

2014-2015 Junior Male

Pre punch for **finals clubs** because I feel that the social aspect of freshman year is very lacking. In addition I was proud to finish second in my stat 104 class ranking for the regression project.

2014-2015 Freshman Male

Friends, The Dudley Coop, joining a **final club**, my professors, organizing events for extracurriculars on my own/with a board

2014-2015 Senior Female

Acapella, / **Final club**, / BSA / ABHW

2014-2015 Senior Female

Having a girlfriend for 3 years saved me. Otherwise, the social life here sucks. Get rid of the **final clubs**

2014-2015 Senior Male

All the negative aspects and growing pains associated with social life; my experience in a **final club**; my most rewarding courses that helped me develop my passion for the energy business

2014-2015 Senior Male

Rowing on the Varsity Lightweight Crew team. Joining my **final club**. Living with a great group of roommates

2014-2015 Senior Male

Club sports teams and being a part of a **final club**

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

My friends, club sports, **final clubs**, stem cell concentration/advisors

2014-2015 Senior Female

Being on the lightweight rowing team, being in a **final club**, meeting my girlfriend, taking a wide array of classes

2014-2015 Senior Male

My concentration has been the most positive - both in the classes I have taken for it and the faculty I have met and worked with. / And my **final club**

2014-2015 Senior Female

student organizing with SLAM and PBHA and other groups has been wonderful, the **final clubs** have been devastatingly horrible

2013-2014 Senior Female

HCFA (Harvard College Faith in Action), The Sabliere Society (**final club**), and HRDC

2014-2015 Senior Female

Football team, **final club**, blocking group, and gen ed program.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Membership on the volleyball team, membership in a **final club** for its camaraderie and brotherhood

2014-2015 Senior Male

Classes, hanging out with the people I have met, undergraduate research, **final club**

2014-2015 Senior Male

1. Election to a **final club** / 2. Landing a prestigious finance internship / 3. Retiring from varsity sports due to injury / 4. Transferring out of the Quad for senior year / 5. Working very hard in courses that count towards my major (like CS50 and Statistics 171)

2014-2015 Junior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

This year I participated in a dance show on campus, and my entire club and team showed up to support me. I feel like the college can tend to demonize athletes and **final club** members unjustly, and that experience proved to me the incredible value in groups like teams and clubs. Also I took a John Stilgoe class this semester that was incredible.

2014-2015 Junior Male

Joining a **final club**. Moving into Mather.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Joining a **Final club**.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

My **final club**

2013-2014 Senior Male

House Life and Club Sports. I wasn't a part of a **final club** or very active in any organizations so most of my friends were made through house life and my participation on the club soccer team.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Being a member of the swim team, being in a **final club**, taking art history/film classes that opened up my eyes to artistic expression

2014-2015 Senior Male

invaluable social experiences, intellectual conversations and networking made available to me through **final clubs**

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Academically, my experiences taking several of the English/Humanities classes at Harvard has had the most impact on me, because of the amount my professors and TFs have inspired and taught me, and the relationships I've built with them in and outside of class. Extracurricularly, my involvement with Harvard Ballet Company, the First-Year Outdoor Program, and a female **final club** in particular have made me feel like I have found my community at Harvard.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Confronting issues of racism, classism, and heterosexism that are inherently engrained as part of the university and its culture have been the most significant to me during me time here. Coming to an institution that was built for white, wealthy men by white, wealthy men has meant that I've needed to work to find a space here for myself, which has impacted how I view myself as a student at this University (and I think I am not alone in having to work for this space). Additionally, seeing how Harvard treats its students when it comes to issues of sexual violence and racial discrimination has been disheartening. For me, attending a leading world class institution has meant that I have held Harvard to a higher standard than other universities when it comes to ensuring the inclusion and safety of all of its students, and I think Harvard fails to do that. It seems very clear to me that the higher ups in Harvard's administration do not really care about the undergraduate experience, but really only about the money that undergrads will donate back when they become alumni. This is the message that is sent over and over when the University rewrites the sexual assault policy under wraps over the summer without any student input, when President Faust writes 50 words about the Black Lives Matter Movement and the university refuses to offer extensions during finals period when students are grieving because they are seeing on the news that their lives really do not matter (not only to the general American public, but here on this campus as well). / Additionally, the spaces of exclusion on this campus have heavily impacted my time here and how I feel about this university. The levels of privilege, classism, sexism, and racism that are embedded into the structures of the **final clubs** is astounding. If the university really cared about its the experience of undergraduates on this campus, they would move to abolish these groups (including the hasty pudding). However, I understand that wealthy men are behind these clubs and also give back to Harvard, so at the very least, Harvard needs to establish a separate social space that students can gather, drink, and dance. The lack of social space on this campus has been the most jarring and scarring thing that I've experienced on this campus, as it most concretely reflects the levels of discrimination that are at work in every part of this university. Also, STOP ADMITTING LEGACIES!!! And start listening to the students that feel most marginalized here. Harvard, you're doing a bad job at creating a university experience for anyone who is not white, wealthy, cisgender, heterosexual, or male. They're aren't even gender neutral bathrooms in most buildings, for god's sake. How is someone who identifies outside of the binary supposed to pee??

2014-2015 Senior Female

Study abroad and **finals clubs**

2014-2015 Senior Male

Classes, concentration flexibility, being in a female **final club**, house life.

2014-2015 Senior Female

My membership in a **final club** and my varsity sports team

2014-2015 Senior Male

The **Final clubs** have had the most positive and significant impact on me.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

My athletic team and my **final club** have a had the most significant impact on my social life here and I made incredible lifelong friends. I was told before coming to Harvard that I would learn the most from the student body and that has held true. It is Harvard's greatest asset and it has changed my life so much for the better. Having organizations that help make social bonds really makes a college a much easier place.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Teachers, friends, athletics, **final club** involvement

2014-2015 Senior Male

Rowing on the Harvard-Radcliffe heavyweight crew team, being part of the Cabot House community, being part of the **final club** community, the process of completing my senior thesis

2014-2015 Senior Female

My varsity sports team and my **final club**

2014-2015 Senior Male

Meeting my roommates and other friends freshman year who were so inspiring in their interests and passions. Joining a **final club** which was a very conflicted decision but ultimately gave me a sense of belonging and community that the general Harvard community never had. Getting to meet so many people from different backgrounds and faiths and places in the world. Having time with my friends to discuss things we were learning in dorm rooms...from which I often learned more than my classes. Getting to study a wide range of things. Being so inspired by my poetry teachers in the creative writing wing of the English department. Having great faculty mentors, particularly my thesis advisor, who all encouraged me to pursue and hone my art. Breaking up with my high school girlfriend. Learning how to interact romantically with different people. Meeting my current girlfriend and very likely future life partner. Finding people who understand and relate to me more than anyone else in my life.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Membership in social organizations: **final clubs** and **sororities** / Classes I have taken / PBHA / The Crimson

2014-2015 Senior Female

Final club scene

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Being a part of a varsity team, being in a **Final club**, writing a senior thesis, and most importantly meeting and working with my thesis advisor

2014-2015 Senior Female

Playing a sport, being a member of a **final club**-- being surrounded by such a diverse group of people in these things and more

2014-2015 Senior Female

Seminars & other smaller-medium sized classes; being on Harvard Club Lacrosse; the blocking group I ended up with for 3 years; and being in a **final club**

2014-2015 Senior Male

My **Finals club** easily had the most impact on my undergraduate experience. Honestly, I don't know what I would have done without it. House life is fairly nonexistent for socially minded people, and it astounds me that the administration doesn't support clubs more. I would not recommend Harvard over any of its competitors if not for the clubs.

2013-2014 Senior Male

My experiences concentrating in English, writing an honors thesis, rooming with two of my best friends in Adams house, and holding a leadership position in a female **final club** have had the most significant impact.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Men's varsity basketball team / Being really compatible with my freshman year roommate / Loving Lowell House / Leadership Institute at Harvard College / Several really great professors / Association with a **final club**, both positively and negatively

2014-2015 Senior Male

Walking on to Harvard crew, long conversations in the dining hall, spending time with close friends in the **Final club** I am a member of

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Class-based events (Sophomore, Junior, Senior Class)

Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. College-wide events

In general they aren't viewed as important as **Final club** events and interest will still stay at a medium.

2012-2013 Senior Female

because the social scene is still dominated by **Final clubs** (and increasingly, **sororities**). More college-wide events break down these boundaries

2012-2013 Senior Female

In general, more of all of these types of events would improve the social experience here. Outside of **finals clubs**/frats, there aren't great big venues for non-academic interaction. It breeds an environment of exclusivity. Additionally, I think that Harvard does an amazing job freshmen year getting us to meet new people and have large social events to go to. However, I feel like a lot of that stops after freshmen year, and I think it's increasingly difficult to meet new people who are outside your house or concentration.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Too much of social life is based on **final clubs** because dorms are too strict with partying

2012-2013 Senior Female

Harvard puts very little effort into providing a social space that's an alternative to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

We just need more social events that dont involved the **finals clubs** or dorm room parties.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

it often seems like the only "cool" social scene is the **final club** scene. try to change that

2012-2013 Senior Female

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I think a lot of the dynamics that made me dissatisfied with the social scene were outside of Harvard's control, having more to do with the **finals club** scene.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Academic department-based events

Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. House-based events

The university should provide funds for outdoor weekend parties (with alcohol) in house courtyards so that such parties are no longer the preserve of **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

The college does everything within its power to crack down on having dorm-room parties. If more parties were allowed and larger social spaces were offered, then the divide between **final club** life and house life on campus would not be such an issue.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

The houses are the prime hubs of social life for most students at Harvard, but they do not provide a good social alternative to **Final clubs**, bars, or other social scenes unrelated to the university. The houses are some of the only places on campus with communal social space available to students, but this space is undermaintained and underutilized, largely due to university policies governing that space. Harvard should commit more money to making this space a viable and popular alternative to the **Final clubs**, and this should be its top priority for improving the undergraduate experience.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Free weekend events (e.g. comedians, performances, etc.)

alternative to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

Social events are either at **final clubs** or cost-prohibitive right now

2012-2013 Senior Female

Fun alternative to drinking illegally at **final clubs** = always good

2012-2013 Senior Female

so people don't have to go to **final clubs**!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Yes!!!! There is nothing to do on the weekends! People end up stuck in elitist **final clubs** or funnelling beer in their room because there is nothing else to do.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

places to go besides **finals clubs** please!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

We need a social space on campus that isn't in a **final club**!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Any alternative to drinking and the **Final club** scene is beneficial to the Harvard community.

2012-2013 Senior Male

If you're not in a **finals club**, there's nothing to do on the weekend.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Large late-night parties

Final club culture is socially divisive and undemocratic.

2012-2013 Senior Female

If done well, this could be good. There needs to be a way to have "party" fun outside of the **Final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

So then it's not just **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Female

this is more inclusive than **finals clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

People would still choose the **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Male

There is nothing to do here besides **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Yes, otherwise **final clubs** will thrive

2012-2013 Senior Female

Final clubs are dangerous and alternative events should be funded more

2012-2013 Senior Female

more communal - need non **final club** space for this

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

alternative to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

Again, social life revolves around **final clubs** only

2012-2013 Senior Female

People currently go to **final clubs** (and then sometimes get raped).

2012-2013 Senior Male

Social space at Harvard is dominated by all-male, socially elite and exclusive **final clubs**. It's one of my absolute least favorite aspects of Harvard.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Risky, but I think that it would add more social space that the **final clubs** already offer

2012-2013 Senior Male

There is a huge lack of these at Harvard and as a result the male **Final clubs** have undue importance in the social scene. For students not wanting to go to these parties, there are few EQUIVALENT options

2012-2013 Senior Female

Fun alternative to drinking illegally at **final clubs** = always good

2012-2013 Senior Female

alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

Anything outside of **finals clubs** is excellent

2012-2013 Senior Female

Finals clubs should not be the only place for parties. Students in college expect parties. More welcoming environments need to exist.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

because we like to party, but sometimes you're tired of going to a **final club** or hanging out with freshman (UC parties)

2012-2013 Senior Female

For too many people, **final clubs** dominate the social scene. I enjoyed myself more on the weekends once I stepped outside of those walls.

2012-2013 Senior Female

This is a void that **final clubs** do not adequately fill!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Keep the young'ns away from the prying hands of **final clubs** scum, and for that, they need OPTIONS!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Since nearly all students live on campus, the social night life is very much dominated by the male **final clubs**. As a member of a female **final club** I have frequented these parties, but I feel like it creates a large gender and social heirarchy among students which is unhealthy. If campus drinking rules were more lax, room parties could become another option for weekend fun.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Particularly in freshman year it would have been great to have more late night events to faciliate social introductions without limiting attendance based on invites or gender exclusivity (e.g. **final clubs** are only really an option for freshman girls).

2012-2013 Senior Female

Offer alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

I wish Harvard had more large spaces that are good for large parties so that people not in **final clubs** had more options. The way it is now, everyone not in a **final club** (or friends with people in one) just always party in dorm rooms, which is fine, but not ideal.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Provide alternatives to **final clubs** Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Without the **final club** bros guarding the door, please

2012-2013 Senior Male

again, places besides **finals clubs**!

2012-2013 Senior Female

There needs to be a non-**Final club** nighttime scene.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Yes. Harvard's lack of a large social space pushes everyone and everything to the **Final clubs**. Please have dances/parties where one can get alcohol if they are over 21. It would help the college social scene tremendously.

2012-2013 Senior Male

expand beyond **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

We need to have a freer social space so people aren't forced to go to the **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Yes, Harvard's open social life completely is nonexistent, so people turn to **final clubs** etc etc. I'd say that lack of open social scene is my #1 problem with Harvard

2012-2013 Senior Female

this would definitely allow students (especially underclassmen) who aren't into **finals clubs** to still make concrete, reliable plans on the weekends

2012-2013 Senior Female

I think having parties where everyone is included and able to go is a good way to give people places to go besides exclusive **Final clubs**, for example.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

This isn't for everybody, but some kids enjoy it and it would be nice to break up the monotonoy that is Harvard partying (**Final clubs**, the few Frats and everyone else has to drink in their dorms)

2012-2013 Senior Male

ABSOLUTELY. But they can't be lame or they will not rival the **final clubs** and dorm parties.

2012-2013 Senior Female

no more **final clubs**!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Need to provide spaces other than **final clubs** for students to drink and unwind. Particularly when houses choose to be very strict re: alcohol, you leave students frustrated and with no options

2012-2013 Senior Male

We need something to compete with the **Final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Absolutely necessary if you want to reduce the HUGELY negative influence of male **final clubs** and their perpetuation of gender stereotypes and dangerous social settings for undergraduate women (from Harvard and elsewhere).

2012-2013 Senior Female

only place to go are the **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

This would remove some of the attention on the **final club** scene and provide a safer, more inclusive space/experience for students interested in parties.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

We need a social space on campus that isn't in a **final club**!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Any alternative to drinking and the **Final club** scene is beneficial to the Harvard community.

2012-2013 Senior Male

take the traffic away from **final clubs**!

2012-2013 Senior Female

If you're not in a **finals club**, you don't get to attend any good parties.

2012-2013 Senior Male

We need non-**final club** options.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Other

why? because without them - **final clubs** dominate and will continue to dominate the social scene here, ruining the experience for hundreds of students in each class

2012-2013 Senior Male

A safe alternative to the **final club** scene

2012-2013 Senior Female

And you can actually have a birthday party with 50 people and have it go till 2 without having to depend on **final clubs**, or upperclassmen's large rooms, not everyone gets to live in a room with three common rooms, and some other people might like to host their own party

2012-2013 Senior Female

At most other colleges there are many parties every weekend night in houses just off-campus. These parties can be pretty big and there is a lot of alcohol. The over-abundance of social space creates inflation on the ability to have parties so there isn't a massive concentration of social power in the small groups that do have space. Harvard has almost no fun parties, so the **final clubs** dominate the social scene. If there were many other options, they would be all but irrelevant.

2012-2013 Senior Male

It would all just be helpful so that students didn't feel like the only big parties were at the **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Recognizing **sororities** and **fraternities** would really benefit all students. **Greek life** has been a huge part of my college career, but it is hard to encourage participation when you feel like you have to hide in the shadows. My **sorority** has never had issues with hazing or drinking or drugs like the **Finals clubs** which are front and center in our social life here, and we contribute in many positive ways to our community. However, we are not recognized and almost always feel threatened. If we were a more valued part of the community, activities like kickball charity fundraiser, quiz bowl competitions, and basketball tournaments that we already do would become a greater part of the Harvard community.

2012-2013 Senior Female

just do something to provide the **final clubs** with competition. i hate the clubs and the atmosphere they create.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Students often try to find social space on the river and can't either because 1) Houses don't allow non-House activities and 2) some other group has already claimed it. There is an unfortunate dearth of open social space on campus for students and student organizations. (Typically, students end up just going to **finals clubs** or not getting to do anything, which is very unfortunate, especially for the students who aren't interested in **finals clubs**.)

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Other

final clubs

2012-2013 Senior Female

Treat dorm parties with the same noise deference as given to **final clubs** when it comes to being shut down. The worst part of the harvard social scene are exclusionary clubs (and I say this as a member of two.)

2012-2013 Senior Female

HARVARD NEEDS SOCIAL SPACE BESIDES **FINAL CLUBS**.

2012-2013 Senior Female

End **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Final clubs

2012-2013 Senior Male

Creating a welcoming campus culture (especially for freshmen) to combat the oppressive, frustrating, and falsely entitled **Final club** culture that pervades social life at Harvard. I am aware that **Final clubs** function privately, but Harvard should implement all the above to give students strong social outlets to party away from **Final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Allow drinking at more events to take power away from the **final clubs** in the social scene

2012-2013 Senior Male

Garden Parties for kids not in **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

Disband **final clubs** or require that they become more inclusive

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Reform the alcohol policy! Harvard's draconian rules practically guarantee the dominance of **final clubs** in the Harvard social scene.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Other

final clubs

2012-2013 Senior Female

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2012-2013 Senior Female

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2012-2013 Senior Female

End **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Final clubs

2012-2013 Senior Male

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2012-2013 Senior Male

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Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

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2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. Other

Fun alternative to drinking illegally at **final clubs** = always good

2012-2013 Senior Female

Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please explain why increasing support for this programming would improve the social experience of Harvard students. School Spirit events

Provide alternatives to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Finals clubs take over the social scene because there is nothing else to do

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

At what time of year did you participate in the experience.

Went to London for a weekend. Funded by **final club** alumni. One of the most memorable weekends of my life.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on your most negative (or disappointing) academic experience.

Final clubs

2011-2012 Senior Male

Social life was terrible. Really hated the **final club** atmosphere here. Made my experience very unhappy

2011-2012 Senior Male

the teaching in the applied math department is truly horrible / / the social life on campus is also really bad. **final clubs** are the center of social life and if you are not in one, even if your friends are, life is pretty bad. there are not enough big social events for harvard and no good college bars in the area.

2014-2015 Junior Male

The lack of social spaces that are not **final clubs**. I would appreciate if there were a university owned/sponsored party space in which parties were held every two weeks or so with free or cheap admission and a bar for those over 21.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

My living situation was an absolute nightmare. I lived on the first floor of Lowell House, right across from the backyard of the Owl in D entryway. Our room became infested with ants about midway through the year. We are generally pretty clean people, and we worked hard to rid our room of the ants, but we couldn't. I felt gross in my own room and couldn't invite people over. / / Living by the Owl was terrible. Almost every day I had trouble sleeping because of loud music and parties going on, sometimes until 3 in the morning. I can understand parties going on Friday, Saturday, and even Thursday. But it sucks when you can't sleep on a Monday night because music is blaring right outside your window. It's even worse when you have a final exam the next day. I cannot believe Harvard University allows this to continue. I had to call Cambridge PD several times, and I know others in my entryway have done the same, just so I could sleep at night. When choosing my room for next year, my first priority was to get as far away from any **Final club** as possible. / / Lowell dining hall is pretty disgusting. On several occasions I have seen, and other Lowell residents can confirm, cockroaches in the server. On the walls, and very close to where food is prepared and serve. It is clear that Lowell has a bug problem, and the coming House renovation will surely help, but the current residents are suffering. If Harvard is going to encourage people to live on campus and make one of its biggest draws Residential House life, then you have to make sure you are providing for the residents. It seems backwards to have 99% of undergrads, but the housing seems to be generally not cared for. Like I said, renovations will likely help this in the future, but changes need to be made.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

The most disappointing aspects of Harvard might be endemic to the people: the people here are fucking crazy. Many people (I am speaking primarily as a biology major in Premed classes who befriended people in a higher SES) are extremely selfish. Harvard should do more to facilitate communication and collaboration. In my classes, I don't have too many opportunities to work with other people on presentations or group projects--studying seems alienating sometimes because its such a solitary activity. If you want to socialize, your only options are to go out. I was in a **sorority** for a while and got punched for **final clubs** but later disaffiliated because one, it is very expensive, and two, my idea of a good time does not center around drinking/going out all the time. I wish Harvard fostered more a community of collaboration.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

The social scene is most disappointing, especially with regards to male **final clubs**. The school should have open spaces for students of all backgrounds and groups to hold parties and have fun on the weekend. The **final clubs** hold so much power because there is no where else for people to go to party or have fun on the weekends because proctors and tutors are so strict about shutting down parties and other social events. Grade wide social events are fun; just like there is a freshman formal, there should be sophomore events, and junior, and senior ones, each for each separate grade.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

Better advising would be good, especially from the student side. Granted, I should be seeking this out but I feel that I didn't know the in's and out's of certain disciplines. For instance, it would have been helpful for someone to assist me in History and let me know how best to tackle those courses. / / I also was quite disappointed with social life on campus. I don't think there are enough social spaces on campus especially as a freshman. The only reason I am considering joining something like a **final club** is because it would be a space where I could socialize freely with friends. However, if there were more opportunities for clubs and organizations to take over different social spaces on campus then it would work better. Also concerning alcohol, I think that it's even more dangerous for students not to be allowed to drink at different social events or in dorms. I found that many freshman this year drank way too much during "pre-games" and weren't able to control themselves at what would be fun social events on campus. I come from Europe where I was allowed to drink since 16 so I was quite shocked by the drinking culture when I came here. / / Also, it would be great if there were more programs to help make students feel less intimidated by their professors. I think the freshman seminar program does a great job of this, but I felt that I was scared to speak up in section at the beginning of the year

2014-2015 Freshman Male

Harvard is elitist and exclusive. **Finals clubs** are a cancer to the college.

2014-2015 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Social scene: It's college and students are going to drink. The asinine attempts by this college to prevent drinking in dorm rooms only induces binge drinking so people get drunk before the proctor comes. Social spaces are also lacking. Of course people are going to join **final clubs** when there is no place to have a large party like any normal school. Sure students here may be above average in terms of academics, but they ARE average in terms of social needs, which are not provided for. The **final club** scene makes freshman boys socially competitive, and unnecessarily so, because they know that next year they'll have to vie for spots in the only really fun social spaces at this school.

2014-2015 Freshman Male

--Mental health struggles / --Disappointing sense of disconnectedness between Harvard's upper class, Northeast prep school culture, **final club**-oriented segment and other segments of the culture / --Disappointment with the intense culture at Harvard Colleg

2014-2015 Junior Female

I feel that the sections are sometimes too big, so it is hard for the TFs to answer all the questions and for me to feel completely engaged in the discussions. Furthermore, while I understand that **final clubs** are inextricably linked to Harvard and its history, a huge part of me also finds them extremely troubling because they foster a segregated and class-based social structure. Furthermore, since I live in close proximity to a few of them, I find it extremely irritating that they blast loud music on weekday nights, with utterly no respect for students who may be studying or sleeping. Finally, while I like my academic advisor and tutor, who are both extremely well-accomplished and kind people, I feel that they are too busy to give me helpful advice since they forget almost everything I tell them about my academic life and always seem distracted or in a hurry whenever we have chats.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Harvard has a debilitating and depressing social scene. Even as a wealthy, straight white male who could penetrate the exclusive social life by sucking up to the right people if I chose to, I am disgusted and depressed by the way male **final clubs** and the Hasty Pudding make most people at Harvard unhappy when it comes to their social life (and, by extension, less happy in general). I have a large circle of friends across all racial and socioeconomic boundaries and a close-knit group of best friends who I trust, even love, and can always have fun with: I would characterize myself as one of the more social and connected members of the freshman class. I went out every weekend during fall semester (including, on multiple occasions, to **final clubs**, which is almost impossible for a freshman guy) and have maintained a highly social life at Harvard. However, even in what I have been told is and recognize as an enviable position, I am dissatisfied with the social life and know through many conversations how much worse it is for most others. / / Let me qualify/clarify. I have found and believe most people in the Harvard community to be generally warm/social and willing to make new friends if approached. While academic stress and self-interest can interfere, I believe this is a social environment and that most people have made strong friends. However, when it comes to parties and events, we all know that the **final clubs** and the Hasty Pudding are the only place where there are consistently good parties, and that they subsequently dominate social life at Harvard. Evident from published lists of members and common knowledge, **final clubs**/HP are much wealthier and whiter than the student body at large and confer tremendous social advantage to members (even disregarding alumni networks/other advantages). Students of color in the clubs are almost entirely international elites or rich Americans (2 years of **final club** membership ranges from something like \$7,500 at the Spee to upwards of \$10,000 — possibly even \$18,000 — at the Phoenix or the Porcellian, and only a couple of the clubs offer financial aid). The female half of the general population is automatically cut out of the **final club** world, as are almost all guys (who usually can't ever attend parties, unlike a select group of girls). This select group of girls can only attend parties at **final clubs** because they are physically attractive or wealthy (like the girls who make it into the Hasty Pudding). / / This blatant elitism, sexism and continuing racial divide is widely recognized as the source of much envy, vitriol and unhappiness on campus, in addition to being antithetical to Harvard's entire mission of diversity, inclusion, etc. I have not said anything original, but this has been by far the most disappointing aspect of my time here, I expect it will continue to be, and this seems to be a widely-held opinion. In fact, the exclusive and elitist social scene is possibly my only complaint during my time here, even as one of the few Harvard students who could actually take part in it. **Final clubs** and the Hasty Pudding at Harvard make **fraternities** nation-wide look safe and inclusive. / / There are a few partial remedies I can think of. First, while the alcohol amnesty policy is good on an individual basis, shutting down dorm parties just sends every attractive girl to a **final club** and everyone else to their bed or a miserable late-night food trip. I understand school liability issues, but Harvard needs to work out new policies that allow for a more vibrant party scene unconnected to **final clubs**. Second, school administrators, student groups, etc. need to take a stronger stance against the clubs: if Dean Khurana, Drew Faust, etc. are serious about their opposition to the clubs, Harvard needs to make it less acceptable for students to be members. This is radical, but I would even consider even making **final club** membership a violation of the student handbook, since it is a clear and conscious perpetuation of racial, sexual and socioeconomic injustice by nearly 200 male Harvard students.

2014-2015 Freshman Male

Social exclusion of **Final clubs**, Harvard students are so busy that it's hard to make time for other people, I tried to schedule an appointment with the Dean to talk about picking majors and it was so difficult it fell through, the intellectual discussions at my high school were more invigorating than the ones at Harvard, and people are always stressed.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I feel I am targeted by my peers for being a religious conservative. My political orientation is targeted as unacceptable to many students, and it makes life extremely difficult. It is hard to find friends at Harvard, and even harder to find friends that want to spend weekends doing things other than getting drunk and partying at **Finals clubs**. Additionally, I feel that Harvard was "sold" to me as a place with small class sizes and close access to professors. I was told that all classes were taught by professors, and Teaching Fellow involvement was extremely minimized, when in fact most of my freshman classes involved sections with TFs.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

lack of social space and events outside of **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

This question is difficult to answer, because there are many specific experiences I can think of, but all of them seem to deal with the same theme: women are underrepresented in teaching staff and faculty. The misogynistic culture which allows **final clubs** to continue spills over into the classroom. I feel like, as a woman, it can be a very alienating experience. I can count more classes in which I did not say a single word (and I mean never speaking once in section/lecture) than classes in which I engaged regularly. Why bother saying a thing if peers and professors are going to be dismissive anyway?

2012-2013 Senior Female

The college community thrives on exclusivity and this leads to stress, and divisions within the community. Students spend their time trying to access the most respected and spend a lot of time doing what they think will get them further ahead rather than what's good for them or even fun. In particular, the **finals clubs** create a dynamic that is incredibly toxic to students not included and especially women. There is little communication about relaxing and mental health, instead there's a relentless study drive. This also makes it very difficult for me to gain any respect from my fellow students because I'm in a concentration and am in clubs that are generally looked down on.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

1) I have been very disappointed at Harvard's responses and behavior regarding student activism, student relations, and political issues more broadly. In particular, the way that Harvard University responded to the protests by Divest Harvard, the work conducted by the Palestine Solidarity Committee regarding House life issues, it's lack of action to fund efforts aimed at reducing the incidence of sexual harassment and sexual violence on campus, it's continued tolerance of and failure to provide alternatives to the sexist, racist, classist **final clubs** which dominate social life at Harvard, it's failure to treat its workers with the dignity and respect they deserve, and its totally inadequate responses to the issues of race (centered on manifestations of anti-Blackness and White Supremacy throughout the U.S.) and to the demands of students of color more broadly, have all removed whatever naive ideas I had when I entered as a freshman that Harvard, as an institution, is interested in progressive ideas and making the world a better place. I don't believe that this is the best place to revisit the specific grievances of each of the aforementioned issues; however, I do believe that they speak to some larger, overall issues. Chief among them is the fact (or perception) that 1) Harvard is a large corporate body with an immense amount of power, prestige, and financial resources, 2) because of this, Harvard does not really need to and is largely uninterested in listening to its students, workers, or faculty, at least when it comes to substantive issues beyond just throwing out some cash for a random student party now and then, 3) so, Harvard does an extremely poor job of interacting constructively with individuals who are critical of the university and in tolerating meaningfully different opinions about how it conducts itself. Again, I am speaking generally about Harvard as an institution - there are certainly a number of wonderful, hardworking, empathetic people working at Harvard to make things better (for example, at least in my limited experience interacting with him, Dean Khurana) but many of these people are enormously constrained by limits placed on them by Harvard's more corporate aspects. But the main face of the University treats any students who criticize Harvard in the most condescending, patronizing way - if it chooses to engage with them at all - and this to me seems very sad, and very disappointing. / / All of the above is very critical, I realize, even if I also believe that it's deserved. Harvard is (obviously) an exceptional place to study and grow, and I have and will continue to reap enormous personal benefits (tangibly and intangibly) because of the opportunity that I have had to attend here. However, I think it would be beneficial for Harvard to evaluate what it seeks to accomplish for its students beyond securing for each of them as high degree of personal success, especially since so many of these students already come from backgrounds where this success has been guaranteed. And, Harvard should consider what it wants its unavoidably political role in the world to be; because, as much as certain administrators would like to pretend that the academy exists on some rarified plane where it can contribute positively to research and learning without affecting the rest of existence, this conception of the University is obviously a fantasy, and Harvard should be honest about what it would like to do, and what it does, to affect its local community and the wider world.

2014-2015 Junior Male

I'm not a fan of the exclusivity and elitist culture of **final clubs**, and other student organizations like the Lampoon and the Signet Society.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Lack of overall harvard community outside **final clubs**

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Social scene (domination of **final clubs** and **fraternities**)

2014-2015 Freshman Male

social scene was a little disappointing; if there were more social groups/space provided by the institution then there may not be as much of an emphasis placed by numerous students on **final clubs**, which seem to create a rather cliquey and non-inclusive environment in the undergraduate classes.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I am disappointed that **Final clubs** still exist, the UC still seems disconnected from the administration as well as the student body, there hasn't been better communication/negotiation with Divest Harvard, and that minorities still don't seem as represented as they should be. Also, why doesn't Quincy have storage? This is extremely unfair to low income students.

2014-2015 Junior Female

A lacking social environment: at other universities, many social events center around **fraternities** and **sororities**, and they are much more inclusive and allow more people to attend their events. At Harvard, **fraternities** and **sororities** (and **final clubs**) are much more exclusive but hold a monopoly (or majority share) of "fun" college events, which leaves those who are not apart of one organization or do not want to be a member of one organization feeling like there are not many "fun" places to go.

2014-2015 Junior Male

- Encountering blatant sexism at the **final clubs** (went with my male best friend; of all of the **final club** members who introduced themselves to him, only 50% also introduced themselves to me, or even acknowledged my presence.) / - Getting rejected from top

2014-2015 Junior Female

Get rid of **final clubs**. There are no other social spaces on campus.

2014-2015 Junior Male

I wish there was a better party scene at the school. Maybe **final clubs** next year will help that.

2012-2013 Freshman Male

My French class was too focused on academic learning and not focused enough on speaking and practicing the language. Also I just have a strong dislike for **final clubs**--everything they stand for, the types of people who are in them, etc.

2014-2015 Junior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

General Education Courses / The existence of **final clubs** and the ways in which they actively detract from Harvard's culture /

2014-2015 Junior Male

There should be neutral social space for people not involved in the **final club** or greek scene to hang out during the day other than in Greenhouse.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs - not being in one is tough. Also, school and managing everything can be hard.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Poor Social Environment / **Finals clubs** are Rapey / Variations in the Quality of TFs which impact class performance and success / Atmosphere of Pressure / Difficulty in Meeting New People

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Sexual Assault Response, the willingness of the administration to put up with **Final clubs**

2014-2015 Freshman Male

Sophomore spring **finals club** recruiting, everyone going through recruiting for banking, sitting in huge lecture halls and not getting to know my professors

2011-2012 Senior Female

The Greek life/**finals clubs**

2011-2012 Freshman Female

Some of the math teachers are terrible lecturers. Some of the Stat teachers are not that strong either. / / The college should provide adequate alternatives to the social spaces of the frats/**sororities**/female **final clubs**/male **final clubs**. If the college provides fun alternatives - spaces where students will actually go en masse on weekend nights -, then students won't have to depend on these social spaces and there won't exist as much angst over the social structure. In the past (50s, 60s, 70s), nobody cared about these institutions BECAUSE there were other alternatives.

2014-2015 Junior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I think Harvard needs to deeply contemplate its role in the social dissatisfaction of so many of its students on campus. The reason **final clubs** have outsize social influence is wholly due to the stance that the College has taken with regards to parties and residential social life. The fact that parties need to be registered by the Wednesday before the coming weekend is laughable. I don't know what I'm doing on a Friday night at 8pm, let alone multiple days before during the middle of my academic work week. While I also understand that Harvard deeply worries about liability, the quality of social life at many of its peer institutions (Yale, UPenn, Brown, Columbia, etc.) seems to dispute this often invoked line of reasoning. Furthermore, Harvard should be careful not to alienate a significant percentage of its student body -- those in **final clubs** -- who provide social diversions for many members of the college community to enjoy, member or otherwise. When the Dean of Students writes a College-wide email shaming a select group of students who made a genuine mistake and did something decidedly in poor taste for "bigotry" I think the situation needs to be deescalated and reevaluated.

2014-2015 Junior Male

Harvard stifles the social scene, forcing people to depend on **final clubs** for an outlet. But **final clubs** have incredibly unhealthy social environments. Harvard needs to think more critically about students' social needs.

2014-2015 Junior Female

the fact that people are so self-segregating, a culture that is exacerbated by the **final clubs** and cultural groups on campus / secondly, the pressure to constantly be busy and doing things is very unhealthy

2014-2015 Junior Female

Exclusivity, competitiveness, and inequitable gender power dynamics of social scene perpetuated by **final clubs** and other organizations/aspects of social culture

2014-2015 Junior Female

Probably not getting into the **Final club** all my friends got into. Kind of left out but its good.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

The **Final club** scene her is exclusive and disappointing.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I think that, by and large, the social opportunities for freshman were disappointing, to the point that I and my friends considered (and still are considering) taking time off. I felt like 2 things contributed to this: a) the exclusivity of social organizations and the monopoly they have on social space (**final clubs**/frats/other social organizations/and houses have the only real spaces to throw parties, so this necessarily excludes freshmen), and b) the alcohol policy for freshmen dorms makes it impossible for freshmen to drink and hang out in a relaxed and responsible way (outlawing ALL drinking, rather than SAFE drinking does not encourage drinking responsibly or not drinking at all, it encourages rushed, un-surreptitious, and thus unhealthy drinking, such as taking quick shots and swigs off of bottles of hard alcohol, rather than slow beer or wine drinking, typical at other schools). Most of my friends from high school tell me that they have frats that everyone can go to (solving problem A) or at bare minimum they can always have people come over and drink in their rooms, because they don't have zero tolerance policies that eliminate their ability to do so. I have written about this before to you guys, and suggested that telling proctors to report and stop only UNSAFE drinking as opposed to ALL drinking would mitigate problem B. Problem A is harder, because establishing a party space that is welcoming to freshmen would mean a lot of time and money on the part of the school. One of my best friends is on UC and went in fighting for a freshmen social space, but was ultimately defeated such that he no longer thinks it's possible to change this part of Harvard. I know that once people get sorted into houses and join more organizations they no longer care about the disappointments of freshmen year, so usually the people in power to change such things don't see it as a priority, and this seems to be why no one has done anything - the ones hurt by these problems don't have much influence in the school. This makes sense for the institution, not to invest so much into people with such little influence or importance to the school. This is the second time I've written a long thing like this. I don't know if anyone's going to read this, they probably didn't last time. This is the last time I'm going to write something like this, because I don't know what else to say. I know that investing in a social space will take money and hard work, but it seems to me that if Harvard really wanted to prove that it truly cared about its students it would do what it takes to make freshman year something to remember, not something to forget.

2011-2012 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

The most disappointing aspects of this academic year, as well as the most disappointing aspects of both preceding academic years all stem from the same problem. **Final clubs** dominate the social space on campus. Most people here, including the administration, take issue with this. It has to a large extent ruined my time here -- the wealthy elites of the east coast, mostly legacies, are able to come in and set up shop and effectively run the show. / / The only actors with enough money to stop them are Harvard alumni and the Harvard administration. Neither group has taken action. The only real ways to stop the problem are to a) recognize all social organizations and work to make them inclusive to all Harvard students and b) eliminate legacy preference in admissions. If it is not clear to someone why the second suggestion would ameliorate the problem, then that person is clearly out of touch with the problem. / / I'm sorry that I am not contented by "House Life," which is both a joke to most students here and is woefully underfunded anyway. We are adults, we want to make our own fun on our own time without being monitored by tutors. The Office of Student Life is so out of touch with the needs of many of its students, it is laughable. / / **Fraternities** and **sororities** have open "rush" processes, meaning unlike the **final clubs**, they invite any and all interest parties to come see if they are a "fit" for the organization, regardless of social standing or legacy status. The college should support **Greek life** for this reason. Not to do so would be to let the the richest members of this community continue to impose their will on the rest of it. / / At some point, the absolutely awful social life here at Harvard will start to drive students away. Please do something before these talented students start passing up the incredible academic experience of Harvard in order to be more socially fulfilled elsewhere. /

2014-2015 Junior Male

The **finals clubs** kind of suck. Also, see above for my thoughts on making the study abroad process easier. also, information about grants and university funding for stuff should be made more readily available and easy to understand. Also, keep the difficulty scores for q guides. That stuff is essential. There should also be more ad board transparency. Also the new sexual assault policies should be careful not to infringe too much on the right to be innocent until proven guilty and for transparency and such as mentioned by the Harvard Law school professors who dissented.

2014-2015 Junior Male

The social scene at Harvard is exclusive and elitist, not being a member of a **final club** or not being mean and using others to get ahead are frowned upon.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

I don't think I'm doing as well in my classes as I would have hoped, but I'm getting used to not meeting my own expectations for myself. Objectively, I don't think I'm doing poorly; it's just that people around me are often taking harder courses and doing better in them. / I just don't really think that Harvard cares about its undergraduates. When prospective students from my high school ask about my college experience here, I actively dissuade them from attending. / If Harvard cared, I think they would do something about **final clubs** on campus and the very present subculture of people who are wealthy, white, (potentially athletes/legacy) who dominate the more "prestigious" single-sex social spaces on campus. I came to Harvard expecting to meet a diverse array of people, but the student body has so many clusters that are homogeneous. In my computer science classes, I also feel like an outsider (just because I'm female).

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Final clubs and the social scene in general are rather disappointing. The lack of administrative action regarding the **final clubs** and the monopoly they have over the social scene on campus is rather disgusting, actually. / / The terrible quality of some of the professors is also very disappointing.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

the social scene is very limited because of current institutions eg. **Final clubs** exclusivity, lack of common social space (bar), alcohol rules

2014-2015 Freshman Male

My most negative academic experience at Harvard has been my surprise at how many of my peers here are not very engaged with their academic pursuits. I think I'd expected Harvard to be more like MIT in that the great majority of enrolled students there seem to be intellectually curious and engaged with what they study. I certainly appreciate the diversity of talents and passions among my peer group that extend beyond academics, and I think that this has enriched my experience at Harvard in many ways. But I also believe that a Harvard education is primarily an academic one, and that too many students who care too little about their studies is detrimental to the majority of students here who do prioritize academics. / / I believe the problem to be one primarily of recruited athletes. It's been my experience over the past 4 years that athletes in my classes disproportionately choose not to complete readings or contribute to sections. I have been struck by the huge divisions at Harvard between athletes and non-athletes, in their respective abilities to contribute meaningfully to classes, but more significantly in their intellectual curiosity and commitment to learning. This also creates tremendous social divisions between the athlete and non-athlete communities. / / I certainly know several recruited athletes who buck this trend spectacularly. But I am amazed by the extent to which athletes here disproportionately choose to study the same few concentrations, visibly display a much smaller commitment to learning, and divide themselves from the rest of the Harvard academic and extracurricular communities. I am a member of a **final club** here, and one of the few non-athletes; I'm saddened by the visible indifference to academics that I observe at the club every day. For me, it has made what should be one of the most intellectually stimulating places on Earth a bizarrely conflicted one. This aspect of my Harvard experience has been profoundly negative and unfortunate. /

2012-2013 Senior Male

Not being able to join the extracurriculars I wanted to join was a huge disappointment for me this year. I was rejected from a number of positions/groups that I cared about (PAFing, the Advocate, **Final clubs**), after spending a lot of my time comping, punching, or applying. I know extracurricular satisfaction was already mentioned in this survey, but despite the fact that I truly love what I currently do outside of school, I still wish there was a way I could get involved with other areas on campus. It's disappointing that I don't have anything to show for a lot of what I spent my time doing this year.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

the dominance of **final clubs** on campus, and the noise they make over the weekend outside of Lowell and in the community is very bad

2014-2015 Junior Female

Harvard has a bad social scene. People disagree about how to fix it for a lot of reasons. But either way, social space is lacking on the college's end. **Final clubs** are being attacked--not unreasonably necessarily--but this doesn't seem like a good long term solution.

2014-2015 Junior Male

i honestly don't have any this semester / Maybe not getting into a **final club**

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

The general build up of how frustrating the social scene here is and how stratified it is and how difficult it is to create change around it. As someone who helped start a **fraternity** to address the male social experience on campus, it's been so difficult to do anything, from finding a meeting space to looking for a place to live. It feels like guerrilla warfare against an Administration that pretends like it doesn't like what the **Final clubs** are doing but is subservient to the Graduate Boards for their donations, not to mention the fact that many **Final club** members are administrators.

2014-2015 Junior Male

The attack of the **final clubs** and their members with the help of Dean Khurana.

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Living on the river and seeing how much the **final clubs** and other exclusive single-sex organizations dominate the social scene.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

The social scene here is the one aspect of Harvard that disappoints me. There aren't any open, neutral spaces for which to socialize with alcohol, as compared to other schools. There are only individual rooms and **final clubs**. Harvard could stand to use a cheap college bar where many undergrads socialize, so one isn't dependent on exclusive invite lists to have a place to go. Also, I think both the Harvard administration and student body could do a better job discussing the impact of **final clubs** on campus climate. This has improved this year, but there's a lot more work to be done. Too many people seem content with the status quo, especially if they are in the "in" crowd.

2014-2015 Junior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I have never been more frustrated with the Harvard social scene than I am this year, and I have become increasingly pessimistic about the role of the administration in creating and maintaining the problems that exist. Since freshman year, I have had difficulty fitting into the social scene here. I joined all of the wrong extracurriculars and never developed the social circle that others around me seemed to find. This year, I became heavily involved in House life. I hoped that I could finally help create the kind of social community that I had imagined when I arrived in the Yard freshman year. Instead, I have simply continued to witness the deep problems play out. I have come to find that House life, in its current form, cannot provide the social system that exists at the **Final clubs** and **fraternities**. We have to shut down our Stein clubs at 10:30. It's difficult to see what happens after the Steins: 1/2 the group seems to head over to Mt Auburn, 1/2 of us just seem to stick around and head back to their rooms to watch Netflix, etc. It's frankly very depressing. / / Although I am upset that I do not feel socially fulfilled, the worst part is that I have watched my confidence dip more and more each year. I feel like my peers judge me since I am not part of an "Exclusive" (either on- or off-campus) club. I am very excited about Dean Khurana's attempts to recreate house life, but I believe that the House Masters still stand as significant roadblocks in the process. House policies (e.g. registering 3 days in advance to hang out with 5 people in a room) make things very difficult.

2014-2015 Junior Male

I am very opposed to the culture surrounding **final clubs**, and I am disappointed that Harvard is not likely to change its stance on **final clubs**.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

Finals clubs and social elitism, the pervasiveness of preppy ideals, wolf of wall street life goals

2014-2015 Freshman Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please list the other student organization or clubs you have participated in as more than a spectator.

Finals club

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

WIB, **final club**

2014-2015 Junior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Please comment on your most positive academic experience

I had a fantastic time socially this year. **Sororities** are a great thing to have on campus and I felt satisfied with my participation in **Final club** parties, but not as satisfied with my participation in dorm parties (which I was almost never invited to). I also love the ski team community.

2014-2015 Sophomore Female

Being in a **final club**

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

What experiences at Harvard have had the most significant impact on you?

Final clubs

2013-2014 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

What should be communicated to students about House Renewal?

why is harvard doing away with suite housing? they are exacerbating the issue of share social spaces among students! More suite housing! More open house parties! Don't push social events into the **final clubs**! (I'm in a **final club** and would love to see more house parties, its college)

2014-2015 Sophomore Male

Why we are losing our common rooms! If you don't want kids to go to **final clubs**, you need to give them private party spaces!!!

2014-2015 Junior Female

What exactly is their intention in designing the new house set-ups the way they are? I hear that the new houses include less suite-style living. Why is this? Doesn't this only reinforce **final clubs** as being the only social weekend space on campus? I am very confused as to why the administration is doing this.

2014-2015 Freshman Female

Which houses, when, why. If Harvard is trying to stop parties through renewal, that's terrible. Parties will just get pushed to frats, **final clubs**, or other less safe off campus areas.

2014-2015 Junior Male

Why they are changing the floor plans, e.g. hall way bathrooms, no common rooms, smaller bedrooms, etc. Most of my social interactions happen in my common room; thus, to lose that as a social outlet would be devastating. I am admittedly in a **final club** and therefore have another place to go on campus to hang out. Most of my friends don't have another social outlet as they aren't lucky enough to be in a club. In my opinion, social space at Harvard is at an all time low and by making bathroom and common room space communal, the administration is removing the last vestige of personal social space. Long story short, I want to know if/how Harvard is using the House Renewal program to solve the social space problem on campus?

2014-2015 Junior Male

House Renewal is a disaster that will reduce the College's liability at the cost of student safety by pushing social life and alcohol consumption off campus to the **final clubs** and **fraternities**, which are simply WONDERFUL institutions that I'm SURE we all want to promote. Pity donations would dry up if the administration had the guts to try to shut them down...

2014-2015 Junior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Explanations for why in-suite common rooms are being eliminated would be helpful. Doing so seems to force the social scene out of the houses and into **fraternities** and **final clubs**, which is definitely a bad thing for Harvard because it makes it a less inclusive place. It would therefore be helpful to know why Harvard is doing the renovations in this way.

2014-2015 Freshman Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Explain your response to "Overall, what is your level of satisfaction with your social experiences at Harvard?"

There is no social space at Harvard which grant organizations like **Final clubs** a prominent role. This is a very unhealthy situation. The social space and experience at Harvard needs to be rethought and not designed by social reserved faculty. This is a huge disconnect between social life in the real world and the kind of social life that exists at Harvard.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Thank God I was in a **Final club** because other than that the social life is horrible.

2012-2013 Senior Male

I feel that outside of my House, there is a large subset of students that I do not know. I also wish there were more events to facilitate meeting new people outside of the partying or **final club** scene.

2012-2013 Senior Female

In all honesty I feel the **Finals clubs** have a monopoly on parties and they are a major issue. Heresay aside, I know what goes on there and like none of it. I wish Harvard would do something to control them or at least help build alternative social scenes / spaces

2012-2013 Senior Male

I had to join a **Final club** in order to enjoy myself regularly. I then faced social backlash for being able to do so. That backlash comes from the fact that by joining a club, I attained a level of freedom to actually enjoy a robust college experience, in comparison to the limited nature of house life.

2012-2013 Senior Male

This is probably supposed to be a commentary on the social events provided by the school, but I would like to take this time to comment on the extra-school social scene. **Final clubs** are an antiquated and sexist system. The female equivalents are just as frustrating and there are no co-ed social spaces that aren't driven by male parties. My sports team was my social outlet and I enjoyed our gatherings and parties, but I think that there needs to be a readjustment of the Harvard social scene. The social scene is male driven, male focused, and encourages mistreatment of women.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Students are always busy and stressed out. The "social life" on campus is often just a reaction to this, the manifestation of desperation. **Final clubs** and similarly sketchy parties largely define the social scene -- people go to them because there are no alternatives. People drink because they are so stressed and anxious and are looking for an escape. It is rare to find a truly happy or relaxed Harvard student.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

hmoooooooooooooooooooo.....HOUSE LIFE SUCKS! **FINAL CLUBS** SUUUUCK.... Let's get this figured out, Harvard: BUILD MORE PARTY SPACES FOR NORMAL PEOPLE.

2014-2015 Senior Male

My social experience was heavily reliant on my teammates. I did not feel like I fit in at Harvard's major social opportunities (i.e. **Sororities, final clubs**)

2014-2015 Senior Female

Harvard lacks social spaces that aren't **final clubs**.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Harvard needs to provide a social space for all students. They need to develop a healthy relationship with the social organizations on campus, and not bully and punish them. Harvard needs to understand that by not providing students with a social outlet, they increase the power of **final clubs**, etc.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Final clubs totally dominate the scene. Harvard knows this and condones it. Yet, Harvard takes little responsibility for what goes on there. The dominance of **final clubs** means that guys largely control the social scene. In order for women to partake, they have to dress and behave the way guys want.

2014-2015 Senior Female

my **final club** was the only source of social satisfaction for me while at Harvard -- house life provided little no social opportunities (things ended too early, got shut down easily) and school-wide events were few and far between (or expensive).

2014-2015 Senior Female

Final clubs really create communities that are not nurturing

2014-2015 Senior Female

Harvard doesn't have many alternatives for socializing for people not in **final clubs**. The House formals were lots of fun and I think more stuff like that revolving around the houses would be good (expanding stein club to be more than a glorified brain break would be a good first step)

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Excessive presence of/focus on exclusive **final club** scene on campus detracted from social life outside of clubs

2014-2015 Senior Male

Finals clubs create exclusivity that is hard for social people who are not in them to fit in with.

2014-2015 Senior Male

if you aren't in a **final club** you will not have fun.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Lack of social spaces and resulting stratification as parties move off-campus to **final clubs** and other social organizations

2012-2013 Senior Female

Final clubs dominate the Harvard social scene especially sophomore year

2012-2013 Senior Female

The **Final club** scene is misogynistic and elitist, and it has to stop. It dominates a lot of the party scene on campus.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Never joined a **sorority** or **final club**, so felt on the outside of that social scene for sure. I was okay with that though because I had a core group of friends to hang out with, just no real social space.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Harvard does not have adequate social space. Many "social" functions depend on the **final clubs** for support/facilitation

2012-2013 Senior Male

not a lot of good social spaces outside of **final clubs**, which are exclusive. if you are a freshman boy or not in a club, you're screwed on the social scene.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

There is no social space. There is a college bar at the Queens Head but it is a 15 minute walk and closer to freshman than the people that can actually drink. Everything in the square is too expensive and Harvard doesnt like dorm parties and its expensive to go out in Boston. This is why **finals clubs** are so appealing and will continue to be.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Harvard NEEDS to do more about the social scene. As it is, men run the social scene because the only place students can congregate in large places to drink and dance are at **Final clubs**. Harvard needs to create a student space where both genders can come and congregate and drink that will make the **Final clubs** less important on campus.

2012-2013 Senior Female

The social scene is very strange, and I think it's largely because of the forced on-campus living, coupled with the elitism of the **final clubs**, and the lack of other social spaces on campus where underclassmen are allowed to drink/party. I am someone who was in the **final club** scene so I am speaking even with all of the opportunities given me because of it. I think that this system as it is makes self-segregating much easier than meeting other people or even interacting with people in your classes because if you're part of different "scenes" you will not interact with other people.

2012-2013 Senior Female

There weren't enough opportunities to be social. Until senior year, my most common social experience was looking for a place to be social. As a male not in a **final club**, it is very difficult. Since girls usually go to those parties, which are a lot more exciting than something in a dorm room, nights usually ended up with just guys.

2012-2013 Senior Male

I have found my social niche only in my senior year; I think there is a serious problem with social spaces and facilitation of parties/dancing etc other than within the **final clubs**. I think the houses are incredibly variable but this is where i found many of my friends. There is a dependence upon the extra curricular activities to foster a social environment. However if you are an athlete with no interest in **final clubs**, then you are often left out.

2014-2015 Senior Female

I feel like most of my social interactions took place once I joined several social-oriented organizations like a **sorority**, The Crimson, and other affinity groups. Had I not joined those, making and keeping friends would have been much harder because so much of the "going out" scene is focused on the oppressive nature of the male **final clubs**.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Final clubs overall ruin the social experience at Harvard. There are no party spaces (especially for freshman).

2014-2015 Senior Male

Harvard does next to nothing to provide social spaces on campus for students. Freshmen boys are allowed no social life at all without risking serious consequences, and even in houses social life is very restricted and the lack of spaces makes **finals clubs** the hub of activity. Stanford has a MUCH better model for freshmen, and Bowdoin, Pomona and Yale are a couple examples that I know are better socially for upperclassmen. Harvard SUCKS socially - it all revolves around traditional "Harvard-esque" elite/exclusive social experiences where if you don't have money or connections or aren't one of the lucky few you are fucked

2014-2015 Senior Male

Honestly, 95% of the attractive girls go to **final clubs**, where most of my friends couldn't go. You learn to cope but it really sucks.

2012-2013 Senior Male

BC sometimes I'd have really fun nights w teammates and friends, othertimes there'd be nothing to outside of a creepy **final club** or chat w my roommate

2012-2013 Senior Female

Too much emphasis on **Final clubs**, not enough social space in dorms/leniency towards gatherings in dorms.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Active in my **final club**, which is it's own bubble within this bubble, and I have NO concept of what people do outside of that bubble to socialize. It seems very foreign and I think that's a shame (and partially a personal choice).

2012-2013 Senior Female

Finals club/ sorority scene is largely exclusive towards minorities. On top of that, Harvard makes it increidbaly difficult to have non **finals club** related fun. Throw parties becomes a hassle with annoying forms, quiet hours, and noise complaints even during non-quiet hours. Harvard also fails in terms of non house related social spaces. As a former leader of multiple student groups, I ran into so many barriers trying to host parties and events around campus. This is counterproductive in creating an open and safe environment for all students. Many students are left out of Harvard's social scene if they are lucky enough to join a **finals club**.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

There is a huge lack of social space here which is taken by the **final clubs**. As someone who wants to have a good time, it's very hard for me to find a place that will let me in.

2012-2013 Senior Male

The social experience is very stratified. If you don't meet the "right" people freshman year to get into **finals clubs** or a few prestigious social organizations, there aren't that many open parties/other social events to go to, and there's not a culture of attending student org parties/dances for the most part.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Final clubs dominate the social scene, Harvard does a horrific job at providing social alternatives, in fact they stifle what few alternatives students often try to come up with on their own, thereby perpetuating the social strength and domination of **final clubs**, of which most students are not members.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Final clubs and other exclusive, elitist social groups are divisive. Sexism is rampant because females are not allowed in the **final clubs** as members and therefore the males of Harvard have a monopoly on the social scene and women are easily objectified within this system.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Damn **final clubs**. Created social stratifications through campus that reminded students on a daily basis due to the location between academics and houses

2014-2015 Senior Male

No one cares about any one else. Also, Harvard does NOTHING to help underprivileged students feel like they belong. The rich kids have their **final clubs** and etc, but what about us? Yeah the financial aid is great, but that's just to help us afford college. What are we suppose to do during weekends if we can't afford anything and have nowhere in campus to go to?

2014-2015 Senior Male

Social spaces are too exclusive. **Final clubs** dominate everything and the administration does a lackluster effort to change this. If Harvard could enforce the punch process to senior year students would have an active interest in participating in the community. This school was amazing academically but if it weren't for that reason I would consider this school nearly indistinguishable from hell. It's really that bad and I'm not prone to hyperbole and I am decently outgoing.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Because of the divisive nature of interactions between **final clubs**. That said, I enjoyed my experience in my own.

2014-2015 Senior Male

The presence of **final clubs** on campus has a very negative impact on the social atmosphere here. (This, coming from a girl. I can't imagine how the excluded guys must feel.)

2014-2015 Senior Female

The **final club** system has a very unfair, exclusive, and elitist monopoly on social opportunities at Harvard, which leaves out all non-members.

2014-2015 Senior Male

I think the social scene is dominated by **finals clubs** and groups that know one another through extra-curriculars, and many of my extra-curriculars were not community-centered, so I really felt like I didn't have a community here.

2014-2015 Senior Female

For males, social experiences have been largely influenced by whether or not someone is in a **Final club**, which I do not agree should happen.

2014-2015 Senior Male

This place fosters a way of socializing that is very impressed by money and membership to exclusive organizations. I am myself part of a member of female **final clubs** so I am also perhaps more exposed to such environments but it was already present my freshman year. The way men and women socialize is also shocking for someone coming from Sweden. Both genders seem to feel that you can't be friends with each other without romantic interest and after freshman year when some of your peers join male **final clubs** and frats those friendships can at times feel transactional and unequal.

2014-2015 Senior Female

There are not enough social spaces at Harvard such that all the social power lies in the **final clubs**.

2014-2015 Senior Male

The lack of a single social space drives people towards anonymous room parties or insular (and in my opinion, unhealthy) **finals clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I'm a social and outgoing person, and I make a lot of friends. However, every year I saw more and more parties shut down for noise. Harvard may not be interested in private parties, but sending kids to **Final clubs**, the frats, the Lampoon, is much worse for student life. Harvard is a stressful place, people really need a release. The Phoenix and the Lampoon are incredibly noisy and never shut down for noise (the Lampoon literally has a police officer stationed inside by the door during their parties.) Dorm parties are shut down more often than npt. While I know administratively it is easier for you if students are going to parties off campus, as someone who has been involved in both scenes, I can tell you that it is MUCH better for the sense of community here if the social scene isn't dominated by exclusionary clubs. Harvard could probably dump 90% of the "social" efforts by the OSL, which few people enjoy or care about, if they just instructed their police to give a similar deference to dorm parties as they do to club parties. And the students would be a lot happier.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Harvard is still not-so-secretly a staggeringly stratified social scene, but maybe many other college are too. The **final club/final club** girls/elitism culture has to be broken to whatever extent that it can be. Real student centers, places to hang/mingle (Quincy Grille-esque, the SOCH is way too far) would help, but can't quite make this a laid back, less horribly pressuring place, until some of that deep-rooted elitism (not so much classism as the sense that there are classes of students) is uprooted.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Everything is controlled by the **final clubs**. Almost every organization, social group, etc. is exclusionary. Harvard exhibits a true "kick-out culture."

2012-2013 Senior Male

Final clubs are just terrible.

2012-2013 Senior Female

As a non-athlete, non-boarding school, non-legacy male, the freshman social experiences sucked. The **final clubs** dominate the social scene on campus and doesn't leave much room for validated social life. I always felt as if my social experiences were sub-par to those of my peers.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Harvard crushes social life and pushes it to the **final clubs**, which are terrible.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I found that students are well aware of the importance of working hard, but many of them are as a result unable or unwilling to separate themselves from their work. Even 'social' time is often dominated by students complaining about how much work they have. I think this is (in part) a result of the fact that all socializing happens on campus space and in the dorms and so students never actually physically leave their work. Lastly and most significantly, I don't think it is possible to underestimate the extremely negative, almost poisonous impact of the **final clubs**. While thankfully after sophomore fall they do not dominate students conversations, their overbearing presence looms large, especially in the Facebook age of instant photo sharing. It feels like THESE students (and their guests) are having traditional college fun, while the rest of us have to fill out forms announcing our intention to have a party. Overall, I found the college's drinking policy to be maddeningly paternalistic.

2012-2013 Senior Male

I really didn't expect **final clubs** to control the social scene as much as they do. But there is literally no outlet for social life if you aren't in one.

2012-2013 Senior Male

I couldn't make and keep friends here. I was too stressed with schoolwork. Whenever I was stressed, I would isolate myself and thus, lose the friendship. Also, I never fit in with the "cool" kids here. I wanted to join a **Final club**, but did not make it though the Punch process. Because I did not make it through, I could not hang out with many of my friends, because they were invited to events while I was not. I wish that there were more **Final clubs** or that **Final clubs** were less exclusive. I hated having to dress like a slut to be allowed in to a party.

2012-2013 Senior Female

The existence of **final clubs** makes me feel that I'm not a part of Harvard. I wish the administration would have the courage to end them.

2012-2013 Senior Male

The social scene is brutal. This is the most fake place in the world. **Final clubs** make life worse for everyone.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Final clubs are basically the only way to be considered socially successful even if I try to ignore it

2014-2015 Senior Female

Finals clubs need to be recognized by the university

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

When it comes to social life this school is an absolute joke and doesn't even pretend to strike a balance for its socially active students. Very unrealistic about the social lives of its students and utterly irresponsible in terms of providing adequate space for social activities or for abiding by its own rules with respect to quiet hours and registration for party's. School feigns indignation at and vilifies **finals clubs** but offers no alternative for students who want to go out. It is because of the school administration that **finals clubs** are a necessary evil, and you're happy to endorse every short sighted Crimson article attacking kids who join clubs so they can go out on weekends while shirking any of the responsibility for providing a social environment on campus. You asked us about social preferences before freshman year, why not do so before housing and put kids who want to have fun together and kids who are all business in their own buildings? Without clubs there would be no social scene and I would've transferred after freshman year, as would any normal kid.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Not that much to do, esp. if you're not in a **final club/sorority**

2014-2015 Senior Female

Final club dominance of social scene. Too exclusive

2014-2015 Senior Male

Final clubs are disrespectfully noisy and imposing on campus. Other than that, the social scene on campus is fine and generally inclusive.

2014-2015 Senior Female

if youre not in a **final club** or a soroity you basically dont exist

2012-2013 Senior Female

I wish there was less focus on **final clubs** and athletics. I don't believe that benefits of these groups justify the costs they impose on the rest of the student body

2012-2013 Senior Male

House life was kinda blah, and social scene was repetitive. The **final clubs** were very discriminatory, so I ended up going to a lot of dorm parties, which were alright.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Predominance of exclusive **final clubs** and lack of other late-night weekend social events.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Wish there were more non-**final club** experiences.

2012-2013 Senior Female

The **finals clubs** and frats were too exclusive and when blocking doesn't work out you are pretty much screwed.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Too many nights I wanted to do something fun with my friends and the only things to do were try to get into a **final club** party or go to a dorm party and wait for it to get shut down by the tutors. There simply are not enough opportunities for students who want to socialize, but do not want to be a part of (or were not granted entrance into) the **final club** scene.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Final clubs ruin the social scene at Harvard. I felt excluded socially at Harvard because of my race(Asian-American), gender(female), and lower socioeconomic status. Harvard needs more social spaces for Harvard undergraduates.

2014-2015 Senior Female

because of the **final clubs**... Not being in one makes every guy at harvard feel like shit, and creates a huge class society on campus.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Final clubs

2014-2015 Senior Male

I think the Harvard social community is very polarizing. The **final clubs** dictate a vast majority of the social scene, and dorms don't always offer sufficient spaces for parties. Oftentimes, I felt as if I had to work hard to actively create fun social events for myself and my friends. Although I had an active and healthy social life at Harvard, it was largely the result of my own doing rather than the university's.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Please, please, please, put more money into the Houses. You are letting non-affiliated **final clubs** take over the social scene here. They are unregulated, unsafe, and I'm ashamed to say that they are still a huge part of the Harvard College undergraduate experience.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Final clubs exert a very strange social pressure on campus. I definitely had friends through my extracurricular groups and roommates, but especially freshman year, we felt like we could not participate in many of the "marquee" social events

2014-2015 Senior Male

There are very few social spaces at Harvard. I had a good team because I had good friends. Having to register parties is a huge burden to having fun and pushes people out into the **final clubs**, **fraternities**, and **sororities**. There are no viable co-gender social organisations for all people at Harvard, only for the rich and the athletes. The extracurricular organisations also throw parties, but are grossly underfunded and therefore cannot serve as legitimate providers of fun. My proctors, tutors, and deans were quite consistently harsh about alcohol as well, which completely scared me out of drinking in my dorm for a full year.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Really dislike the setup of the social scene, the unrecognized single-gender **final clubs** (and I'm IN one, although it's female so it's not old money and lacks central social space or any clout, but it DOES participate in the ritual of exclusivity here on this campus), the lack of student social space that is open to everyone, and the sense of exclusivity that pervades the social scene. I have had INCREDIBLE friendship experiences, but have felt so frustrated by the social vibe at Harvard and it feels so palpably different at other comparable universities.

2014-2015 Senior Female

This topic is the primary goal of the sub group I am on that convened as a result of the University task force for prevention of sexual assault. Harvard's policies prevent upperclassmen from hosting parties as easily as they should be able to, and prevent freshmen from hosting their own parties. Thus, freshman girls parade to **final clubs** while freshman boys sit at home and banking everything on getting into a **final club** next year, which makes them worse people. There is a lack of social variety, ease of social gathering, coed options for social groups, and large social spaces to host parties on campus. There is no 18+ club. There are not enough options for anyone. Everything is exclusive, excessively planned, and lacking in the spontaneous fun that other schools have.

2014-2015 Senior Female

I had a great time with the people I found. In general though, people spend too much time on extracurriculars, **final clubs** are a large part of social life and that's unhealthy.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I have been disappointed by how much social life at Harvard revolves around exclusive organizations such as athletic teams, **fraternities/sororoties**, and **final clubs**. As someone who does not play a sport and whose parents are not incredibly wealthy and well-connected, I found myself frustrated by the lack of activities and venues to socialize on many weekend nights, and I did not feel as though I had a very close group of friends until my junior year. Increasing the number of college-wide events and events in the houses might help rectify this, but unfortunately I feel like there is not much that the administration can do to change the very hierarchical nature of social life at Harvard just because it is so deeply ingrained in the undergraduate experience here.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Need more social space for non-**finals club** and greek life participants. We also need a student center that can hold more than 40 students (i.e. something bigger than Greenhouse Cafe)

2012-2013 Senior Female

There are almost no non-**Final club** social spaces for students, which is remarkably frustrating. Dorm parties get so boring and old after sophomore year, and with the much stricter alcohol and party policies, especially on Mount Auburn street this year, there is usually nothing fun to do on most weekend nights if you are not in a **final club**. Going to bars every night is very expensive. There is a pressing need for non-**final club** social space at this school, especially when the college is going to limit students from even going to **final clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Social scene is dominated by **final clubs**, which really aren't the best place to be for anyone, particularly Harvard girls.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Final clubs have a monopoly

2012-2013 Senior Male

The school does not make a big enough effort to support social activities. **Final clubs** are misogynistic and promote a horrible social environment on campus dominated by athletes, other opportunities should be explored for improving social space on campus and other outlets where students can have parties and have fun (Yes, we are in college and like to have fun.) **Fraternities** should be distinguished from **final clubs** though, as they must respond to national guidelines and ethic standards, and I've had positive experiences in these social spaces.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

My social experience has been positive in the variety of activities I have been able to get involved in, including radio, fiction writing, journalism and publishing. However, I have a huge problem with Harvard's lenience towards specific social institutions, specifically male **finals clubs**, who have a reputation for sexist and misogynistic behavior that the university rarely attempts to tackle.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Harvard really only has three social events a year: River run, Harvard-Yale, and Yardfest. River run has been shut down, Harvard-yale is very heavily monitored and shut down early, and yardfest is pitifully underfunded and therefore always very poor (seriously, the other Ivy schools put so much more money towards theirs... and it shows!! Would be so fun to have a good one!). Also, lots of my friends are in **finals clubs**, and for how critical you are of them, you really do piggy back off of them and let them single handedly handle the social scene on campus. For shame. But alas, like most people, I didn't come here for the parties and have had other much more positive aspects to my Harvard career.

2012-2013 Senior Male

The Harvard social scene is a disaster. **Final clubs** make it clear to students who belongs at Harvard and who doesn't.

2012-2013 Senior Male

The **finals clubs** and other elite **social clubs** make a very oppressive environment. A friend who visited described Harvard as being very similar to other colleges, except the fact that there aren't just parties to which the whole community is invited and encouraged to attend and socialize at; there are literal walls separating those of wealth and privilege from others. And there are way too many stupid lists.

2012-2013 Senior Female

I feel like Harvard could do more to foster alternatives to the usual weekend activities (**final clubs**, etc.)

2012-2013 Senior Female

I used to tell people that I loved Harvard academically, but I hated it socially. I stopped saying that when I found a social group in one of my extracurriculars junior spring, but I still look back upon the social scene at Harvard with reservation. Amongst my friends at least, there was an obligatory feeling to join greek life or **finals clubs** to find a social group at Harvard, and that really bothered me. Many of my friends joined these social groups sophomore year because they felt they had to in order to find friends. I think that came at the cost of house life and made it much more difficult for the house to become a social space for students.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Harvard's social scene is dominated by the **final clubs**, which are frankly disgusting, sexist and elitist in every way imaginable. The university seems to be moving somewhat in the right direction, but when you have students being sexually assaulted in these spaces, emotionally damaged or irreparably turned into shits, that's a problem for everyone on campus.

2014-2015 Senior Female

I think that, in my first two years of Harvard, I became very wrapped up in extracurricular activities that did not end up giving me many friends. Due to this, I had little time to bond with others in my dorm/freshman room; these were people that I believe that I could have been quite close with. I also think that I spent a lot of time trying to be friends with people that simply did not want to be friends with me in return. I am happy to say that I ultimately found a great group of friends in my House during my last two years at school. On a completely separate note though, I believe that, overall, Harvard suffers from a significantly toxic and oppressive social scene. I think that much of this toxicity centers on the Harvard "**finals club** scene": as a member of a **finals club**, I can say that I think these clubs are quite detrimental to the overall social experience at this university. Personally, I felt that I experienced a lot of mental bullying from other individuals in my club---bullying that often impacted my academic work, and social life outside of the club itself. More generally though, I think that the presence of **finals clubs** fosters much deep-seated frustration about the Harvard social experience from undergraduates that are not in a social club. In my experience, it seemed that many students felt socially marginalized when they were not in such an organization. It saddened me to hear my friends on the rowing team (and were not in a **finals club**) say that they thought that the Harvard social scene "screwed you if you were poor and not well-connected," as they believed that these two qualities often determined if you were accepted to a club. More poignantly, it was troubling to hear from other non-club friends that they thought that the only way one could have fun at Harvard was "if you were in a **finals club**." Such statements were truly troubling to hear.

2014-2015 Senior Male

The harvard social scene caters to pretty specific social groups (rich white boys and girls in **final clubs**). If you're not a member of an exclusive group it's quite clear that few social environments are welcoming or interested in you.

2014-2015 Senior Female

The **final clubs** will always perpetuate an exclusive environment in which anyone who isn't rich, pretty, or athletic will never be able to feel like a supported and appreciated member of Harvard's social circles

2014-2015 Senior Female

Very few opportunities for socializing if you're not in **final clubs** or athletic teams.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Harvard is not set up for all students to enjoy their social lives equally. Exclusive groups (**final clubs**, etc) fracture the community and reinforce class, race, and gender based hierarchies. I have felt dissatisfied with my options for socializing at Harvard because it has felt that I needed to compromise many of my beliefs in order to have access to a wide social network and party space. I have had amazing and life changing friends at Harvard, but we have often struggled to find ways to have fun here.

2012-2013 Senior Female

There is not much opportunity to socialize outside of **finals clubs**.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Sexist **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Female

Lack of useable large social spaces for students who can't pay to be in a **final club** or greek life

2012-2013 Senior Female

The college attempts to do classwide events freshman and senior year, these should be present throughout all undergraduate years. Also, the **final club** atmosphere is generally negative and pervades into most aspects of the college.

2012-2013 Senior Male

As a sophomore, I became excluded from the **final club** scene, a scene which several of my friends were active in.

2014-2015 Senior Male

It seemed very limited--that the only real communities were **final clubs**, friends from clubs, and friend groups developed organically.

2014-2015 Senior Female

I am very happy with the close friends that I made, however on a broader scale the social space at Harvard is very exclusionary, so not being part of any **final clubs** or **fraternities** I had few options in terms of larger social gatherings.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Not in **final club**

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Not many good house/school parties. All dominated by **Final clubs** which aren't fun.

2014-2015 Senior Male

I often feel that if you are not affiliated with an ethnic group, religious group, **sorority/fraternity/final club**, or athletic team it can be quite difficult to have a social life at harvard. Other organizations are disperse and often professionally focused making it hard to have a social life with friends made in those groups. House life theoretically fills in the void but this often happens quite late in an undergraduate's time here (for me, not really until senior fall.) I'm not sure what the solution to this is but I generally felt that there was a social void here that particularly affected me as a sophomore/junior.

2014-2015 Senior Female

I really did not enjoy the social scene at Harvard. First, the **final clubs** associated with the college really made for an unpleasantly stratified social sphere at Harvard. The clubs have created a culture of exclusivity, misogyny, and heteronormativity that are simply outdated and frankly displeasing to the majority of Harvard students. Furthermore, because so few students can go to those clubs to enjoy a social outlet, I felt frustrated with the level of social regulation within the houses. Trying to get approval for both registered and impromptu social get-togethers and parties in my dorm was like pulling teeth. My roommates and I often got in trouble unfairly for simply trying to have fun with our friends and have some semblance of a social life. My social experience at Harvard has by far been the worst part of my experience as a whole.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Options seem to be more or less limited to staying in your room or getting hammered. The only really active organizations are **final clubs** (not an option), ethnic clubs (not really an option), or HoCo type things.

2012-2013 Senior Male

I'm quite happy with the incredible people I've met and the amazing conversations I've had. However, I see a huge issue with the social scene here. **Final clubs** are the worst thing for our students because they provide a space for discrimination. They also perpetuate division of social classes at Harvard. Also, I know many wonderful students who have withdrawn from extracurriculars and other groups of friends because of these **final clubs**, which turn them into pretentious monsters. As someone who was indeed punched for several clubs and have had a wonderful social experience on campus, I still feel that these clubs' existence is polarizing and detrimental to our community. While I know Harvard always says these **social clubs** are out of its jurisdiction, I'm disappointed that this school hasn't tried harder to work with students to fix this.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Too few social spaces. **Final clubs** and frats make up too much of the social scene on weekends and encourage wildly indulgent binge drinking that verges on intolerable and influences too many students. However, through extra-curricular activities, inter-house events and classes, I have been able to meet many tremendously interesting, smart people and to make many great, (hopefully) lasting friendships.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Social life revolves around **finals clubs** and there are so few viable opportunities for social interaction within the Harvard community, sanctioned by Harvard. I was lucky to have a varsity team to interact with socially, but I was overall not very happy with how Harvard (doesn't) facilitate social interaction.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Lack of common social spaces, general competitiveness/awkwardness of students, lack of fun sociable activities (i.e. BBQs), exclusiveness of **final clubs** and **fraternities**, lack of campus evening events outside of "dances"

2012-2013 Senior Male

The **final clubs** present a major problem in Harvard social life, and I say this as a member of one. The tendency of Harvard students to create and impose social hierarchies necessitates all kinds of social divisions.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Harvard knows it has social space and social issues, but constantly ignores them or deflects them or tries to find reasons to not address them how they should be. People are driven to **final clubs**, which, although I am a member of one, I generally despise as the primary social scene on campus due to their incredibly limiting space and exclusivity. Guys can't go anywhere so get stuck in one place and bored, and girls CAN go everywhere but apparently don't feel safe in doing so

2012-2013 Senior Male

Harvard's obsession with liability puts the majority of the campus social scene consistently in the **Final clubs**. When we turn people away, we get called elitist, exclusive, and douchey, but the majority of people only care because they don't have an alternative.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Final clubs are horrible and they dominate social life here. Harvard should realize that and at least TRY to do something about them.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

It is silly that there are no 'wet' places on campus outside of dorm rooms and **final clubs**

2014-2015 Senior Male

Harvard has a strange connection - and simultaneous lack thereof - with some of the **final clubs** and other off-campus spaces.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Harvard has a horrific social scene. Socially, I would have picked every single other school I applied to or was accepted in over Harvard. The **Final clubs** have complete control over the interesting and relevant social experiences. This is because there are almost no spaces at Harvard that students can somewhat privately organize a social activity. The one shining beacon is the Lowell Grille. When our rowing team has parties there, they are incredibly fun and individuals say they are far more entertaining than the usual **final club** fare. Furthermore, they are ultimately under the supervision of tutors, and should help ever be needed, it is immediately available. HARVARD NEEDS MORE LOWELL GRILLES. This is my strongest recommendation for the Harvard administration. Create places where groups can have their own parties, that are pretty much totally private, but open to any student who wishes to host a party there. This is the only way to diminish the complete power of the **finals clubs**. If a change is not made, I will be hard pressed to recommend Harvard College to my siblings or peers or anyone else who asks.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Final clubs, cliquey, a little high school -esque. Made a lot of friends in the year above me but not as much in my own year.

2014-2015 Senior Female

The college blames **final clubs** for their short comings. Significant changes need to be made, and not just vilifying the clubs. Drinking culture should be modeled after Stanford

2014-2015 Senior Male

Harvard has very exclusive social spaces like **finals clubs** that are very divisive and detrimental for the student body.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Social system at Harvard is broken. Not because of **final clubs** but rather because Harvard does not provide enough social spaces for undergraduates to socialize on weekends. Harvard seems to have little-to-no regard for the success of student's social lives.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

So much of social life is centered on **final clubs**. It's ridiculous how important they are and how few social options there are outside of them. Ridiculous.

2014-2015 Senior Male

Lack of non-**final club** social spaces

2014-2015 Senior Male

Many social structures (**final clubs**, Advocate, Signet Society, etc) were incredibly alienating. On the other hand, I met some wonderful people.

2014-2015 Senior Female

There needs to be a venue for nice, non **finals club** parties

2012-2013 Senior Female

Too dominated by the **final clubs** scene

2012-2013 Senior Male

Coming in as a freshman, I found I could talk so much to everyone. We all had something in common -- that we were at Harvard. Four years later, the stratification has been so stark that people are immediately tagged, categorized as being friends with certain people, as being people do or don't go to parties, and most importantly, as people who are on a sports team or even more so, in a **final club**. Before yardfest this year, and after having spoken with friends from other schools, the **final club** culture here is ridiculous. Male dominated physical spaces that create an awful culture of gender separation, of stratification based on social class (as well as appearances), of "the other". At other schools, like Northwestern or UGA, even though **sorority** culture is rampant, it is open, and anyone who wants to go to a party can. Not the case at Harvard, at all. At Yardfest this year, I realized how ridiculous it was that so many students were drinking in their own rooms while the clubs, in their usual exhibitionist state, were blaring music with their garden parties. I realize the clubs are powerful and have a lot of history but Harvard needs to put its foot down and do what it can to amke social life at Harvard less stratified, exclusive, and sucky. The clubs detract from everything House life has to offer. They really colored my experience here. Also, how many girls have been assaulted there because their drinks are so strong?!

2012-2013 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I think by ignoring the domination of **final clubs**, Harvard is actually nurturing a social scene of exclusion and elitism. As a member of a **final club**, I have often been frustrated by the fact that there is no equalizing social experience for everyone at Harvard, like a student center. Many of my friends/people I care about have been very much excluded by the scene, and I think that this is a serious problem that affects the way in which students relate to each other.

2012-2013 Senior Female

Lack of social space. Isolated/segmented social groups. Social spaces only available for members of **final clubs**. Difficult environment for minority students, such as Asians and Blacks.

2012-2013 Senior Male

Social opportunities on weekends are limited for students who do not belong to **final clubs**

2012-2013 Senior Male

Mainly, I personally don't believe I was healthy enough to invest the amount of time and energy necessary to have a rich and fulfilling social life. However, much more of my dissatisfaction comes from the fact that I joined a **fraternity** whose social scene didn't mesh with my personality, and I spent too much of my time there during my first two and a half years at Harvard. Additionally, for much of my time here, I resented the fact that I was not part of a sports team (due to my achilles injury) whose members I believe I would have identified well with given my sporty disposition & because I was not in a **final club** despite wanting to be in one. On the plus side, many of the friendships I made and cultivated during my last three years were very positive, offering social support, stability, fun, and the meaning that comes from friendships that last long enough to create true and deep connections. This is the silver lining, and I am grateful for it.

2014-2015 Senior Male

there are no spaces in which to drink with friends except for **final clubs**. harvard needs to create de facto spaces for underage drinking in order to promote healthy campus social life

2014-2015 Senior Male

Final club dominated social scene and lack of "college bars"/hangouts in Harvard square leaves few options for those not paying social club dues.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I loved the friends I made, and I really enjoyed being a part of my **sorority**, but I had no idea how profound the separation would be between me and the elite here at Harvard. I had the assumption coming in that success socially would be the result of personal character, but soon learned that markers of esteem I had never heard of would determine who got to participate in the night life at Harvard (**final clubs**), and who didn't.

2014-2015 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

What impact did the following activities have on your overall social experience at Harvard?

I socialized a lot at The Crimson, which helped me have a somewhat better experience overall. Nonetheless, there is no pretending that Harvard's social scene isn't extremely fragmented, exclusive, and hierarchical. **Final clubs** really do "ruin" the situation for a lot of people who aren't in them, since they take away so many of the social resources and concentrate them among the already wealthy and popular. House parties also tend to be lacking and students tend to have a general unwillingness to hold events in their own rooms.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Female **Finals club** was very important to me, as was socializing with my friends at male clubs.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Yardfest is a joke. I rarely went to private parties in rooms, as I found them to be awkward, too crowded, and sweaty. Joining a male **final club** was the most positive and rewarding experience of my entire Harvard career. I learned more, was challenged more, and grew more over discussions around the club or during meals than I did in ANY of my classes. Older members served as advisers when the Harvard advising system failed, and notified me of opportunities to get involved and give back in a way that Harvard just was not set-up to do. Of course, the parties were fun as well, but what I really valued about my club was the experience of diversity and close brotherhood with guys who were from completely different walks of life from my own and who had as much to teach me as I had to teach them.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I enjoyed the social landscape at Harvard. I felt that the school sometimes placed undue restrictions on "fun" events and drives everyone to **Finals clubs**. I wish the Greek scene was a little more vibrant, but Harvard does not give them support (i.e. official recognition)

2011-2012 Senior Male

I never interacted with **final clubs** and **sororities**, so they had no impact.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Harvard **Final clubs** made my social experience here terrible. They are the dominant social structure at Harvard and it is a pathetic elitist social environment. Harvard does not do a good enough job of countering this elitist culture since it is highly ingrained

2011-2012 Senior Male

Final clubs are some of the most brutal environments for young women to be in. My favorite thing is hanging out in friends' rooms away from all of that.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

final clubs have ruined the social scene at Harvard. They dominate it because they have 2 things Harvard students love: free alcohol and status. But they are highly exclusionary (duh), and divisive. Especially, I would argue, of the Black community. Our leaders fall into social club world and for practically leave the Black community. Clubs are racist, sexist, classist and homophobic. But most of the campus buys into them so they keep their power and thus reinforce these isms in their own small way. Also, elegance, that collective masturbation of the **final clubs** only adds to it. As a feminist Black woman at Harvard, very few social spaces for me and my queer people of color friends. Very alienating and depressing. Feel isolated and frustrated. I have been ready to leave Harvard since freshman spring.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs are terrible institutions that should be abolished. This comes from someone who was pressured to join one due to my athletic team, but refused to on moral grounds. They are dangerous and promote all the negative values associated with Harvard. I love house events, especially the Mather house ones, and they were some of the social highlights of my time here.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Socially, I'm very low-key--I mostly stuck with my friends. While I attended some official events, I almost never took part in the **finals clubs**--I don't really like what they stand for (rich white male elitists).

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs...come on administration, what's up with pretending they don't exist? They are a hugely negative part of the Harvard experience. By denying their existence, you are making life a lot worse for the majority of students here on campus.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I generally am apathetic towards **final clubs**. However, as I reflect on my four years here, I think they greatly limit social interactions among large groups of students and we essentially have a divided campus. Socially, the biggest and most obvious divide is between **final clubs** and non-**final clubs** students. Conversations about race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. are both secondary and embedded in this divide. However, I believe they are an unfortunately permanent part of the Harvard experience.

2011-2012 Senior Female

slight discomfort with **final clubs**. I think it is a moral failing of the university not to regulate them.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Male **final clubs** are the one place on campus you can hang out, casually drink, watch cable TV. Harvard's inexplicable ban on drinking games and absurd refusal to allow parties in rooms like SCRs forces students to rely heavily on **final clubs** and **fraternities**. It's also particularly insulting that the most intelligent young adults in the world are not allowed to throw a ping pong ball into a cup of beer. We're treated like adults in every other aspect, particularly the conspicuous lack of advising, except drinking, where we are treated like children. I'd rather not rely on an all-male social institution, but Harvard's policies and lack of interest in student social life is the primary reason for the **final club's** role on campus.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Final clubs are dangerous and discriminatory places. Their presence on this campus is questionable and negatively impacted my otherwise positive social experience.

2011-2012 Senior Female

finals clubs should be reined in. also, they are a huge noise problem, but more than that, (And I'm a guy mind you) I hate how they lead to girls being taken advantage of.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I think **sororities** and **final clubs** need support from the school.

2011-2012 Senior Female

This campus needs a student center. Without that kind of space, students are drawn to male **final club** buildings, where individual wealth creates parties where no one from the college is watching, where women from other schools come because no adults are watching. I am a participant in the **final club** scene. If Harvard does not create a student space where alcohol is freely permitted, then students will continue to go to the parties where life is unrestricted and run by 20 year old men.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Very little social spaces outside of **final clubs** which really hurts Harvard socially as an undergraduate.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I have had a great social experience through Harvard, especially through the clubs and other activities I have been involved in. I was not involved in the **final club** scene at all, so it had no impact on my undergraduate social experience.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Final clubs have got to go. The more I think about my time at Harvard, the more I question the institution and the abundant privilege that surrounds it. Something about **Final clubs** typifies this privilege, and it's just not right. It creates an abysmal social scene and makes some people feel more important or worthy than others.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Final clubs, **fraternities**, and **sororities** reflect a dangerous trend on campus - a lack of social space that is welcoming to all. These "organizations" erode the strength of the house communities.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I've never been to a **Final club**; not a part of a **sorority**; don't go to many private parties, 1 because I'm not a big drinker and 2 because I don't go to White People Parties; my greatest social activities occurred through BSA, Kuumba, and hanging out with my blockmates.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs shouldnt exist or they should belong to all thte students or they should at least all be coed. It really stinkst hat the university doesn't have jurisdiction over them to make them healthier more inclusive spaces. I think the university should think twice before cracking down on dorm parties etc. because this is one of our only alternatives to spaces that are totally unsupervised (**final clubs**) where people are really at risk of sexual assault, binge drinking, etc. I'm not really sure what the slution to harvard social life is. Let the dudley coop have more events! Hire tutors in the dudley coop who support coop social life! Admit nicer students who care about each other! Host cooler events in the houses?

2011-2012 Senior Female

In general, I was turned off by many of the House events. I did not like the fact that the biggest events required additional money - I don't have money growing on trees. My happiness should not have to correlate with my or my parents' income level. More free events would be helpful. In general, the University does a very poor job addressing **Final clubs**. Just because the University is not officially responsible for them does not exculpate them from the classist, sexist, racist happenings there. There was a Harvard frat party called "Conquista Bros and Nava-hos" held on Columbus day with a poster depicting white men on their way to "conquer" Native American women. That is terrible and it made the blogosphere headlines.

2011-2012 Senior Female

The sophomore punch experience for **final clubs** is terrible (speaking from female perspective.) I suppose it's just as bad for males. For those who get through a few rounds but don't continue, it just makes you feel like you are inferior.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I think my social experience at Harvard has gotten better with every year. Having good friends who are also interested in socializing outside the **fraternity/final club** arena has been really key. I also think things have been better since we all turned 21.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Men's **final clubs** have created an incredibly backwards culture here. It is extremely strange to me, that a university that is so forward thinking and progressive, would ironically, have a social environment that fosters such intense sexism. Of course, it is one's choice whether or not they choose to attend parties at men's **final clubs**. Sure. But the social power of these men's clubs can not be overestimated, and should NOT be ignored. If these clubs are going to continue to exist, I believe it is NECESSARY that they go co-ed. Sexism is not the only issue at play here, however. For a myriad of reasons, these clubs foster a social environment of exclusivity, that seems to be unparalleled at other universities.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Overall, I've had a great social life, but I really dislike the **final club** system. Most of the good parties are held there on the weekends, but I don't want to go there, so therefore I don't go to many parties.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Just having lots of smart, interesting, nice, funny friends to hang out with was the best part of college. That's the stuff I'm sure I'll miss in five years. Also, **final clubs** pretty much have no redeeming qualities and are vestiges of an old, outdated Harvard and are generally sexist and demeaning to women. That being said, I didn't spend too much time thinking about them. I think people overestimate the extent to which they impact non-members social lives.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Joined a **Final club** here and it was the best decision and happiest things Ive done in my whole life. (The Owl)

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I am a member of a female **final club** and have felt that it is a defining part of my undergraduate experience. I have met wonderful and lasting friends who have supported me through hardships and many joys. I appreciate the social outlet my club, and our relationships with other male clubs, has given me over my time at Harvard. I feel strongly about **final clubs** continued presence at Harvard. While I understand that many perceive clubs to be elitist and exclusive, I do not think the **final club** system is any more exclusive than the Greek system that appears at other colleges in much more homogeneous ways. I think the **final clubs** work to include diversity. As an African American woman of moderate means in a **final club** (ie my family received financial aid for 2 of years at Harvard), I have never felt insecure about my race or my family's income. Had I not had this outlet, I believe that I would be socially unhappy at Harvard. I think that Harvard should encourage more single sex social organizations (or other mixed gender social organizations like the Signet, the Lampoon, or the Advocate) because they significantly enrich students experiences socially at the college.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I spent a lot of time at **Final clubs** early in my college experience, and then transitioned to room parties. I have been very happy with the amount of socializing that I have done during my time at Harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I feel great about everything but do wish the University would publicly acknowledge **final clubs** for some accountability.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I have a lot of fun- my complaint is the division of the social scene into **final clubs** and other social groups creates a weird dynamic. Ill be friends with all the boys at a party but not all the girls since they're in a different club.

2011-2012 Senior Female

harvard mens **final clubs** create the most awkward male social dominance hierarchy. And reduces women to chattel.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Intramurals were also great. In general, I don't appreciate that the social norm is that parties can't start before 10 and no one better show up before 11 or it'll be empty. I also don't appreciate the exclusivity of **final clubs**. It's not fun when your female friends decide they want to go **final clubbing** and they have to beg for you to be let in. And even then you can only be in certain rooms/in their backyard. I also really wish there were less of an emphasis on work hard party hard. Why can't I play a few chill games of beer pong on a tuesday with a few friends instead of raging hard every saturday exclusively? Many of the most meaningful conversations I've had at Harvard have occurred mid-day over beer with friends, just because you're taking a few hours to chill out and reflect.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Final clubs are the worst. The worst. They are the part of the Harvard culture that brings out the worst aspects of the students. They are not only exclusive, lots of aspects of Harvard are exclusive, but they are exclusive based on physical appearance and wealth. As long as they exist, Harvard will never shed that image of being a bastion of wealth and privilege. All my roommates were in **final clubs**, and I saw how they changed over the years. If those clubs are still here in 20 years, I wouldn't donate to the university or want my children to attend the school, despite its academic opportunity.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I hate **final clubs**.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I think it is cowardly that the administration turns a blind eye to **final clubs**. They are an extremely important part of Harvard life, and create a sense of entitlement that is extremely damaging to the general student body. Harvard should actively fight to get these organizations out of student life. By not acknowledging them, Harvard tacitly endorses them (or that is what it feels like) and supports what they do/stand for.

2011-2012 Senior Female

The double standard that exists between the wink-wink condoning of all that happens at **final clubs** and the endlessly bureaucratic route a plebian student must take to simply be allowed to have friends over to drink and listen to music or watch a movie is quite efficient at making me withdraw from social life at Harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I joined a **fraternity** and thoroughly enjoyed the meaningful friendships I made there. I took pride in inviting all freshmen to join, unlike **final clubs** and their elitist, opaque punching process. When i felt like there weren't adequate social outlets on campus, I went to nearby schools on weekends. I also really enjoyed my house formals and occasional stein clubs, which allowed me to strengthen my friendships and really capture the moment at harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Now that I'm a senior, I've come to really dislike the exclusivity of male and female **final clubs**, even though I used to attend parties at male **final clubs** throughout much of freshman and sophomore year and some of junior year. People at Harvard generally trying to belong to exclusive groups and look cool has had a negative effect on my experience. However, my **sorority**, Delta Gamma, has had an incredibly positive effect on my experience because it has been such a welcoming community where people truly accepted me for who I was and were always willing to help me no matter what and be my closest friends, always there to support me and give me advice.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Playing a varsity sport here far and away had the biggest positive influence on my social experience. I also was in a female **finals club** which also had a huge positive influence on my social experience. I feel extremely grateful for these opportunities and am not sure what I would have done socially without them.

2011-2012 Senior Female

The **final clubs** need to go. They're a negative experience not only for males not in them, but also for girls. Why should I feel the need to wear a skimpy dress and heels to go impress my classmates who think they're hot shots because they're in a **final club**?

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs are possibly the worst things about Harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Male

At first I regretted not joining a **final club** because I grew up around **final club** like people. Then I realized that it's douche and I rather form friendships with different people (though it was harder to have fun until I turned 21, when they became totally non-existent in my life). THE COLLEGE NEEDS TO HELP SOPHOMORES AND FRESHMEN NOT PART OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE FUN. This requires events thrown to be perceived as "cool" in order to attract enough people.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Please, for the love of God, do more to get rid of **final clubs**. They are horrible, archaic institutions that create a truly problematic social space for women and working- / middle-class students. Although they're easy to avoid after freshman year, **final clubs** are among the only places freshmen can go to party (...at least the women), and I remember people looking askance at me when I said that I wasn't comfortable attending those parties.

2011-2012 Senior Female

As someone who though from a Mexican-American background, do not look like it, I have rarely felt any sort of discrimination or aggressions against me due to my background, yet there was a case where after having talked with someone for a bit outside of a **Final club** about my background, they assumed that I couldn't possibly be a student of the college, and that if I was here was probably going to a different university if any.

2011-2012 Senior Male

You guys need to figure out the male **final club** scene. Either bring em in and tamper them down or something.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I intentionally never set foot in a **final club** throughout my four years at Harvard. I am disgusted by the way that these institutions affect the self-worth of people that I know, and while they did not have a particularly significant impact on me as an individual, I rated them as "very negative" because they represent the opposite of the Harvard experience that I love.

2011-2012 Senior Female

How can **final clubs** legally be allowed to blast music past 2 AM? There were several times I wanted to call Cambridge PD to report disturbance of the public peace but these clubs seem to fall under some form of tacit protection from the university.

2011-2012 Senior Male

At Harvard, I feel that there is not much casual socializing with friends because there is not good social space at Harvard for these encounters to happen besides in the dining hall. Everyone at Harvard is very busy with their academics and extracurriculars that there is not much free time to casually socialize with friends. Hanging out with friends is usually at a planned event (private party in students rooms) or at male **finals clubs**. However, I feel that women and men have very different experiences at Harvard (especially men that are in **finals clubs**) as mens **finals clubs** are the places where girls can go out and party, but women in female **finals clubs** do not have this type of space to throw a party for males to come to (even if a woman is in a females **finals club**). As a result, men very much dominate the social scene here at Harvard in deciding when to throw parties and choosing who and who cannot come via invite lists that are very common. Men spend a lot of time at these **finals clubs** to form friendships - friendships that most women (although getting better with the growth of females **finals clubs**) do not have because they do not have the social context to cultivate them here at Harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Fraternities are great because they are open, fun, and welcoming. **Final clubs** are a drain on the social scene here, and should be more regularly cited for nighttime noise violations.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Casual socializing with friends is probably the best thing I've done in college. Private parties (the kind with loud music and lots of people I don't know) mostly were not very much fun, but small private parties with my friends only were awesome. **Final clubs** were too loud at night (and during the afternoon, and pretty much any time when I wanted to be doing things that didn't involve listening to their parties).

2011-2012 Senior Female

Hated the exclusivity of **final clubs**. Loved the open atmosphere of the frats/**sororities**!

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I thrived socially at Harvard. I turned to my athletic team, **final club** and house for social activity. I met such a diverse group of people, many of which I hope to remain in touch with long into the future.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I definitely took advantage of the concerts/shows being performed all the time, but by the time you're an upper-classmen and dorm parties and dining hall parties are less appealing, the options for partying are minimal. The choice is either a somewhat lame House Happy Hour/Stein Club, a stuffy room party, a bar, or a **finals club**. Too many people give up (regardless of how they view **final clubs**) and just go to a **final club** to dance and blow off steam... That being said, I'm grateful for all the friends I've had, and I wish I had spent more time outside of Harvard exploring off-campus events (i.e. concerts). I loved when the UC subsidized tickets freshman year for plays and activities in Boston.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs, frats, and **sororities** seem really unnecessary in the context of the house system. I think they're most detrimental to the social life of first year students, but they feel to me like bastions of old Harvard privilege.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Social life SUCKS during your first two years here, but it gets significantly better by senior year, when you know lots of people and are 21 (aka old enough to go to bars). But I can still recall those miserable, miserable nights back in freshman year when we would wander around the River hoping to go to a party, fail, ditch our male friends (sorry) and try a **final club**, remember why **final clubs** are so sketchy, and go home, defeated, cursing our decision to go to Harvard instead of a safety school.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I am a member of a female **finals club** and spend a large amount of my socializing time at male **finals clubs**. While I have enjoyed the experience, I think it could have been very different if Harvard was more tolerant of private dorm parties. I think more people would throw them and more people would attend if there were not such huge risks. This could change the social balance of power away from the men "privileged enough" to be in **finals clubs**. I do enjoy **finals clubs** and don't think they should be shut down, but I do hope that there are more options.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs are just completely unacceptable from every perspective

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Since Harvard does not have a student union, but offers very generous common rooms I think the school needs to relax on its party/alcohol policy so that more people take advantage of room parties/gatherings. It is unreasonable to expect people to register parties. It makes it nearly impossible for people to have spontaneous fun, and that is why so many people are dependent on the **final club** scene. The **final clubs** get attacked for being exclusive, but it is not their responsibility to host the majority of the social events on campus and they take on a lot of liability by opening their doors.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I participated in a varsity sport, a female **final club**, and various student organizations - they were all formative parts of my time at Harvard. Male **final clubs** are just too damn full of themselves.

2011-2012 Senior Female

As a freshman I went to male **final clubs** a lot; this dwindled as I got older. I'm in a female **final club** so it plays a large role in my life. But I will say that I think the dynamic set up between the **final clubs** and the Harvard student body as a whole is a true tragedy and it truly saddens me that Harvard has yet to create anything like a student center to encourage intermingling of students across different social groups.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Harvard needs to get rid of **final clubs**. I don't understand what the rationale for still having these elite groups around. They create a sense of entitlement that needs to be uprooted.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I am in a **sorority** and my boyfriend is in a **final club**. I have the utmost respect for both organizations. I think there are very few opportunities to bond with those of your own sex in a completely supportive environment where you don't feel the pressure of having to behave a certain way around those of the opposite sex, and where you can truly just be yourself. I, and my boyfriend, have both met incredible, amazing people through our respective **social clubs**; people that I would not have met through the weak social activities Harvard actually recognizes and supports. It saddens me that the University won't recognize Greek organizations (though I can understand some of the issues with **Final clubs**). Greek organizations have a reputation on campus for drawing in some of Harvard's most accomplished, social students and they have the potential to do so much work philanthropically and otherwise for the school.

2011-2012 Senior Female

The school really really needs to eliminate **final clubs**. I could go on a rant about this, but I'll try not to. The sexism based on the power-dynamic at the male **final clubs** is toxic. They are dangerous, and when they are not dangerous, they are degrading to women and men who are not in them. They create a class culture of elitism that makes certain people feel entitled and others feel excluded. They are outdated.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Finals clubs create a divisive social environment

2011-2012 Senior Female

Having all my best friends get into **final clubs**, over time, deteriorated my relationship with them and chipped away at my sense of self worth.

2011-2012 Senior Male

harvard needs more than just **finals clubs**, its not good for people especially women

2011-2012 Senior Female

I was not involved in a **final club** or **fraternity**, but often did not need to because I had an okay social life. Sometimes, however, it did no seem enough.

2011-2012 Senior Male

The exclusivity of **final clubs** is not what Harvard is all about.

2011-2012 Senior Female

It would be nice if some groups and activities were less exclusive. I dislike the **final club** scene and don't think it is a productive or positive aspect of Harvard's social scene.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Campus-wide events were usually a disappointment, making it somewhat more annoying than if we just didn't have them. **Final clubs** and **fraternities/sororities** are annoying even if you have nothing to do with them, due to the fuss made about them both by students and officials in the Harvard community, both positive (those who actually go to parties there) and negative (those who complain about them almost constantly.)

2011-2012 Senior Male

My social experince at Harvard mainly came from **Final clubs** as the official university social scene is poor.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Harvard must do more to promote a healthier social scene among the student body. Social experiences are often lacking for males until they are old enough to go out in the square or etc. Harvard's over regulation only forces binge drinking and etc. into the **final clubs**. I am indifferent re **finals clubs** because I had friends in them, but overall I saw how they negatively impaced social experiences for many at Harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I think that Harvard has overall done a very bad job fostering a positive social scene on campus. Harvard's housing is set up such that people can potentially have such control over their own social spaces. The absurd restrictions put on dorm parties and social gatherings makes that an unsustainable space. I have found a very positive social experience through the **final clubs** but I think it is incredibly irresponsible of Harvard to place the major burden of the social scene on them. It is also particularly irresponsible considering how male dominated and potentially unsafe those spaces can be. The college should not be waging a war on these social institutions-- they are not the problem. The problem is that students have no alternatives. For example, my roommates (all 21) invited a number of guests (also all 21) to our room for an event. Since it was on a Thursday, we couldn't register it (we would have!) and thus got in trouble and had our party hosting revoked for the rest of the semester. Instead, we just spent the rest of the semester hanging out in **final clubs**, even though we'd rather be in our room. If harvard is serious about the well being of its students and encouraging a positive social scene, they will relax room restrictions and create more outlets for student space, especially at night.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I think **final clubs**, frats, **sororities** all create cultures of exclusivity that really don't need to exist and only worsen the social scene at Harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Things have generally been good (I've never been to a **final club** so that's why it's neutral)

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs are exclusive and sexist. They embed the Harvard Student body with misogynistic and elitist values. It is disappointing that at an academic institutions that upholds inclusion, diversity, and equality these institutions continue to play such a central role in students' social lives.

2011-2012 Senior Female

final clubs are bad.

2011-2012 Senior Male

My social experience was dominated by my time in my **final club**, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I wish the university would crack down on **final clubs** and make it clear that Harvard is an acceptable place to attend if you're not rich or didn't go to private (or an elite public) high school. But I loved my time on radio and at peoples' houses off-campus.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

College-wide and House events are a lot of fun, as are private social interactions. I found **final clubs** and **fraternities/sororities** to be exclusive and cliquey and a slight detraction from the overall social atmosphere.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I had a wonderful time at harvard but know first hand that many students could not wait to leave for social reasons. Harvard NEEDS a centralized student union and place for safe drinking. The **final clubs** can not be the only party space where drinking occurs. College students want to (and will find ways to) drink. Those who do not have access to **final clubs** are more likely to drink undercover and away from sources of safety. The most ambulances I ever see going down the streets are on the nights of house formals.

2011-2012 Senior Male

The **final clubs** dominate the social scene for undergraduate males, particularly underclass men, and really hampered my ability to spend time with many of my friends. The college should open up more alcohol-friendly social spaces to facilitate large social gatherings among undergraduates. Furthermore, if drinking were better supervised (I.e. took place in more open spaces) it is likely that the amount of alcohol-related illness would decrease.

2011-2012 Senior Male

There are few social spaces in Harvard besides the **Final clubs** and private parties, particularly for those under 21 years old.

2011-2012 Senior Male

The only good thing about the social scene at Harvard is the existence of **Final clubs**. Otherwise the social scene is terrible because there are no places to go unwind and have fun. The end result was that I either attended parties at **Final clubs** or went to bars in and around Boston. If I wasn't on an athletic team and in a **Final club** I would have been miserable the last 4 years. Luckily, I was.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I am a member of a female **final club** and my entire social experience was based around that club and the male clubs. I had an incredible experience, met my best friends and had so much fun throughout college.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Finals clubs = racist, sexist, organizations that do nothing to add to Harvard's mission. They only add to the elitist culture that makes Harvard less desirable.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I never went to any **final clubs**, **fraternities**, **sororities**, HoCo sponsored events, house formals, private parties, or off campus activities. One of the largest influences on my social experiences at Harvard was informal events, such as dinner in a dining hall, or an impromptu movie night, put together by a student organization I was part of. Those events were not formally advertised or organized events, but they were a chance to spend time with people I enjoyed spending time with doing something other than studying.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I did not end up going to many social events on campus especially house parties, **frat parties**, **finals clubs** etc because I felt that there was an incredible and unnecessary emphasis placed on binge drinking and other degrading behaviors. I could not attend a lot of concerts because I could not afford to and I was not eligible for Students Events Fund. Those concerts I did attend, such as the ones with the Kroks, Kuumba were phenomenal! I attended mostly grad school parties and events which I found to be a lot more controlled than some of the undergrad parties. Formals were always great! Eliot's Fete and winter formals were well organized and enjoyable.

2011-2012 Senior Female

I could get into a huge block of text about the patriarchal, divisive, sexist, and damaging effect of the **Final club** system at Harvard, but I won't, because there's really nothing you can do about it. I found that my social life here was very disappointing. It took me about 2 years to find friends, and I was pretty miserable that whole time. Naturally a quiet person, I prefer room parties and casual get-togethers, but I found that the 1) intensely driven nature (or at least the many responsibilities) of students affected the social life and 2) that the suppression of private parties left few avenues to release steam. I am not, by nature, a particularly wild person, but I found that over four years it became increasingly difficult to register parties or find spaces for partying on campus, leading to a rise in **Final club** + Greek activity. I think it's extremely unfair that Harvard is, essentially, increasing the effect these groups have on student life at the University, for the worse. I have been involved in more than one (three, in fact) extracurriculars threatened with punishment or the ad-boarding of its officers for fairly minor alcohol-related offenses in the last year, resulting in the limiting of institutional options for socializing and the increased influence of outside groups. Absolutely not fair. And the extreme lack of space makes it very difficult to create an active social life for any of these groups. I'm not sure what the university intends to replace it with - but I would seriously rethink your stance on alcohol and partying and try to make the campus a welcoming place for socializing rather than pushing people to unsafe spaces with no official barriers in place for alcohol abuse or sexual assault. I'm a social, but rather reserved, person. My main socializing on campus has been through extracurriculars and my own roommates. I spent 2 years fairly unhappy with my socializing choices on campus, and 2 years watching my options dwindle (especially as I took on leadership positions that required me to plan social events!). I have been very disappointed in my social life at Harvard; fortunately, other experiences make up for it, and I think I've made enough good friends to neutralize the negative effects of the social scene here.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

The social experience wasn't great. House parties get extremely overcrowded very fast and more often than not end up being broken up by tutors/hupd because of fire code or noise. Part of this is due to the complications of throwing a party (forms due a week in advance), which results in not a lot of parties overall. This is why **final clubs** are so well-attended, but I strongly disprove of the elitism in them.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I have most enjoyed my free time hanging out with close friends, whether in dorm rooms or out playing sports, at a bar, etc. That form of interaction encourages conversations on a wide variety of topics - and as a person with a huge range of interests, this is most stimulating. Having a long-term girlfriend, with whom I plan to continue sharing my life after graduation, has been a major contributor to my happiness. With that said, my life has definitely been improved by venturing outside my circle and making friends with Housemates, and the strange but fun social environment of dorm parties. HoCo should keep up the good work and bring everyone together as much as possible. Formals are a uniquely fun example of this. As a member of a **Fraternity**, I have some misgivings about off-campus single-gender organizations, but view the experience as an overall positive. The public perception of downright misogyny and criminal behavior is vastly overblown - and while I am heartened to know that my brothers are not all socially backward miscreants, it does not help that some segments of the public perceive them as such. With that said, I am not sure there is a good reason to exclude women other than for ethically and socially unacceptable reasons, and an overall unsavory appeal to "tradition." If my **Fraternity** could be co-ed and still maintain its organizing principles - to be a group for students from a diverse set of backgrounds and life experiences to come together for friendship, networking, and to blow off some steam from a stressful academic life - I would be all for a conversion to co-ed. Unfortunately, this is not a widely held position. I think some day it could be. To the positives: I have established a meaningful network of people beyond the friends whom I have met in Cabot House. For a person who was not so good at mingling and socializing in group situations with strangers, I definitely gained that skill during the member induction process. I employed those same skills time and time again when meeting employers and I was pretty successful in full-time job recruiting as a result. As my fellow graduates go off to careers in business, politics, law, academia, medicine, I know of stand-up people whom I would trust - once they have completed their training - with my most important matters. The **Fraternity** construct enabled those relationships. During sophomore fall there was a degree of disappointment that I was not invited to join a more exclusive club with a successful alumni base - a lot like the University which I had just begun attending. I am confident that my drive, wide range of interests, schmoozing skills and physical attractiveness would have made me a very successful **Final club** member had I been invited to punch. Unlike the **Fraternities**, at least on this campus, it is very clear that joining a Male **Final club** unlocks a variety of additional privileges, which are unsavory flaunted to other students. While I know from experience that the weekend parties are no more special than the **Fraternity** parties or even dorm parties - cheap alcohol, intoxicated students of both genders making bad decisions, the press and smell of sweating humanity in a cramped room - the weekday benefits of club membership are quite real. I have been to more than one campus recruiting event where the gaggle of club ties got first crack at the senior decision-makers of the presenting firm - it was clear that the employers had allegiances as well. I have no illusions about the importance of "connections" versus pure "merit" - in many of the sought-after, high-paying jobs, "connections" are the most valuable commodity, above analysis and smarts. However, the closing of the process to those not invited to join just rubs me the wrong way. And unlike the **Fraternities**, which do not exert much economic power within their unsavory gender dynamic, the **Final clubs** offer a more troubling equation with their moneyed domination of very visible space smack in the middle of campus.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

I live right next to two **final clubs**, and they are very loud.

2011-2012 Senior Female

The tradition of the **Final club** is really, at this point, a negative aspect of Harvard. It dictates social life, and it really, really, makes Harvard men expect less of Harvard women than they should. I am not completely anti-**Final club**, and spent quite some time in some, but in the end, my experience visiting friends in those clubs or attending their parties, taught me that these institution push Harvard men to affirm their power over the intelligent Harvard women in a way that is insulting and potentially violent, and Harvard women to demean themselves because they think that is the only way that they can attract Harvard men.

2011-2012 Senior Female

The chauvinistic **final club** culture permeates every corner of social life at Harvard, stifling all other forms of social interaction.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Harvard does not do enough to promote a healthy social life on campus. There are simply not enough social spaces, and given the degree to which surrounding restaurants and concert spaces do not allow those under 21 to enter, Harvard should do more for fostering healthy social lives on campus. Instead, the only available spaces for night activity are male **final clubs**, which are elitist and sexist institutions. It is unfair that women on this campus are not treated equally as a result of the wealth and "social power" of the male **final club** institutions. The truth is that there is not much else to do on campus or in the city of Cambridge/Boston until you turn 21. Harvard should encourage a less sexist, discriminatory, elitist environment, and one that is SAFER for all of its students. The burden should not fall on male **final clubs** to finance and plan a majority of social (not cultural or spirited) events. Additionally, the enforcement of stricter alcohol policies over the past year or two. School administrators might think that this creates a safer environment, but from the student perspective, it encourages less safe drinking habits and makes students feel like they cannot approach tutors or house admin with alcohol/drug related problems.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Finals clubs are too loud.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Racist, sexist, and elitist, the **final clubs** continue to be the single greatest detriment to student life in the College.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Some house formals are great (Eliot), while most are just three tiers worse. My **Final club** has been overall good for me, I think. That said, not all of them are the same and I chose not to join several as a sophomore and kind of stumbled into mine as a junior. I also recognize their inherent sexist nature. On the **final club** note, I find the college's refusal to acknowledge their existence stubborn, naive, and ultimately bad for the college and the students. With regards to the newest alcohol policy, the college is trying to eliminate most drinking, and all under-21 drinking. Charitably, this is a pipe dream. Get real. By tightening the belt on the booze policy, the college will not stop kids from drinking. It will stop kids from drinking where the school has control. It will push the kids to **final clubs** and other, sketchier circumstances. If, for example, the college admitted that Stein Clubs can be a good place for students to learn to drink (really, most Harvard students learn to drink in college so you may as well participate positively in that learning process), then they could regulate Stein Clubs so that they stay safe, social drinking environments.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Fraternities provided the only safe social space for me to have fun on weekends. The egalitarian culture and commitment to safety was impressive. It is a shame that these organizations aren't recognized as they are the only safe alternative to **final clubs**, which from experience are incredibly exclusive and unsafe social spaces.

2011-2012 Senior Male

The first four, sixth, and seventh items were by far how I spent the bulk of my time at Harvard. I rated male **final clubs** as slightly negative only because I think they create an awkward and unfortunate social stratification at Harvard, where many more parties are "exclusive" or "list-only" than at other comparable schools.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Harvard does a terrible job supporting the social needs of students by continuing to restrict dorm party rules and regulations, forcing students who want to drink and have a good time to go to **final clubs**.

2011-2012 Senior Male

I think everyone understands that the **final clubs** are generally a bad scene; I've avoided them completely.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

There is an absolutely huge divide between **final club** culture and the rest of the college. The social inequality that I have confronted at Harvard still baffles me to this day. Although I recognize that the university has disassociated from **final clubs**, they are still very much ingrained into the undergraduate culture. And although I commend the university for taking on a financial aid initiative for talents students who may not have the means to pay for full tuition, I think Harvard should recognize that socially, this creates a huge disparity between exorbitantly wealthy students and those, say, who are almost on a full-ride. The social inequality manifests differently for everyone, but I would say that in general, **final clubs** have caused a lot of problems and rifts between friendships. The insecurity that is already constantly present among the student body due to going to college with such a bright and ambitious group of future leaders is only augmented by the **final club** selection process and the subsequent culture that is perpetuated involving the flaunting of wealth and the stratifying hierarchy that I would say is tactlessly imposed on the student body. I think that **final clubs** also correlate quite strongly to mental health issues among the student body from the anecdotes I've heard from my friends and my greater friend network. The social and economic disparity that **final clubs** continue to perpetuate is something that the college should think about addressing, if not for the sake of student mental health, then for the greater reputation of the college as a welcoming place for ALL undergraduates.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Final clubs really detract from the social experience at Harvard.

2011-2012 Senior Male

Private student room parties are a fun alternative to **final club** parties, but I have found that tutors are not all on the same page about the rules and they often shut down parties for no reason. This discourages room parties. Stein clubs in Pfoho used to be a blast before the BAT teams were brought in. I realize it is an issue to use Harvard money for underage drinking, but the presence of such a scary authority has made stein clubs go completely downhill. Having tutors check IDs should suffice. Stein clubs were always important to me because they encouraged a casual atmosphere where you could enjoy a drink or two with friends (rather than binge drinking in our rooms). Yardfest needs to either be given a larger budget, or more realistically, charge for tickets so that we can actually get fun artists to play. EVERYONE is dissatisfied with Yardfest, and it only makes it worse when all the other Ivys (not to mention other tiny no-name schools as well) have huge artists playing at their concerts.

2011-2012 Senior Female

The existence of **Final clubs** and Greek life provide communities for some people but also engender a sense of social divide among those who are part of it and those who are not part of it.

2011-2012 Senior Female

Survey Comments about Single Gender Social Organizations

Harvard social life is very fractured into different groups, and once a person is oriented towards a specific group, it's difficult to get out of that. I also believe that **final clubs** detract from the social experience. If **final clubs** worked like **fraternities**, where all people can rush, I would be fine with it. But because of the "punch" system, I feel like the clubs are perpetuating certain social stereotypes.

2011-2012 Senior Male