

College Class Committees

Overview and Roles for Classes of 1997–2027

A Class Committee is the leadership and governance for a Harvard College class. The priority of a Class Committee is to bring the Class together as a whole, connecting members of the Class to each other and Harvard College by modeling and facilitating communication, participation, volunteerism, and philanthropy among classmates. The Class Committee is formed in the senior year (in the fall semester) and continues in alumni life. The group comes together through a combination of class-wide elections, staff interviews and appointments, and committee member interviews and appointments.

This document outlines the Class Committee structure for recent graduate classes and outlines changes to roles and structure going back to the Class of 1997.

The Class Committee structure for the Classes of 2016–2027 has generally looked like this:

First and Second Marshal (2)
Program Marshals (6) Gift (2016-2023) OR HCF (2024-2027) Marshals (6)
Officers: Secretary (1) Treasurer (1) Media Team (3 or 4)
House Representatives (13)

Historical Changes to Class Committee Roles

First and Second Marshals: The Classes of 1997-1999 (as the final Harvard-Radcliffe classes) have two First Marshals — one for Harvard and one for Radcliffe. There are then three additional Marshals for Harvard and three additional Marshals for Radcliffe. Starting with the Class of 2000 through the Class of 2008, there is just one First Marshal and then seven other Marshals. The Second Marshal role was created with the Class of 2009, meaning that the Marshal roles through the Class of 2015 (prior to the creation of Gift Marshals/Program Marshals with the Class of 2016) included one First Marshal, one Second Marshal, and six other Marshals.

Senior Gift Co-Chairs, Gift Marshals, and HCF Marshals: In relatively recent years, through the Class of 2015, there were seniors who served as Senior Gift Co-Chairs on behalf of the Harvard College Fund (two each year for the Classes of 1997–2007, three each year for the Classes of 2008–2010, and five each year for the Classes of 2011–2015). While they worked with the Class Committee members, they were usually not officially considered long-term members of the Class Committee, and this was just a one-year role (in practice, this might vary by class).

Starting in fall 2015 with the Class of 2016, the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) College Alumni Programs team and the Harvard College (HCF) partnered to create and support a combined programmatic and gift Class Committee structure, and the five Senior Gift Co-Chair roles turned into six Gift Marshals and were fully integrated into the committee (and will still be considered part of the Class Committee as alumni).

Starting in fall 2023 with the Class of 2024, the Gift Marshal role was rebranded as Harvard College Fund (HCF) Marshal, with a greater focus on education around philanthropy rather than leading a giving campaign. There are still six of them.

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Marshals and Program Marshals: Previously, the elected Marshals (besides the First and Second Marshal) were just referred to as Marshals. Due to the change mentioned above starting with the Class of 2016, those six other Marshals are now called Program Marshals. The Class of 2025 had a four-way tie for the final position in the Program Marshal elections, so this class uniquely has nine Program Marshals.

House Representatives: Starting in the 2019–2020 academic year, the representative from the Dudley Community (renamed from Dudley House) is referred to as the Dudley Community Representative. The role is still considered a House Representative despite the specific name change.

Webmasters/Media Team: Many classes have a formal Webmaster/Website Coordinator role on the committee, but this has changed in recent years. The first Class Committee to have a Webmaster/Website Coordinator role from the start (many classes have since added one, either formally or informally) was the Class of 2003. However, there wasn't one again until the Class of 2008, and after that there was one every year through 2013. The Class of 2014 had two. For the Class of 2015, the two volunteers were referred to as Media Team Members instead to more accurately reflect their roles, but this was mostly an informal name change.

In fall 2015 for the Class of 2016, the Media Team was expanded to include three members (to better support a larger committee given the changes that year with the Marshal roles) and was from that point on officially called the Media Team. In 2017–2025, the Media Team was expanded to four members, but in some years might only have three depending on interest. For the Class of 2026, it returned to three members.

Prior classes without a Webmaster/Website Coordinator/Media Team role will often see the Class Secretary managing the class website and/or social media accounts. And even in classes that do have these roles on their committee, the Secretary still often plays a role in managing some of these pieces.

Cabinet/Executive Committee: Starting with the Class of 2016, the core leadership group of the Class Committee has been nicknamed the Cabinet, and consists of the First Marshal, Second Marshal, Secretary, and Treasurer. Some of the classes prior to 2016 may have called this the Executive Committee or Executive Team, and this group may or may not have also included the Webmaster/Website Coordinator back when there was just one person in that role.

Other Notes

Starting in fall 2018 with the Class of 2019, the term “Senior Class Committee” (or “SCC”) was no longer used to denote the Class Committee in the senior year, in order to better communicate to both volunteers and the classmates they support that this governance committee is not a senior-year-only commitment, and that these are their long-term leaders and organizers.

Note that Harvard/the Harvard Alumni Association uses the term “Marshal” in a few different ways. In addition to the various Marshal roles mentioned above on the Class Committee, there is also the Chief Marshal, which is an honorary position for someone from the 25th Reunion class at Harvard Alumni Day, as well as volunteer marshals who help greet and guide students and alumni at events like Convocation, Commencement, and Harvard Alumni Day.

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Throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, the Class of 2014 piloted a process to refresh their Class Committee the year following their 10th Reunion. Existing members were first asked if they wanted to remain on board or step down. Based on the vacancies, those who had served in other class volunteer roles over the past decade (activities chairs and 5th and 10th Reunion program or gift committees) were asked if they wanted to join. All new members joined with a role of “Member” rather than taking over a specific position to match the structure that was in place since senior year. The Class of 2015 chose to not explore a refresh.

The documents below, found on the [Recent Graduate Volunteer Resources page](#) of the College Alumni Programs Officers Lounge, include more information about Class Committee roles and responsibilities. While these documents have been prepared specifically for the Classes of 2017–2026, other classes might find the information applicable to their appropriate equivalent role.

- Discovering Volunteer Opportunities
- College Class Committee Alumni Life Responsibilities
- Guidance to Class Committees: Alumni Year 1-10
- Helpful Links for College Recent Graduate Volunteers
- Best Practices for Recent Graduate First and Second Marshals
- Best Practices for Recent Graduate Class Secretaries and Media Team
- Best Practices for Recent Graduate Class Treasurers
- Best Practices for Recent Graduate Program Marshals and House Representatives