Reading the Housing Applications

As you can see on the sample application below, most of the information on the housing application is self-explanatory. Most, but not all. The applications that you use to house students have more information, as described here. Other College officials will only have access to some of the information, as noted, through the my.harvard Advising Center.

Section 1: Across the top you see the student’s name, followed by his or her preferred name (if given). Next to that you will see AEO with or without a strikethrough. A strikethrough indicates that the student has not requested accommodations through the AEO. Then you see the HUID (blacked out here), the Yard, and the class year. Once the student has been assigned a room, the two blanks on the right side will be populated with the student’s room and Proctor. Advising Center version: only the name, Yard, and year.

Section 2: In this section you will see information labeled “Adm Data”. This information comes from the Admissions Office. The coding is as follows (from left to right):

- **Academic**: This number ranges from 1-4. The 1s are the stellar academic admits.
- **Extracurricular**: This number generally ranges from 1-4 as well. Occasionally you will see a 6 which suggests that there were extenuating circumstances that prevented the student from participating in extracurricular activities. A 1 is someone who was “super busy”.
- **Athletic**: Again, this number usually ranges from 1-4, with the same note about a 6. A student with a 1 is a recruited athlete. Students below 1 may plan to play a varsity sport, but they are not part of the team’s official recruited list. This is especially common with crew.

To the right are SAT scores. If they’re missing, the student probably took the ACTs.

Section 2 is absent on the Advising Center version.
Section 3: This information also comes from Admissions. Note that occasionally the home town will be a U.S. city, but the “state” will be a foreign country. Sometimes this happens when an international student goes to a high school in the states. Other times it’s simply unexplainable. Beside the student’s high school, you will see PU, PA, or PR, for Public, Parochial, or Private, respectively.

Section 4: Here you will see the student’s height (given by student) and age (from Admissions), and official gender marker. Underneath you will see the ethnicity field, which comes from Admissions. Students do not have to indicate ethnicity, so this might be blank. Students are able to indicate multiple ethnicities, so you might see several listed.

(F) Foreign citizen   B    African American   PI    Pacific Islander   H    Hispanic
A    Asian   NA    Native American   W    Caucasian

Under that you’ll find an indication of the student’s financial aid level (from the Financial Aid Office): None, Low, Medium, High, and Very High. The student’s phone number and current and College emails are below that. Advising Center information: Age and @college email. The height, ethnicity, gender marker, and financial aid level are NOT included in the Advising Center version of the application, and the financial aid information should not be shared (even with the student).

Section 5: This indicates the student’s preference for the size of the suite. “None” means the student wants a single. Two figures mean that the student wants 1-3 suitemates, and 5 figures indicate that the student wants 4-5 suitemates. If a student has requested key access for religious reasons, you will see a key symbol next to the figure icons.

Section 6: In this section you’ll see the student’s preferences for how social they want their suite to be and how messy they are likely to be. The social ranking does not necessarily indicate the sociability of the student but rather the preferred environment for the suite. Students have a chance to express their preference for both weekday and weekend settings.

Section 7: The blank space is used by Resident Deans of Freshmen to make notes on their copies of the Housing Questionnaire. The versions included in the Admissions file will probably not have any notes in this space.

Section 8: The clock icons here indicate the “get up” and “go to bed” times for the student. Most of these times will change in college.

Section 9: Students are asked to identify their top four and bottom two music genres. The icon indicates whether the student generally listens to music with or without headphones.

Section 10: In this section, students are asked to list their top three potential extracurricular activities (from a finite group) and then to provide some additional detail. The activities are: Business, Drama and Performing Arts, Ethnic Groups, Intercollegiate Sports, Intramural/Recreational Sports, Music, Outdoor Activities, Religious Activities, Research, Social Service, Student Government/Debate, and Student Publications. Students who indicate “Intercollegiate Sports” and whose admissions athletic ranking is 1 are varsity (recruited) athletes.

Section 11: In this section students identify their top four hobbies. These are occasionally amusing.

Section 12: This information comes from the student’s advising questionnaire and indicates the student’s top three concentrations they would like to explore.

Section 13: Here students indicate whether they smoke (left icon) and whether they are okay with a suitemate who smokes (right icon). New this year is an icon indicating whether students are allergic to pets; a silhouette of a dog with a line through it indicates the student has an allergy to at least some pets. Section 13 is absent on the Advising Center version.

Section 14: This section contains the student’s parent information as provided by the Admissions Office. From left to right, you see occupation (sometimes this gets cut off); whether they went to college (Non-College; Other College; Harvard College) and graduate school (Non-College; Other Graduate School; Harvard Graduate School); their “status”, i.e., A, D, or U, for Alive, Deceased, or Unknown; and finally the class year of any siblings at Harvard (this flags siblings who went to Harvard recently and is not always accurate). Section 14 is absent on the Advising Center version.