[Even Harvey Mudd, a Math and Science College, Has Surrendered to the Social Justice Movement | Washington Examiner](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/weekly-standard/even-harvey-mudd-a-math-and-science-college-has-surrendered-to-the-social-justice-movement)

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Harvey Mudd, like Cal Tech, Carnegie Mellon, and MIT, has a more competitive admissions rate for men (10 percent) than women (23 percent); of the four, Mudd boasts the broadest [gap](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/03/13/want-an-edge-in-college-admissions-see-the-schools-where-women-and-men-have-an-advantage/?utm_term=.65e1be391df8). The student body as whole is now 46 percent female, up from 31 percent in [2005](https://www.hmc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2014/03/openenrfa05.pdf). An ambitious curricular redesign eight years ago aimed to allow students more time for electives, to make more room for academic and extracurricular exploration—and to entice the feminine mindset into masculine disciplines (h/t [Larry Summers](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2005/02/18/summers2_18)). Emphases on group projects made a required introductory course in computer science, key to Mudd's rigorous Core, a more attractive gateway to the discipline. The same course, formerly so dry that professors drew straws for it per the *Los Angeles Times* January write-up on Mudd's gender revolution, was altered to incorporate engaging projects and group work: "In the revamped curriculum, instead of having computer science students write arcane code, professors started giving them fun group puzzles and 3-D graphics to create their own games," and, "they used algorithms to solve evolution questions and analyze DNA sequences."

There are those who thrill at the thought of Harvey Mudd's tripping over itself in a rush to diversify the student body, noting that the original model, made "for white men," worked just fine for a happy half century—until it had to be altered, to accommodate the unqualified. But to mourn the patriarchy is to overlook an even more modern catalyst for students' current freakout than the overdue fallout from counting by race and sex. In the leaked report, professors complain of "coddled" students not impelled by a passion for science, but staring out dead-eyed awaiting instruction. One said, "There's a question about ability vs. motivation. The demographics of our students have changed over time. I feel like our students are not as sold on a discipline in college. They come here and say, 'I'll do what they tell me.' They're not interested in science body and soul, and they don't want to immerse themselves." Math and science for math and science's sake do not grip them as they once did: These kids need a higher, socially-engaged reason to conduct whatever project.

Are they overworked—or uninspired? Either way, per some professors, they're over-sensitive and easily cowed under pressure. One noted that, "I spend a lot more time and energy trying to make it interesting for students." While another said, "Students are different today. They don't know how to fail; they're coddled." Students, for their part, reported callous comments from faculty, typical of the gruff mathematician who is "emotionally unintelligent" per the modern parlance. One said, of a particular department, "They provide negative motivation to learn."

However the whole mess shakes out, the pale and reliably dateless—the emotionally unintelligent champion mathlete who won't think twice before asking, Didn't you learn this in high school?—still has a home at Harvey Mudd, it seems. The faculty, unlike the student body, is still 62 percent male. The public-facing, prettier tech world is also working on its "EQ"—that's the irritating shorthand for "emotional intelligence" (here's looking at you, [Zuckerberg](https://www.buzzfeed.com/nitashatiku/how-mark-zuckerberg-is-writing-the-playbook-for-the-modern?utm_term=.rgn8pnmvyQ#.rx2k3rOYXv))—and worrying, but never [enough](https://www.marketplace.org/2017/03/23/business/why-silicon-valley-isn-t-doing-enough-when-it-comes-gender-equality), about gender parity. It's only natural, really, that an increasingly, ahem, feminine Harvey Mudd would halt for two days in April to talk, oh so uncomfortably, about its feelings.