



Harvard College  
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid  
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Dear Colleagues,

We wish to extend our utmost thanks for your work on behalf of students applying to Harvard College. As selective colleges receive larger numbers of applicants, secondary school recommendations play an unprecedented role in shaping admissions decisions. Honest, thoughtful accounts of student performance, both within and beyond the classroom, remain among the most important determinants of success in the Harvard selection process. Whenever possible, please remind faculty members that their letters, as well as yours, are read and discussed with the greatest care.

We want to draw your attention to some developments that may be useful as you advise your students.

- Harvard has joined the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success, and will begin accepting the coalition application this fall, along with the Common Application and Universal Application. We have no preference which application a student chooses to use.
- We will be requiring the essay portion of the new SAT. Students may also still submit scores from the previous version of SAT, if taken within the past two years.
- We began welcoming undergraduates to our new concentration in Theater, Dance, and Media last fall. Humanities—the study of disciplines such as languages, history, and the arts—remain among the strongest academic programs at Harvard. Feel free to steer in our direction any candidates who will both enjoy and nourish this important sector of intellectual inquiry.
- Increasing numbers of current students at Harvard College are first generation, i.e. neither parent has graduated from a four-year college or its equivalent. To most individuals, attending a highly selective college can represent a unique opportunity. For first generation students, this may be especially true. Harvard College and places like it are equipped to transform one's academic, non-academic, career, and other aspirations. We hope you will encourage your most talented students from all backgrounds, including those who are first generation, to consider applying to Harvard as we strive to further enrich the educational experience here.
- Record numbers of African-American, 14 percent of the Class, were admitted to the College in 2016. Developing future leaders, both domestic and international, is a goal to which Harvard has subscribed for decades, and we feel that it can be realized best in a multicultural, multi-talented environment. Prospective students who want to benefit from such an education should examine Harvard College with great care.
- Harvard's financial aid program makes the net cost of attending the same or less than public universities for 90% of American families. Harvard is free for one in five of our students' families who earn less than \$65,000 annually, and zero to 10% for families with incomes up to \$150,000. More than half of undergraduates received need-based Harvard Scholarship aid in 2015-16 and paid an average of about \$12,000.
- We are delighted that our graduation rate remains among the highest in the nation at 97-98%.

There has never been a more exciting time to be at Harvard. We look forward to welcoming both you and your students to Cambridge!

Marlyn E. McGrath  
Director of Admissions

William R. Fitzsimmons  
Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

Sarah C. Donahue  
Director of Financial Aid

## Facts and Figures about Harvard College

### Academic Life

- More than 120 Freshman Seminars, providing small-group instruction from faculty
- A curriculum unsurpassed in breadth and depth across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, including the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- More than 3,500 courses, 49 fields of study, and a median class size of 12
- Greatly expanded study abroad programs, including financial aid availability
- Unmatched access to research centers, libraries, museums and faculty
- Program in General Education “seeks to connect a student’s liberal education to life beyond college.”

### The Harvard House System

- Housing is guaranteed all four years, and virtually all students choose to live in one of the twelve residential Houses
- Each House has a Faculty Dean - a senior faculty member, who, with his or her spouse, creates a family-like atmosphere. A staff of experienced resident advisers assists students in selecting courses, exploring future careers, and making the most of their time at Harvard
- Houses range from 350 to 500 students, each with a dining hall, library, common rooms, fitness facilities, extracurricular activities and unique traditions, providing a “small-college” experience
- More than 400 freshman advisers, nearly 200 Peer Advising Fellows, and a newly restructured Office of Career, Research and International Opportunities

### Life Outside the Classroom

- Harvard features more than 450 extracurricular activities and the largest number – forty-two – Division 1 intercollegiate athletic teams.
- There are more than 50 cultural, ethnic, and international student organizations at Harvard, as well as communities representing religions from around the world.
- Students are active in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC).
- Boston is home to more than 50 colleges and universities and 250,000 students.

### Research Opportunities

- This year, undergraduates received nearly \$6 million from Harvard sources to pursue their own research interests during the school year and the summer.
- The Student Employment Office works collaboratively with the Office for Undergraduate Research Initiatives to connect students with over 50 sources of research funding. Students work closely with faculty in a variety of departments across the social sciences, the humanities, the sciences, and engineering.

### Breakdown of 2016 Spring Term Courses

<i>Students Enrolled</i>	<i>Number of Courses</i>
2–9.....	484
10–19.....	312
20–29.....	110
30–39.....	59
40–49.....	47
50–99.....	83
100+.....	46
Total.....	1141

### Our Facilities Include:

- Largest university library in the world
- The new Harvard Art Museums, including the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Sackler Museums
- Museum of Comparative Zoology
- Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology
- Semitic Museum
- Botanical and Mineralogical Museums
- Harvard Innovation Lab (the i-lab)
- Numerous science/laboratory facilities

- Extensive computer facilities, including the state-of-the-art Maxwell Dworkin building
- Harvard-Smithsonian Astronomical Observatory
- The Harvard Forest

### Admissions

- ◆ Harvard College offers a single-choice early action admissions program. Early Action candidates apply by November 1 and receive notification by December 15, while Regular Action candidates apply by January 1 and receive notification by April 1. Designed to provide freedom and flexibility for our applicants, both options allow students to compare admission and financial aid offers from other institutions, and to wait until May 1 to make a final college choice. In all cases, we hope students will help expedite the application process by sending us the Common, Universal or Coalition Application as soon as they decide to apply. Doing so will allow us to create their files and arrange for alumni/ae interviews where possible.
- ◆ Admission to Harvard is based on achievement and promise without regard to financial need; applying for financial aid does not jeopardize a student's chances of admission. Indeed, the Admissions Committee may respond favorably to evidence that a candidate has overcome significant obstacles, financial or otherwise.

### Financial Aid

- ◆ Financial aid at Harvard is entirely need-based; there are no academic, athletic or merit-based awards. Harvard meets the full need of all students applying for financial aid for all four years, based on the information the Financial Aid Office receives from the family each year.
- ◆ International students have the same access to financial aid as United States citizens.
- ◆ We hope you will visit the Financial Aid Office web site ([college.harvard.edu/financial-aid](http://college.harvard.edu/financial-aid)) for a fuller description of our comprehensive program of financial assistance, including a Net Price Calculator which provides individualized estimates of eligibility for aid.

### A Brief Profile of the Admitted Class of 2020

Applicants.....	39,041	Men.....	52%	Public school graduates.....	68%
Admitted.....	2,031	Women.....	48%	Private/parochial school graduates...	32%
International.....	11%				
Middle Atlantic.....	23%			African American. . . . .	14%
Midwest.....	11%			Asian American. . . . .	22%
New England.....	17%			Hispanic or Latino. . . . .	13%
Pacific/Mountain.....	21%			Native American and Pacific Islander. . . . .	0.4%
South.....	18%				

### Typical Financial Aid Package for Freshman Scholarship Holders 2015-2016

Total Budget.....	\$66,550
Parent Contribution.....	\$12,050 (18%)
Student Assets & Summer Work....	\$1,150 (2%)
Harvard, Federal and Outside Scholarships.....	\$51,350 (77%)
Term-time Work Expectation.....	\$1,750 (3%)

### Parent Income for Harvard scholarship holders 2015-2016

<i>Income Range</i>	<i># of students</i>	<i>Income Range</i>	<i># of students</i>
1-20,000.....	237	120,001-140,000.....	301
20,001-40,000.....	454	140,001-160,000.....	300
40,001-60,000.....	432	160,001-180,000.....	239
60,001-80,000.....	453	180,001-200,000.....	171
80,001-100,000.....	321	200,000+.....	439
100,001-120,000.....	314		