



HARVARD  
COLLEGE

**Counselor  
Newsletter**  
Fall 2019

OFFICE OF  
ADMISSIONS  
AND  
FINANCIAL AID

# DEAN'S UPDATE

## A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2023

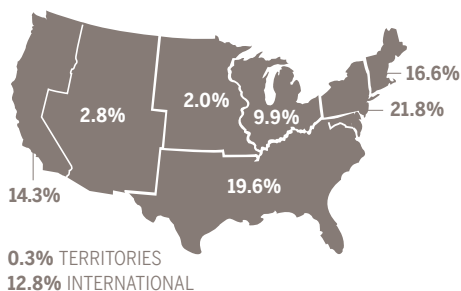
# 2,009

of **43,330 applicants** were admitted to the **Class of 2023**.

1,651 MATRICULANTS

82.2% YIELD

65 ADMITTED FROM WAIT LIST



- **18.4%** Biological Sciences
- **8.3%** Computer Science
- **12.3%** Engineering
- **15.7%** Humanities
- **7.1%** Mathematics
- **7.4%** Physical Sciences
- **24.5%** Social Sciences
- **6.4%** Undecided

25.3% ASIAN AMERICAN

14.3% AFRICAN AMERICAN

12.2% HISPANIC OR LATINO

1.8% NATIVE AMERICAN

0.6% NATIVE HAWAIIAN

## Dear Colleagues,

We hope that you enjoyed a restful summer and that the fall is off to a good start. To assist in your advising of students and their families, we would like to share with you some news from Cambridge.

- We are excited for the fall 2019 launch of the new Program in General Education, a curriculum designed to transcend disciplinary limits and to foster productive civic engagement among students. Based on a comprehensive curricular review and reports from numerous university committees, the new Program will require students to take a course from each of four disciplinary perspectives and three academic divisions in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, in addition to a course in quantitative reasoning.
- The new Harvard Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) complex will open in the fall of 2020, unveiling 500,000 square feet of maker spaces, classrooms, and labs. The ArtLab, a space for artistic innovation, will also open in Allston, and students will continue to find a wealth of resources in the nearby Innovation Labs, which offer mentorship and connections to funding for student-led entrepreneurship.
- This fall marks the reopening of Lowell House, the sixth upperclass House to undergo a complete renovation. We are excited to continue the revitalization of our unique residential House system, in which undergraduates live and learn alongside advisers and tenured faculty members.
- We have just marked the one-year anniversary of the Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center. Containing study, performance, and event spaces, in addition to cafes and restaurants, the Smith Center has become a central hub of campus life.

Thank you for your important work on behalf of students applying to Harvard College. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

**William R. Fitzsimmons**

*Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid*

# ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

## COURSES

**3,700+**

Courses available (including cross-registration at Harvard graduate schools and MIT).

50 FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION (MAJORS)

49 SECONDARY FIELDS (MINORS)

120+ FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

80+ LANGUAGES

## FACULTY



12 Median class size.



**7:1** Average student/faculty ratio. In the **Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences** the student/faculty ratio is **5:1**.



Each first-year student has **three advisers**.

Virtually **all faculty teach undergraduates**.

# STUDENT LIFE

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

**97%**

of students choose to live **on campus for all four years** where they enjoy an **unlimited meal plan**.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

WOMEN'S CENTER

OFFICE OF BGLTQ STUDENT LIFE

OFFICE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION OFFICE



## CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

### Liberal arts education

- Concentration [12-14 courses]
- General Education [4 courses]
- Distribution [3 courses]
- Electives, Secondary Field [6-11 courses]
- Students must also fulfill requirements in Language, Expository Writing, and Quantitative Reasoning.

## GRADUATES

**98%**

of our students **graduate**, one of the highest graduation rates in the nation.

**66%**

of students will have some **international experience**—study abroad, research, or some other opportunity—during their time at Harvard.

## COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITIES

**1,665**

of our **6,700 undergrads** are **first-year** students.

**Cambridge & Boston:** Half college town, half metropolitan hub.

Learning from peers: Harvard students come from **all fifty states** and **more than 100 countries**.

**450+**

**Student organizations** of all kinds including arts, public service, cultural, and pre-professional groups.

Harvard undergraduates can participate in athletics at the **intramural, club, or varsity level**. If you have students who are interested in one of our 42 Division I teams, please direct them to the following site for more information.  
**college.harvard.edu/athletics**

# ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

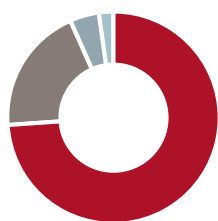
## ADMISSIONS: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Some admission applicants demonstrate extraordinary promise in academic or research endeavors. Some show uncommon talent in other areas, such as leadership, performing arts, or athletics. Most of our students combine the best of both scholastic and extracurricular achievement. Personal qualities—integrity, maturity, strength of character, and concern for others—also play an important part in our evaluations.

### DEADLINES

	EARLY ACTION	REGULAR DECISION
Common Application, Universal College Application or Coalition Application	November 1	January 1
Secondary School Report and two letters of recommendation	November 1	January 1
Initial components of the financial aid application	November 1	February 1
All financial aid application materials	November 15	February 1
Notification date for applicants	Mid-December	Late March

## TYPICAL FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE



- Scholarships [\$53,700]
- Student Term-Time Work [\$2,800]
- Parent Contribution [\$11,650]
- Student Summer Work & Asset Contribution [\$1,600]

Our aid is entirely need-based, and grant eligibility is determined in the same manner for all admitted students.

## FINANCIAL AID: REMOVING ECONOMIC BARRIERS

Applying for financial aid does not jeopardize any student's chance for admission, including international applicants. Indeed, the Admissions Committee may respond favorably to evidence that a candidate has overcome significant obstacles, financial or otherwise. All of Harvard's financial aid is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need—there are no academic, athletic, or merit-based awards. Harvard meets the demonstrated need of every student for all four years.

Our financial aid program requires no contribution from Harvard families with annual incomes below \$65,000; asks no more than 10% of income for those with incomes up to \$150,000; and expects proportionally more from families with incomes above \$150,000. Families at all income levels who have significant assets are asked to pay more than those without, and our financial aid officers work closely with families to ensure that Harvard is accessible to all admitted students. We do not require students to take out loans, although they are asked to contribute to the cost of their education through term-time and summer work.

# 90%

of American families would pay the same or less to send their children to Harvard as they would their state university.

# 20%

of our students' families **pay nothing**.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS' INCOME LEVELS



- \$0-40,000
- \$40,000-80,000
- \$80,000-120,000
- \$120,000-160,000
- \$160,000-200,000
- \$200,000+

# 100%

of our students can **graduate debt-free**.

*Your students can get an estimate of their financial aid on our Net Price Calculator.*

[college.harvard.edu/npc](http://college.harvard.edu/npc)

## APPLICATION

For undergraduate study, students apply only to Harvard College. While applicants can indicate an interest in a specific academic area, they do not apply to a specific school or department. Harvard students declare their field of study (concentration) at the end of their third semester.

Students may submit additional materials such as art, music, or research through their **Applicant Portal**.

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[@applytoharvard](https://twitter.com/applytoharvard)

Learn more at [college.harvard.edu/school-counselors](http://college.harvard.edu/school-counselors)

[harvard\\_admissions](https://instagram.com/harvard_admissions)

[college.harvard.edu](http://college.harvard.edu)

We value our relationships with our school and CBO counselors. To be put in touch with your regional admissions officer, simply call our office at **617-495-1551** and we will connect you.

**HARVARD COLLEGE**  
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