



HARVARD COLLEGE
Admissions & Financial Aid

A scenic view of Harvard College buildings, including the Old Chapel with its green dome, situated behind a line of trees and a large body of water (the Harvard River). The sky is blue with wispy clouds and a contrail.

**Counselor
Newsletter**
Spring 2020

DEAN'S UPDATE



A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2023

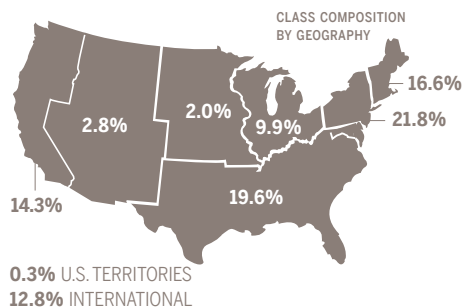
2,009

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 know that this is a very difficult time for you as you advise students and their families. In the face of unprecedented uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus and the economy, we want to be helpful in any way we can.

We understand that students are particularly concerned about fewer opportunities to take the SAT and ACT, the presence of pass/fail grades on their transcripts, and limitations on the activities they can pursue outside of the classroom. Rest assured, these events will not place applicants at a disadvantage in our admissions process. Our evaluations will continue to consider the whole person, including circumstances that may have affected their high school record. Test scores are one of many factors that we take into account. As you guide students through the college application cycle next year, please feel free to include in your letters on their behalf any information about changes that occurred at your school due to the coronavirus pandemic, or any other circumstances that may have affected your students' performance.

As was the case during the economic downturn a decade ago and in similar situations before, our revolutionary financial aid program will not be compromised in any way. A majority of Harvard students receive need-based financial aid, and loans are not required. Our office stands ready to help, and your students and their families can use our Net Price Calculator (también en español) to get an estimate of the aid they would receive.

Like all colleges, Harvard is navigating many uncertainties regarding the upcoming academic year. However this situation develops, Harvard will continue to provide its students with a world-class learning experience. Harvard remains committed to supporting its students, and will ensure that their academic journey continues in a meaningful way.

We strongly value our relationship with school and community-based counselors and look forward to continuing our work with you. Best wishes for your continued health and safety in the coming season.

William R. Fitzsimmons

Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid

May 28, 2020

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

COURSES

3,700+

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

50 FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION (MAJORS)

50 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 traditionally choose to live **on campus for all four years**, and they enjoy an **unlimited meal plan**.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION OFFICE

OFFICE OF BGLTQ STUDENT LIFE

OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

OFFICE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

WOMEN'S CENTER



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 have some **international experience**—study abroad, research, or another opportunity—during their time at Harvard.

COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITIES

1,665

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

50+ colleges and universities and **75+ historical landmarks** span Cambridge and Greater Boston.

Harvard students come from **all 50 states** and **more than 100 countries**.

450+

student organizations of all kinds including arts, public service, cultural, and pre-professional.

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

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

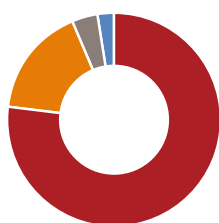
ADMISSIONS: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Some 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
Financial aid application materials	November 1	February 1
Notification date for applicants	Mid-December	Late March

TYPICAL FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE



- Scholarships [\$59,100]
- Parent Contribution [\$12,700]
- Student Term-Time Work [\$2,600]
- Student Asset Contribution [\$250]

Our aid is entirely need-based, and grant eligibility is determined in the same manner for all admitted students regardless of nationality or citizenship status.

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. 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 work.

We value our relationships with our school and CBO counselors. To be put in touch with your regional admissions officer, simply contact us at:

617-495-1551

college@fas.harvard.edu

college.harvard.edu/school-counselors

You and your students can follow us here:

@applytoharvard

[facebook.com/harvardadmissions](https://www.facebook.com/harvardadmissions)

@harvard_admissions

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** for their children to attend Harvard.

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. También en español.

college.harvard.edu/npc | college.harvard.edu/npc-espanol

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 concentration (field of study) at the end of their third semester.

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

HARVARD COLLEGE

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS /
GRIFFIN FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

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