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.

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.

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

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: 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.

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.

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.

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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.edunpc | college.harvard.edunpc-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
86 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138