Dear Colleagues,

We know that this time is full of uncertainty as you advise students and their families on the next chapter of their education, and we would like to be helpful in any way we can.

In recognition of the limited availability of standardized tests, we welcome students to apply for admission to the Class of 2025 without test scores. While students who have scores may send them if they would like, those who do not will be at no disadvantage in our process. Our staff is undergoing training to be sure that we can effectively evaluate students’ academic preparedness for Harvard without utilizing scores.

Staff and faculty have worked tirelessly since March to support students’ education, whether on campus or at home. They spent the summer revising curricula and devising ways to keep students connected to one another and to our campus. We are currently housing about 25 percent of undergraduates, with the remainder learning remotely.

Our commitment to financial aid is unwavering. As always, we meet the full financial need of all Harvard undergraduates. We have no limit to the number of students we can support with financial aid, and applying for aid does not adversely affect an applicant’s chance of admission.

Finally, this year we plan to support the use of Slate.org to make it easier for counselors to upload application materials on behalf of their students. As always, we value our relationship with high school and CBO counselors, and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

William R. Fitzsimmons
Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid
September 22, 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.

Practically 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 normally 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 percent of income for those with incomes up to $150,000; and expects proportionally more from families with incomes more than $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 cover their personal expenses 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 @harvard_admissions

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