Dear Colleagues,

As you advise your students on the next chapters of their education, we want to be helpful in any way we can, especially in the face of the continued uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Harvard College will allow students to apply for admission to the Class of 2026 without requiring standardized test scores. We understand that the pandemic has continued to create challenges in scheduling tests for all students, particularly those from modest economic backgrounds, and we believe this temporary policy addresses these challenges. Consistent with Harvard’s whole-person admissions process, standardized tests are only one factor among the many considered. Students who do not submit standardized testing this coming year will not be disadvantaged in the application process.

Harvard remains steadfast in its commitment to our revolutionary financial aid program, which provides need-based assistance to all Harvard undergraduates regardless of their citizenship status. Our office stands ready to help, and students can use our net-price calculator to get an estimate of the aid their families may receive.

In light of the continuing public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges presented by its variants, our office will remain closed to visitors this fall. Please direct your students to our virtual tour and online information sessions as a great introduction to Harvard.

We wish you a healthy and safe fall and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

William R. Fitzsimmons
Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid
September 2021
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.

COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITIES

1,665 of our 6,700 undergraduates are typically 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.

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.

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 to Harvard College as a whole. While applicants can indicate an interest in a particular 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, using the instructions in their Applicant Portal.

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

HARVARD COLLEGE
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