



HARVARD  
COLLEGE

# Counselor Newsletter

Fall 2022

OFFICE OF  
ADMISSIONS  
AND  
FINANCIAL AID





A BRIEF PROFILE  
OF THE CLASS OF 2026

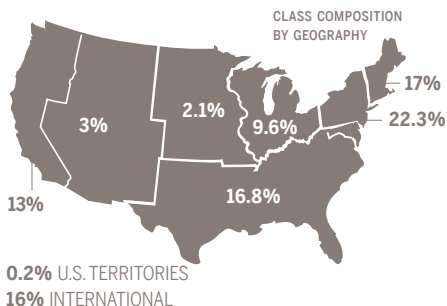
1,987

of 61,221 applicants were admitted  
to the Class of 2026.

1,649 MATRICULANTS

83% YIELD

36 ADMITTED FROM WAIT LIST



- 19.1% Biological Sciences
- 7.3% Computer Science
- 7.8% Engineering
- 15.5% Humanities
- 6.7% Mathematics
- 5.8% Physical Sciences
- 30.2% Social Sciences
- 7.6% Undecided

14.3% AFRICAN AMERICAN  
27.6% ASIAN AMERICAN  
11.9% HISPANIC OR LATINO  
2.9% NATIVE AMERICAN  
0.8% NATIVE HAWAIIAN

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you had a restful summer and that the fall is off to a good start. We are thankful for all your hard work as you advise your students in the year ahead and hope to be helpful in any way we can. Below, please read our campus and admissions updates.

Continuation of testing policy:

Harvard's optional testing policy will remain in effect for all applicants through to the Harvard College Class of 2030. The past admissions cycle — for the Class of 2026 — was the second in which students were able to apply to Harvard without submitting standardized testing scores. Consistent with Harvard's whole-person admissions process, standardized tests are just one factor among many considered. Students who do not submit standardized test scores will not be disadvantaged in their application process.

Update to math curricular guidance:

There is no single academic path we expect all students to follow, but the strongest applicants take the most rigorous secondary school curricula available to them. We receive many questions specifically about what type of math courses students should take. Applicants to Harvard should excel in a challenging high school math sequence corresponding to their educational interests and aspirations. Rigorous and relevant data science, computer science, statistics, mathematical modeling, calculus, and other advanced math classes are given equal consideration in the application process.

Additional updates:

In the spring, we announced an expansion of our financial aid policy — up from \$65K, families making under \$75K will pay nothing for their child's Harvard education. We continue to welcome visitors to campus for in-person information sessions and tours and maintain virtual offerings as well. Please direct your students to our website, YouTube channel (@discoverharvard), and new TikTok account (@harvardadmissions). We hope to meet some of you in person as we reinstate recruitment travel again. Lastly, we are lucky and delighted to have Joy St. John, who joined our office over the summer, serve as our new Director of Admissions.

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 and wish you a healthy and safe fall.

Sincerely,

William R. Fitzsimmons

Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid  
September 2022

# 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.



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

Practically **all faculty teach undergraduates**.

# STUDENT LIFE

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

98%

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 GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSION

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

## COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITIES

1,650

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](https://college.harvard.edu/athletics)

# ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

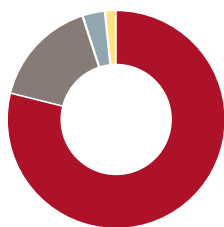
## ADMISSIONS: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

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 or Coalition Application by Scoir	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 \$62,350
- Parent Contribution \$12,700
- Student Term-Time Work \$2,700
- 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 \$75,000; 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](mailto:college@fas.harvard.edu)



[college.harvard.edu/school-counselors](https://college.harvard.edu/school-counselors)

You and your students can follow us here:



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



[@harvardadmissions](https://tiktok.com/@harvardadmissions)



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



[discoverharvard](https://youtube.com/discoverharvard)

# 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](https://college.harvard.edu/npc) | [college.harvard.edu/npc-espanol](https://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**.

## HARVARD COLLEGE

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS /  
GRIFFIN FINANCIAL AID OFFICE  
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