



HARVARD
COLLEGE

Counselor Newsletter

Fall 2023

OFFICE OF
ADMISSIONS
AND
FINANCIAL AID



A BRIEF PROFILE
OF THE CLASS OF 2027

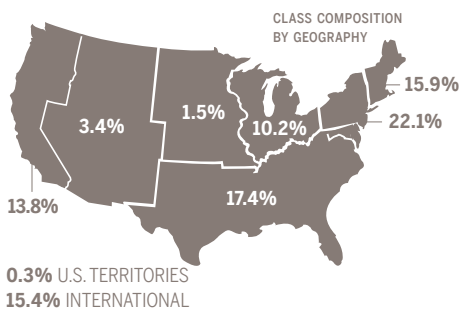
1,966

of 56,937 applicants were admitted
to the Class of 2027.

1,648 MATRICULANTS

83.8% YIELD

27 ADMITTED FROM WAIT LIST



- 17.3% Biological Sciences
- 9.0% Computer Science
- 9.5% Engineering
- 16.0% Humanities
- 6.6% Mathematics
- 6.7% Physical Sciences
- 28.2% Social Sciences
- 6.7% Undecided

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you had a restful summer and that the new school year is off to a good start. We'd like to begin this term's letter by affirming that Harvard College will continue to attract the diverse student body central to fulfilling our educational mission while complying with the parameters set by the decision of the Supreme Court earlier this summer.

Application Updates

For the 2023-24 application cycle, our application supplement's optional essay choices have been removed and replaced with five required short-answer questions. The seeds for the newly required short essays, or the actual questions themselves, have all previously existed in our supplement. This is an evolution of last year's supplement, not a reset or reimagining of what the Admissions Committee wishes to know about all first-year applicants.

Making this change ensures that all students have the same opportunity to reflect on and share how their life experiences and academic and extracurricular activities shaped them, how they will engage with others at Harvard, and their aspirations for the future. Our continued focus is on considering the whole person in the admissions process. Making these changes provides a more streamlined and equitable approach.

Expanded Support for Incoming Students from Under-resourced Backgrounds

This summer, the College welcomed its first cohort of the Rising Scholars Program to campus. The Harvard College Rising Scholars Program (RSP) is a no-cost program that provides a seven-week summer intensive for select incoming first-years. The program continues during the Scholars' first year at Harvard and students will participate in dedicated programming that will help chart their academic paths. The program will culminate in a second summer opportunity to participate in research, do additional coursework for credit, work in a public service internship, or study abroad.

Financial Aid and Affordability

Our investment in affordability begins before students choose us—with opportunities to waive application fees, as well as a funded campus visit for admitted students who qualify for our largest aid packages.

In addition, we would also like to highlight the revolutionary financial aid program which provides need-based assistance to all Harvard undergraduates regardless of their citizenship status. Beginning this fall, families with annual incomes of up to \$85,000 (up from \$75,000) will be expected to contribute nothing to the cost of their child's education. This includes tuition, fees, housing, and food. Harvard also offers additional aid to assist with personal expenses, books, travel, and start-up costs related to moving in and the first term. Contact us—or visit our website—to learn more about how we continue to make Harvard affordable or about any of the other updates shared in this letter.

Thank you for your important work on behalf of the students applying to Harvard College. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

William R. Fitzsimmons
Dean of Admissions &
Financial Aid

Joy St. John
Director of Admissions

Jake M. Kaufmann
Griffin Director of
Financial Aid

September 2023

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

COURSES

3,700+

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

50 FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION (MAJORS)

49 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

DISABILITY ACCESS OFFICE

OFFICE OF BGLTQ STUDENT LIFE

MIGNONE CENTER FOR CAREER SUCCESS

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 foreign 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**.

550+

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

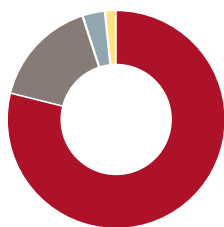
ADMISSIONS: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

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

	RESTRICTIVE 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 \$64,500
- Parent Contribution \$13,000
- Student Term-Time Work \$2,750
- Student Asset Contribution \$350

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 \$85,000; 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:

🎵 @harvardadmissions

📷 @harvard_admissions

📺 discoverharvard

90%

of American families would pay the same or less to send their children to Harvard as they would their state university.

>22%

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 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
86 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138