

Harvard College

Counselor Newsletter



HARVARD COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS /
GRIFFIN FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

86 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

September 2024

Counselor Newsletter

September 2024

A Brief Profile of the Class of 2028

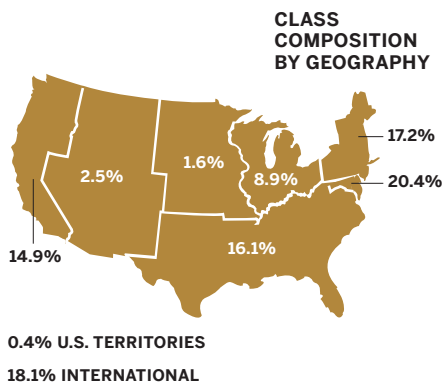
1,974

of **54,008 applicants** were admitted to the **Class of 2028**.

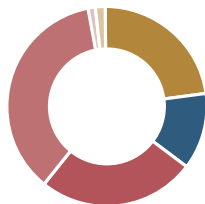
1,650 MATRICULANTS

83.6% YIELD

41 ADMITTED FROM WAIT LIST



Intended Field of Study



- **22.8%** ENGINEERING
- **12.1%** HUMANITIES
- **25.6%** NATURAL SCIENCES
- **36.7%** SOCIAL SCIENCES
- **1.0%** SPECIAL CONCENTRATIONS
- **1.7%** UNDECIDED

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you had a restful summer and your new school year is off to a smooth start. We are looking forward to welcoming our new class to campus, and we are excited to share these updates with you.

Application Updates

Beginning in the 2024–25 application cycle, standardized test scores will be required. Standardized tests are a means for all students, regardless of their background and life experience, to provide information that is predictive of success at Harvard and beyond. As with all parts of the application, test scores are considered in context and are used as one aspect of the whole-person review.

The College will accept the SAT or ACT to meet the standardized testing requirements. In exceptional cases when those tests are not accessible, a set of alternative standardized tests can meet the requirements. You can learn more on our website.

Our application will continue to include five required short-answer questions, one of which is a new question that allows students to reflect on their experiences with civil discourse. These questions allow all students to 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. These short-answer questions have allowed us to continue our focus on the whole person in the admissions process and reemphasize our commitment to intellectual vitality by promoting thoughtful discussion and consideration of different perspectives in classrooms, student groups, and social settings.

Expanded Financial and Student Support

We are pleased to share that under Harvard College's supportive financial aid program, which provides need-based assistance to all Harvard undergraduates regardless of their citizenship status, 24% of our students' families pay nothing for their child to attend Harvard.

This summer, the College welcomed its second cohort of the Harvard College Rising Scholars Program (RSP) to campus. RSP is a no-cost program that provides a seven-week summer intensive for select incoming first years. The Program continues during the students' first year at Harvard, and students will participate in dedicated programming that will help chart their academic paths.

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

**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

Academic Opportunities & Student Life

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.

3

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

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 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.

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

Community & 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 preprofessional.

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

Follow us here:

 @harvardadmissions

 @harvard_admissions

 /discoverharvard

Admissions & Financial Aid

Admissions: What Are We Looking For?

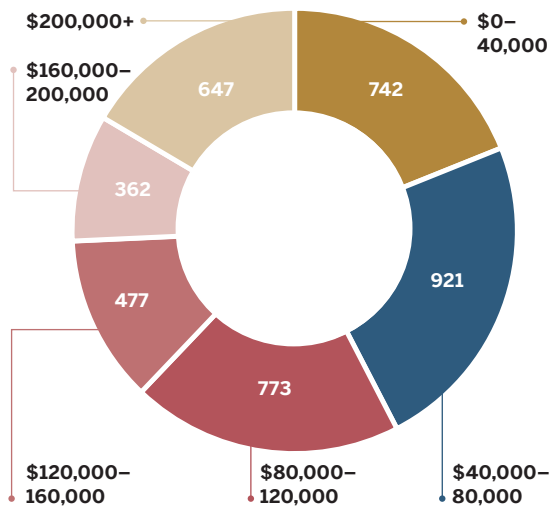
Some applicants demonstrate extraordinary promise in academic or research endeavors. Some show uncommon talent in other areas, such as leadership, performing arts, or athletics. Most of our students combine the best of both scholastic and extracurricular achievement. Personal qualities—integrity, maturity, strength of character, and concern for others—also play an important part in our evaluations.

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.

Scholarship Recipients' Income Levels



90% of American families would pay the same or less to send their children to Harvard as they would their state university.

>24% of our students' families pay nothing for their children to attend Harvard.

100% of our students can graduate debt-free.

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.

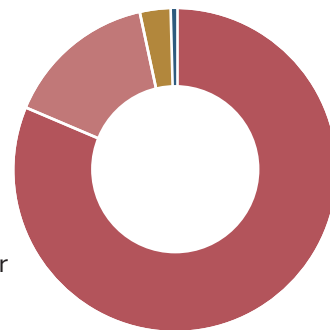
Our financial aid program requires no contribution from

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.

Typical Financial Aid Package

- SCHOLARSHIPS** \$68,700
- PARENT CONTRIBUTION** \$12,800
- STUDENT TERM-TIME WORK** \$2,700
- STUDENT ASSET CONTRIBUTION** \$200

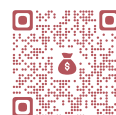
Our aid is entirely need-based, and grant eligibility is determined in the same manner for all admitted students regardless of nationality or citizenship status.



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

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

SHARE THIS VIDEO WITH YOUR STUDENTS:
<https://bit.ly/4c7sVeD>



Harvard does not discriminate against applicants or students on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, or any other protected classification.