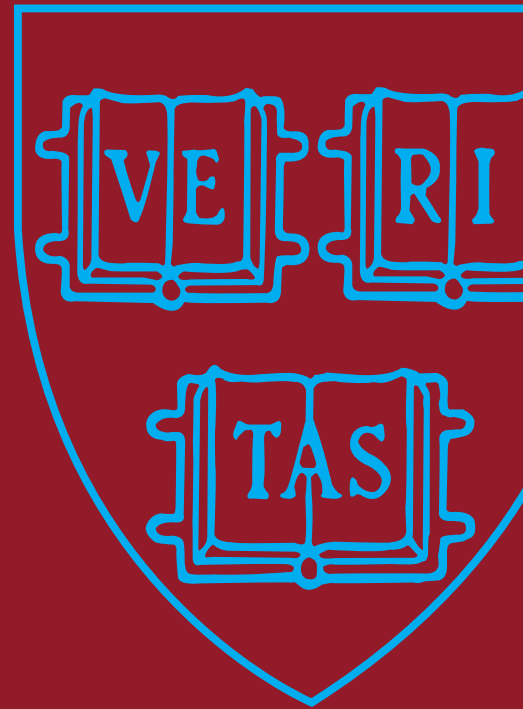


# Harvard College







Each incoming student  
will make Harvard  
better. Come help write  
our next chapter.





# Nice to Meet You

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Here, every voice and perspective matters—it's what makes our community both welcoming and dynamic. We invite you to read the student voices within these pages to learn more about Harvard.

Harvard, Defined pg 2

Getting Around Harvard pg 6

First-Year Transition & Residential Life pg 8

Community and Wellness pg 12

Day-in-the-Life Snapshots pg 14

Fields of Study pg 16

Harvard Curriculum pg 18

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Financial Aid pg 28

The Admissions Process pg 30



# Harvard College



Harvard College is a close-knit undergraduate community within Harvard University. With world-class faculty, groundbreaking research opportunities, and a commitment to a diverse environment of bright, talented students, Harvard is more than just a place to get an education — it's where students pursue limitless possibilities.



“Each year, students from all over the globe, comprised of the widest range of backgrounds, identities, and experiences, come together to live in our immersive residential communities. This not only enriches our intellectual pursuits, it creates countless opportunities for students to work collaboratively as they discover who they are and how they can make contributions to our collective future. In my mind, the undergraduates at the College populate the most dynamic and diverse “little town” anywhere in the world. It's such a gift to spend time together on this journey.”

THOMAS DUNNE  
DEAN OF STUDENTS, HARVARD COLLEGE







“Harvard is an incredible place, not because of the name but because of the people. There are such passionate and inspiring individuals. I am always challenged to be my best, and for that I am grateful.”

DYLAN '25, WESTPORT, CT

“To me, the military veteran community represents Harvard's commitment to cultivating the leaders of tomorrow through diverse life experiences and excellence. We're part of the one percent who served, and now we have the ability to join the top percent of academia.”

QUINN '25, BELLEVUE, WA

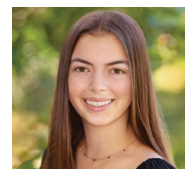


“Harvard is a unique place where you're surrounded by incredibly talented peers who are all driven to be a catalyst for positive change. My advice is to seize the opportunity to put yourself out there and meet new people.”

SKYE '26, NY

“Harvard is home because of the amazing and extremely caring people. I always feel welcome, supported, and valued thanks to the people that surround me on campus.”

JACQUI '26, WINCHESTER MA





# Getting Around Harvard

**Raymond '25,  
Uniontown, PA**

"Harvard is situated in the heart of Cambridge, a quaint college town beside the great city of Boston...there is so much to do right at [our] doorstep."

**50+ COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**75+ HISTORICAL LANDMARKS**

**Adriana '26,  
Kalāheo, HI**

"I rotate between riding my bike, taking the T or the bus, or even just taking a long walk into Boston."

**5 PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS**

**24 THEATERS**



~3 MILES FROM DOWNTOWN BOSTON

**David '25,  
Kisumu, Kenya**

"[The T] came in handy whenever I wanted to go to downtown Boston or to many of the towns connected by the railway tracks and roads in Greater Boston."

7.7 MILES FROM THE AIRPORT

HARVARD SQUARE SUBWAY STOP, 8 BUS ROUTES

212 STOREFRONTS

**Samia '25,  
Cambridge, MA**

"A great dessert spot right on Harvard's campus is Amorino, where they serve gelato in the shape of a rose and you can order an unlimited number of flavors!"

98/100 BIKING AND WALKING SCORE



# Your Home from the Start

## The First-Year Residential Experience

~1,650

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



First-year students live in one of 17 first-year dorms in Harvard Yard, eat meals in their own dining hall, and are matched with a team of residential, academic, and peer advisors who ensure nobody goes through the transition to college alone. After the first year, each student moves into a “House” and will live there for the next three years. These Houses are dorm complexes where students live, dine, study, plan events, and play intramural sports.



CHECK OUT THE DORM TOURS PLAYLIST HERE:

<https://youtube.com/@HarvardCollegeAdmissions>

### Entryways:

“All my suitemates came from different backgrounds, experiences, and passions—it was really refreshing to be surrounded by different people.”

SAMIA '25, CAMBRIDGE, MA

### Advising:

“A huge shoutout and special thanks to my proctor for her immeasurable help with my adjustment to Harvard and college life!”

INNO '25, IRINGA, TANZANIA



HOUSING IS GUARANTEED  
FOR ALL 4 YEARS.

## 12 Houses—12 Harvard Homes

# Adams<sup>01</sup> Cabot<sup>02</sup> Carrier<sup>03</sup> Dunster<sup>04</sup> Eliot<sup>05</sup> Kirkland<sup>06</sup> Leverett<sup>07</sup> Lowell<sup>08</sup> Mather<sup>09</sup> Pforzheimer<sup>10</sup> Quincy<sup>11</sup> Winthrop<sup>12</sup>

**House traditions**

“Everyone at Harvard has their own opinions about which Houses are the best in terms of campus location or room designs. However, each House has its own wonderful traditions and characteristics.”

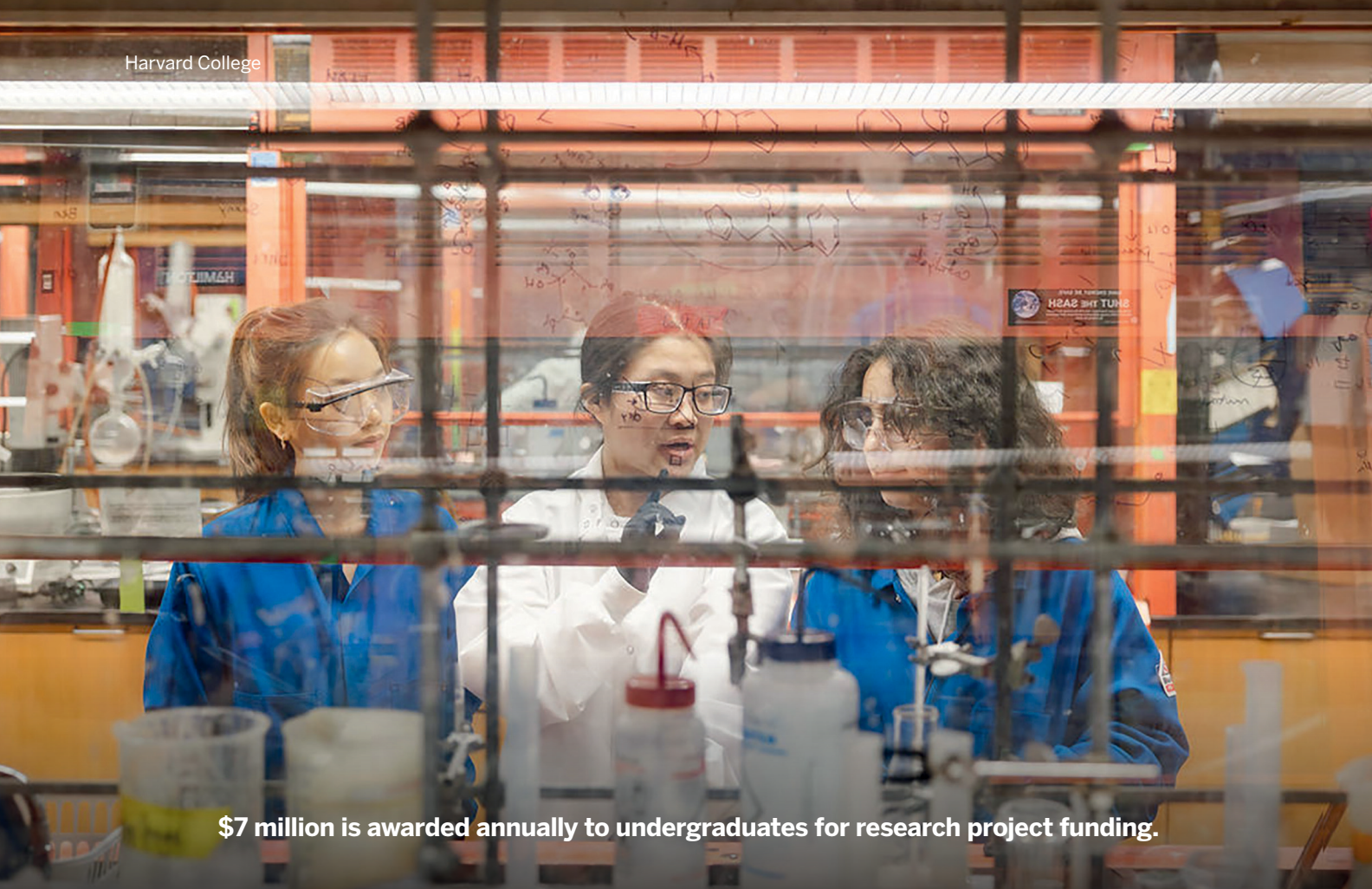
JADYN '24, CHATTANOOGA, TN



“HOUSING DAY”—WHEN  
 FIRST-YEARS RECEIVE  
 HOUSE ASSIGNMENTS—  
 IS A FAVORITE TRADITION!

- 01. Drag Night (Harvard's oldest drag night)
- 02. Festivus Winter Party
- 03. Coffee House Open Mic Night
- 04. Fall Hoedown
- 05. Spring Fête Formal
- 06. Annual Drama Society's Shakespeare play
- 07. Hare's Kitchen cooking competition
- 08. Thursday Teas
- 09. Woodturning beginner classes
- 10. Annual celebration of International Polar Bear Day
- 11. Quincy Qarnival
- 12. Senior Casino Royale





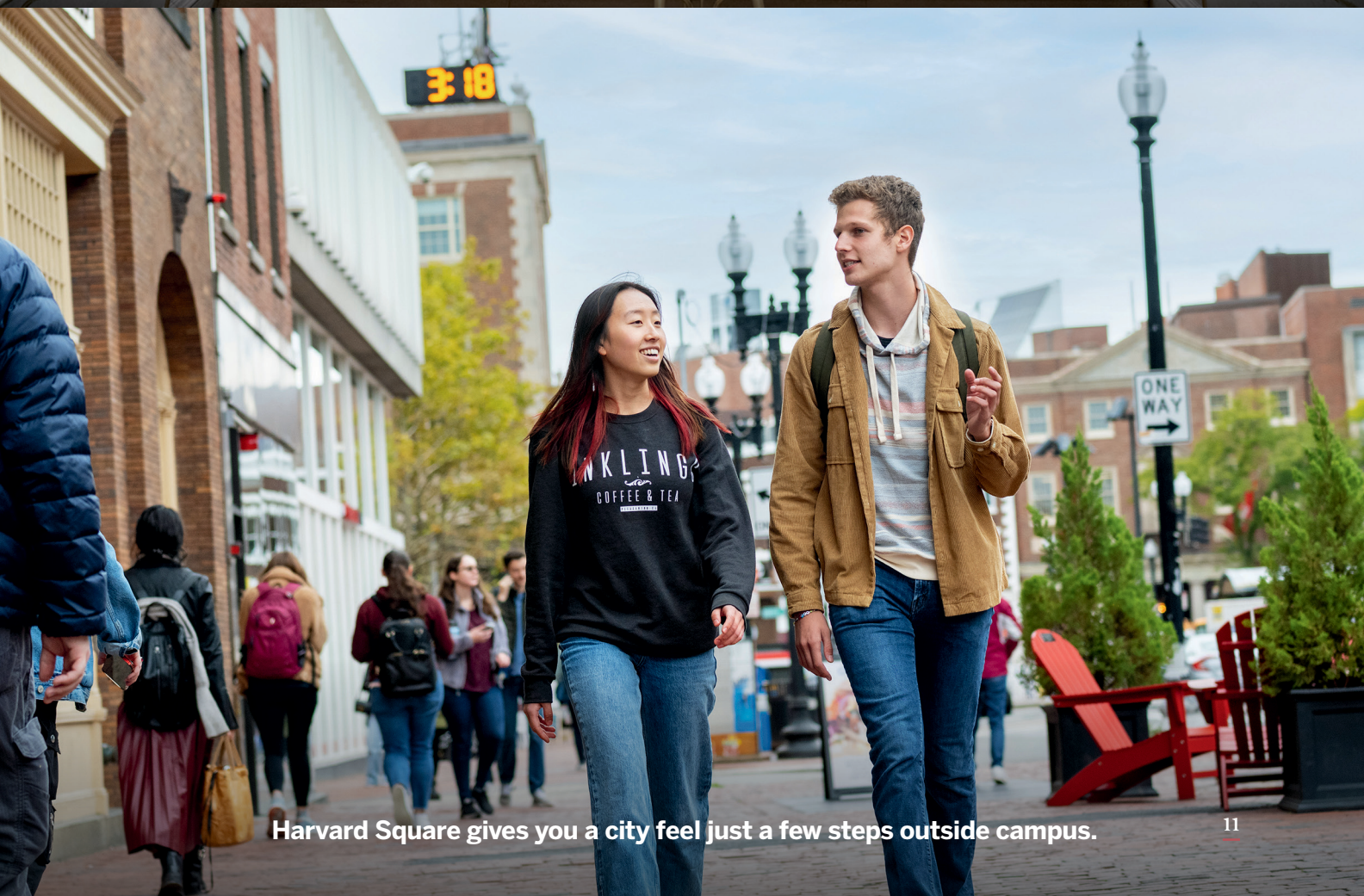
\$7 million is awarded annually to undergraduates for research project funding.







Explore the largest academic library system in the world.



Harvard Square gives you a city feel just a few steps outside campus.



# Be Your Best Self

Caring for your well-being positions you to do your best in the classroom, on the field, or in any endeavor you pursue. Harvard has a wide array of opportunities that provide a strong foundation to help you stay healthy and attend to your physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.



"Our mental health resources are amazing! Aside from Counseling and Mental Health Services, we have third-party counseling, student-run counseling groups, and so much more."

HELEN '26, DENVER, CO



90+

RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL,  
AND IDENTITY-BASED  
AFFINITY GROUPS





“Harvard puts forth great effort into ensuring that students have the ability to nurture a wonderful living community, regardless of their dorm or House.”

RICCARDO '25, MORRISVILLE, NC

“Last spring, I was able to go on a weekend wellness retreat in the Harvard Forest. [It was] a great mental reset.”

ADRIANA '26, KALĀHEO, HAWAII



“[I found] my community in affinity groups. Once I found GAASA (Generational African American Students Association), I found a place like home.”

GRACE '26, CHEVERLY, MD

#### Some of Harvard's Resource Offices

- Harvard University Health Services (HUHS)
- Counseling and Mental Health Service (CAMHS) with a 24/7 Support Line
- Disability Access Office
- Harvard Chaplains
- Harvard College Women's Center
- Harvard International Office
- Military Student Services
- Office of BGLTQ Student Life
- Office of Community and Campus Life
- Office of Gender Equity

# Carpe Diem

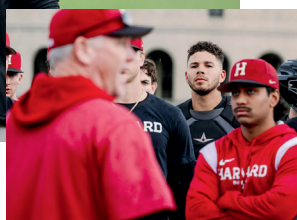
## Lisa '26

ROWLETT, TX  
DOUBLE CONCENTRATION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE  
AND ART, FILM, AND VISUAL STUDIES

"I love Harvard's wide range of extracurricular opportunities—every hobby or interest I've been easily able to find a group of students who share similar passions, making it easy to explore and discover new ones together."



BRICE WALKED ON TO THE VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM THROUGH OPEN TRYOUTS.



## Brice '25

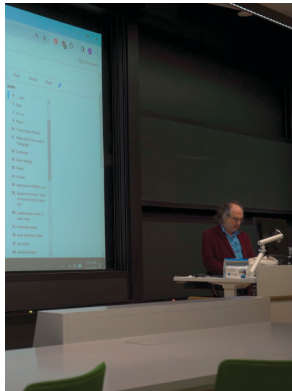
ALMA, MI  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CONCENTRATOR

"Coming here has made me realize that I do belong here. There's lots of people doing lots of different things, but I think at the end of the day, we all get together and realize we're part of something bigger and something really unique."

# Learn more about the day-to-day of Harvard students firsthand: [youtube.com/harvardstudentlife](https://youtube.com/harvardstudentlife)



12:00 PM



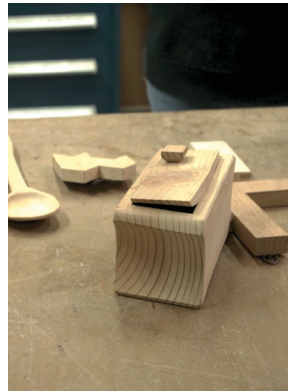
Attend COMPSCI 175 (Computer Graphics) class in the SEC (Science and Engineering Complex)

3:00 PM



Catching up on work in my room

6:00 PM



Getting training on wood shop, metal shop, 3D printing, and laser cutters in the Art, Film, and Visual Studies tutorial

8:00 PM



Rock climbing with friends in Harvard Square

10:00 AM



Preparing a piece for Applied Math 101

12:00 PM



Grabbing lunch with friends in the Eliot House dining hall

2:00 PM



Working on a project in the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Science Makerspace

4:00 PM



Taking some time away from schoolwork for baseball practice



# Explore Your A Options...Then

**We offer 50 Concentrations (our word for majors),  
49 Secondary Fields\* (our word for minors), and a special  
option that allows students to design their own Concentration.**

---

African and African American Studies

Anthropology

Applied Math

Art, Film, and Visual Studies

Astrophysics

Biomedical Engineering

Chemical and Physical Biology

Chemistry

Chemistry and Physics

Classics

Comparative Literature

Comparative Study of Religion

Computer Science

Earth and Planetary Sciences

East Asian Studies

Economics

Educational Studies

Electrical Engineering

Energy and the Environment

Engineering Sciences

English

Environmental Science and Engineering

Environmental Science and Public Policy

Ethnicity, Migration, Rights

Folklore and Mythology

Germanic Languages and Literature

Global Health and Health Policy

Government

History

History and Literature

History and Science

History of Art and Architecture

Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology

Human Evolutionary Biology

Integrative Biology

Linguistics

# Academic Dive Deep

Mathematics  
Mechanical Engineering  
Mind, Brain, Behavior  
Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Music  
Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Neuroscience  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Psychology  
Romance Languages and Literature  
Slavic Literatures and Cultures  
Social Studies  
Sociology  
South Asian Studies  
Statistics  
Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality  
Theater, Dance, and Media

STUDENTS HAVE  
UNTIL NOVEMBER  
OF THEIR SECOND  
YEAR TO DECLARE  
A CONCENTRATION.

“At Harvard, I have  
been able to explore  
all of my interests and  
develop new ones. You  
never stop learning.”

GLORIA '24,  
LYONS, IL



ALL 50 HARVARD MAJORS CONCENTRATIONS  
EXPLAINED IN 15 MINUTES OR LESS

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

# Ask “Why?” Ask “Why Not?”

A Liberal Arts and Sciences Education



7:1 AVERAGE STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

## Why study the liberal arts?

Before students can help change the world, they need to understand it. The curriculum challenges students' thinking by asking difficult questions and exploring unfamiliar concepts. Students have the opportunity to indulge in their passion for inquiry and discovery across disciplines.

## What is the curriculum?

The flexible liberal arts and sciences curriculum ensures both broad-spanning and focused scholarship opportunities. Of the 32 courses, approximately 1/3 will cover various disciplines, 1/3 will be dedicated to your Concentration, and 1/3 will be electives.

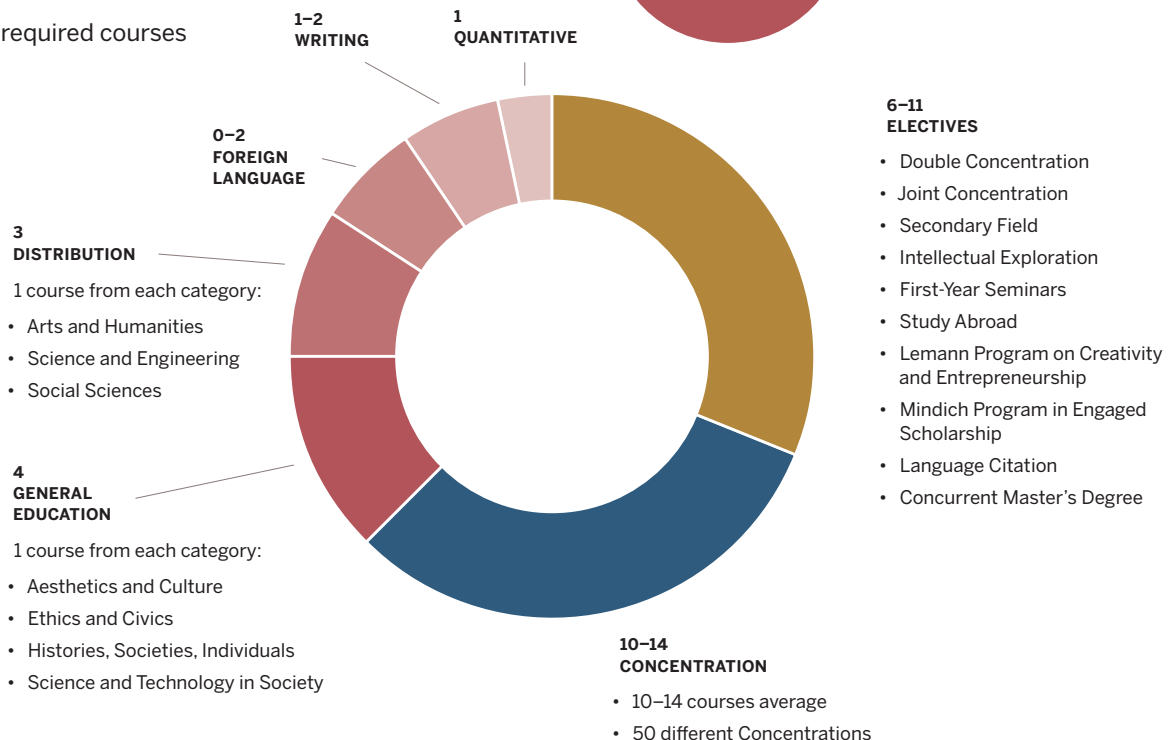
## Why not study multiple fields?

Students make academic connections when studying similar material from different academic angles. Harvard encourages exploration, which might include secondaries, joint or double Concentrations, or language citations. You can also take courses at MIT, Berklee, and Harvard's professional schools.

3,700+  
COURSES

## College curriculum courses

Up to 12 required courses





# Ask “How?”



“It is fun to engage with undergraduates who have scholarly minds and who you learn from as much as you teach.”

EMMANUEL AKYEAMPONG

ELLEN GURNEY PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES



WIDENER LIBRARY ↗

Innovation Lab. ArtLab. Classroom to Table. Salata Institute. 24 Science and Research Buildings. Study Abroad. Office Hours. Largest Academic Library System Worldwide. Institute of Politics. Launch Lab X. Office for the Arts. 12 Teaching Museums. 5 Theaters. And more.



HEAR FROM HARVARD PROFESSORS  
on [youtube.com/@HarvardMagazine](https://www.youtube.com/@HarvardMagazine)

“I got to control a telescope in Mauna Kea in real time to collect data, and I even built a nuclear deuterium fusor all in one semester! How cool is that?”

RAFID '25,  
MONTCLAIR, NJ

“I discovered a community of like-minded changemakers across all Harvard schools, fueled by the mentorship of seasoned professionals in the innovation realm.”

SKYE '26,  
NEW YORK, NY





# Support Surrounds You at Harvard

**Kira '26,  
Irvington, NY**

"Before coming to Harvard, I would have never known how accessible academic help is on campus. Knowledgeable tutors are accessible for any subject, and the best part is that they are free!"

**FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS SUPPORT**

**MATH QUESTION CENTER**

**ACADEMIC COACHES**

**Helen '26,  
Denver CO**

"Our mental health resources are amazing! Aside from Counseling and Mental Health Service we have third-party counseling, student-run counseling groups, and so much more."



**First-year student  
advising structure:**



**RESIDENTIAL PRE-PROFESSIONAL TUTORS**

**ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER**

**MIGNONE CENTER FOR CAREER SUCCESS**

**WRITING CENTER**

**ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS**

**Audrey '26,  
Dublin, CA**

"The Mignone Center for Career Success (MCS) helped me feel prepared...They're a huge reason I was able to get a consulting internship my junior summer."



# Beyond the Classroom

Filling Out Your Harvard Experience

At Harvard, you will be able to find nearly any activity you might want to explore, and you can participate at a range of levels.



## Athletics

- 42 Division I varsity teams
- Won 150+ national or NCAA championships
- Won a combined 440+ Ivy League championships
- Been represented at every modern Olympic Games
- 50+ Club and Intramural Sports

## 450+ Clubs and Organizations

- 80+ Academic, STEM, and Pre-professional
- 90+ Community and Public Service
- 60+ Creative and Performing Arts
- 70+ Cultural and Racial
- 20+ Gender and Sexuality
- 25+ Government and Politics
- 40+ Living and Social
- 15+ Media and Publications
- 20+ Religious and Spiritual Life
- 50+ Wellness and Adjustment

## Helen '26

DENVER, CO

"I am on the board of the Creative Writing Collective. I was able to invite out one of my favorite authors, Margot Livesey, and it was easily the highlight of my first year. Hearing her words in her voice, alongside her writing journey and her inspiration behind her characters, setting, etc., helped me to look at my own writing through a different lens. Total fangirl moment."



## Rafid '25

MONTCLAIR, NJ

"As someone very passionate about making outdoor recreation accessible to all, participating on the First-Year Outdoor Program Steering Committee taught me ways to bring in the voices of previously excluded communities."

## Audrey '24

DUBLIN, CA

"Through joining the Chinese Students Association as a [first-year] representative, I was able to get close to many [upper-level students] in my first year at college. These became the people I turned to for class, career, friendship, and even romantic advice as I went through college!"



# A Lifetime of “Go, Crimson!”

Become a Part of a Global  
Alumni Community

Alumni reunion  
celebrations every  
5 years



REGULAR NETWORKING  
EVENTS AND SPECIAL  
EVENTS FOR RECENT  
GRADUATES

400K+

HARVARD ALUMNI AROUND  
THE WORLD

“Enter to grow in wisdom.  
Depart to serve thy country  
and thy kind.”

DEXTER GATE INSCRIPTION



Volunteer and  
student mentorship  
opportunities

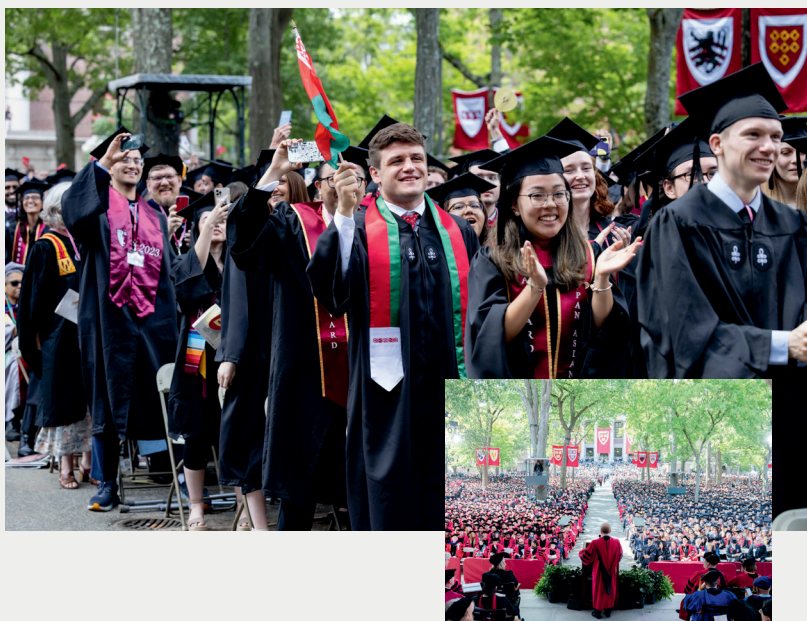
250+

HARVARD CLUBS AND  
SHARED INTEREST  
GROUPS TO JOIN

98% graduation rate — among the highest at  
American colleges and universities



A Harvard education prepares students to graduate and pursue any professional path they want, in any field — public service and government, education, technology and innovation, finance, law, medicine, and more. With our resources and vast alumni network, any pursuit is possible.



“At Harvard, I was always encouraged to ask why and to leave a space better than how I found it. These words of wisdom guided me during college and also post-graduation as I [think] about ways I can make a meaningful contribution to the world.”

COLETTE '16, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

#### **Lifelong Friends:**

“I still think of Harvard-Yale as the best day of the year... seeing all these familiar faces in one place again is one of the most wonderful things I can think of in post-grad life.”

MARTHA '20, WORCESTER, MA

#### **Harvard's Lasting Impact:**

“I worked for Professor Friedman for two years of college, and he's been a mentor since then. He's given me advice and written me letters of recommendation, and we're still in touch [all these] years later.”

JEREMY '12, SAN DIEGO, CA

#### **From Classroom to Career:**

“I concentrated in Social Studies, with a focus field in the American legal system. My senior thesis on pro se litigants, people who represent themselves in court, was the start of a lifelong interest in criminal justice reform.”

ANNIE '16, EVERETT, WA

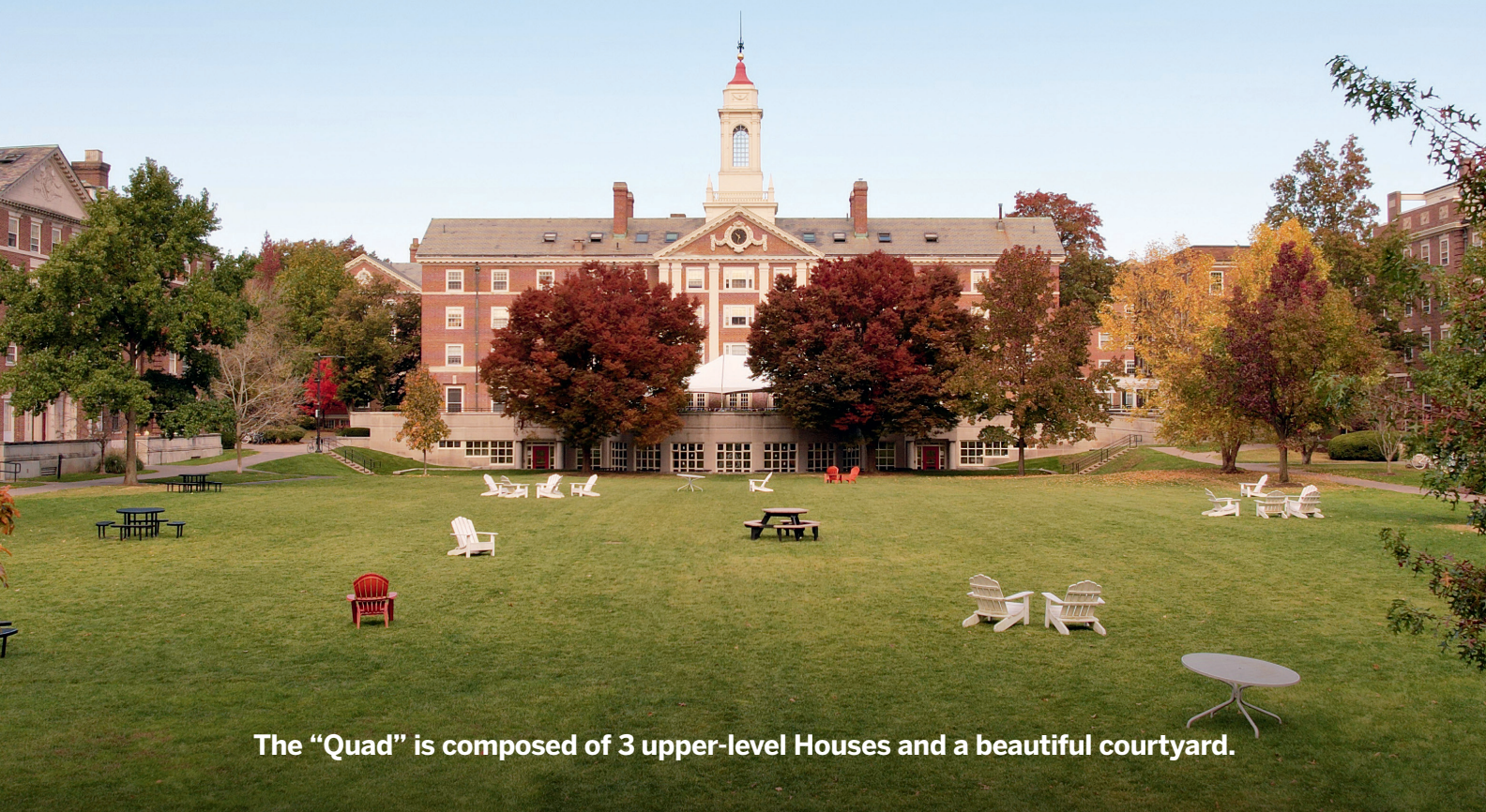




The College hosts a variety of social events for students.







The “Quad” is composed of 3 upper-level Houses and a beautiful courtyard.



Check out Eastbound—the Asian American Dance Troupe’s spring performance.



# You Can Afford Harvard

## Quick Financial Aid Facts

85% of American families would qualify for free tuition.

100%

OF STUDENTS CAN GRADUATE DEBT-FREE.

100%

OF DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED IS MET FOR EACH ADMITTED STUDENT.



Nearly 1/4 of our students' families pay nothing for them to attend.



Aid is the same regardless of nationality or citizenship status.

\$0

IS THE TOTAL PARENT CONTRIBUTION FOR FAMILIES WITH AN INCOME OF UNDER \$100,000.





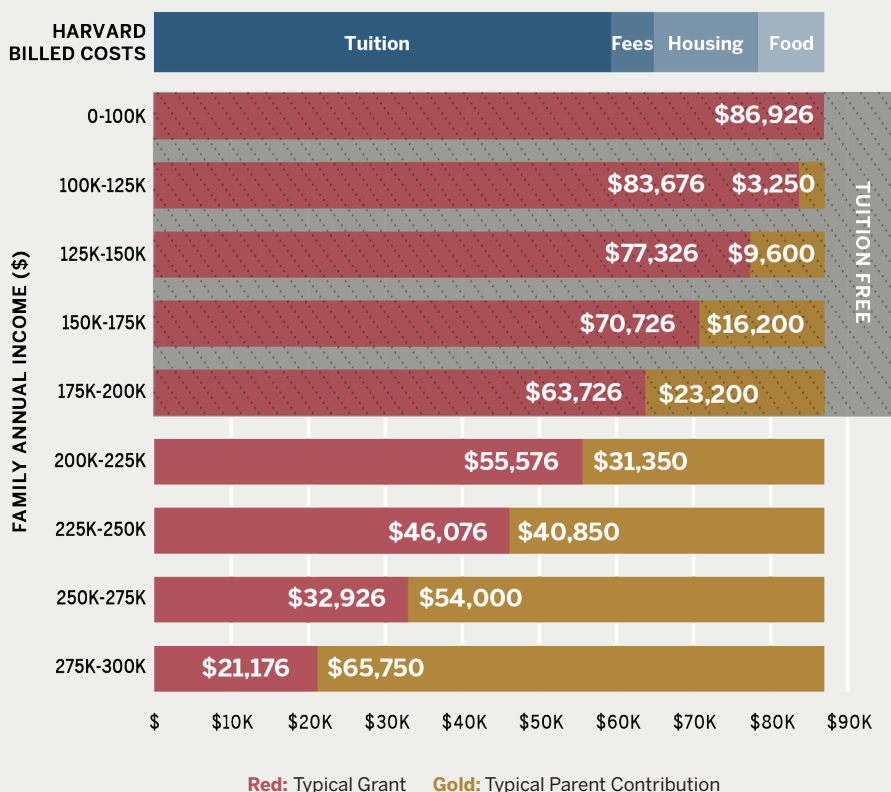
“We aim to eliminate financial barriers for students beyond attendance costs. From day one, students should feel fully included in the robust academic, extracurricular, and social experiences that shape their education.”

**JAKE KAUFMANN**  
GRIFFIN DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID

## Financial Aid

Beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year, Harvard College will be free (including tuition, fees, food, housing, and more) for students from families with annual incomes of \$100,000 and below with typical assets.

Students from families earning \$200,000 and below with typical assets will qualify for free tuition, plus additional aid. Many students from families earning more than \$200,000 will also qualify for aid.



### Timeline of Financial Support

“Affordability” means more than tuition, housing, and food. Here are a few examples:

#### Pre-arrival:

\$2,000 Start-Up Grant for move-in expenses\*

#### All 4 years:

Student events fund for campus events\*

#### Breaks/holidays:

A travel allowance to/from campus is included in your financial aid budget

#### First winter:

Winter coat funding\*

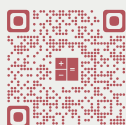
#### Summers:

Funding for study abroad / unpaid internships (available through other Harvard offices)

#### Junior year:

\$2,000 Launch Grant for career-related expenses\*

\*Given to students on full financial aid.



EACH STUDENT'S CIRCUMSTANCE IS UNIQUE. VISIT OUR NET PRICE CALCULATOR TO GET AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT HARVARD WOULD COST YOUR FAMILY. ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH!

# Speak *Your* Truth

## Applying to Harvard College

“What matters to you? What do you like to study? What motivates you? What kind of student are you? What would you be like as a roommate? What niche would you take on in college? Who would you be beyond Harvard? Your essays [and] activities list will each give you a chance to write more about these. It’s important to simply see the application as an opportunity to talk more about who you are.”

EMILY '24,  
HOUSTON, TX



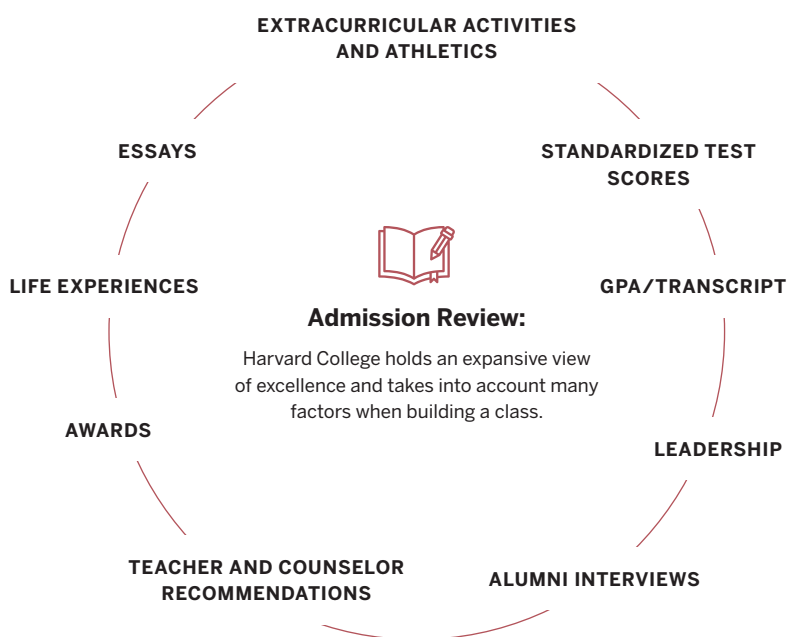
Harvard welcomes students from across the United States of America and all over the world with diverse backgrounds and far-ranging talents and interests.





“Whole-person review means that members of the admissions committee take time to read every aspect of your application. When we finish, we hope to understand your story, not just your list of achievements.”

**JOY ST. JOHN**  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS



#### Application Timeline\*

- **November 1:** First-year Restrictive Early Action (REA) application and financial aid application\* deadline
- **Mid-December:** Decision notification for first-year REA applicants
- **January 1:** First-year Regular Action application deadline
- **February 1:** First-year Regular Action financial aid application deadline\*
- **March 1:** Transfer application and financial aid application\* deadline
- **Late March:** Decision notification for first-year Regular Action applicants
- **Mid-June:** Decision notification for transfer applicants

\*Students can apply for financial aid at any point in the application process, after being admitted, after enrolling, or during their Harvard career. Financial aid deadlines listed above generally ensure that financial aid information will be available at the same time as the admissions decision release.

#### Application Requirements

- Application\*\*
- Harvard College Questions for the Harvard supplement
- Secondary School Report (including a counselor letter of recommendation)
- Official transcript(s)
- Two teacher letters of recommendation
- Official standardized test scores
- Application fee (or request a fee waiver)
- Midyear School Report (after your first-semester senior grades are available)
- Final School Report (for admitted students only)



\*\* We are also a QuestBridge partner institution. See [college.harvard.edu/admissions/apply/questbridge](https://college.harvard.edu/admissions/apply/questbridge) for more information on the process and timeline for QuestBridge applicants.

# Harvard, Transforming





**Form friendships with passionate and talented individuals from all over the world.**



**Enjoy all four seasons in picturesque New England.**



Apply:  
[college.harvard.edu/admissions/apply](https://college.harvard.edu/admissions/apply)

Follow us:

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🎵 @harvardadmissions

▶ @HarvardCollegeAdmissions

**Harvard College Admissions Office  
and Griffin Financial Aid Office**

**86 Brattle Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138**

**COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU  
COLLEGE@FAS.HARVARD.EDU  
617-495-1551**

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