

Harvard College

Counselor Newsletter



HARVARD COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS /
GRIFFIN FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

86 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

2026 – 27

Counselor Newsletter

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A Brief Profile of the Class of 2029

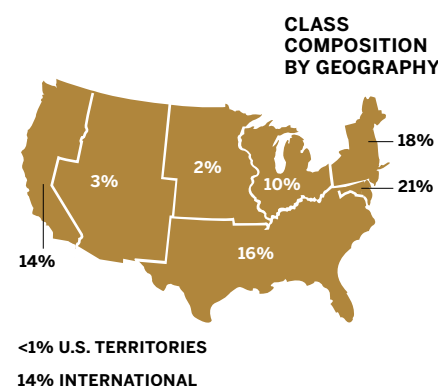
2,003

of **47,893 applicants** were admitted to the **Class of 2029**.

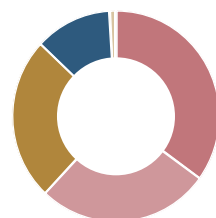
1,675 MATRICULANTS

83.6% YIELD

75 ADMITTED FROM WAIT LIST



Intended Field of Study



- 35% SOCIAL SCIENCES
- 27% NATURAL SCIENCES
- 25% ENGINEERING
- 12% HUMANITIES
- 1% UNDECIDED
- <1% SPECIAL CONCENTRATION

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you so much for all the support and guidance you provided to your students and their families through the college application process. It is with great pleasure that we share updates and information from Cambridge.

Updates from the Harvard College Campus

We have some wonderful new updates from our campus. David J. Deming started as the new Danoff Dean of Harvard College this past year. Dean Deming is an economist whose work focuses on higher education, economic inequality, skills, technology, and the future of the labor market. Dean Deming succeeds Rakesh Khurana, Marvin Bower Professor of Leadership Development at Harvard Business School.

We also have some exciting news from our residential life experience at Harvard! This year is our 20th anniversary of the Peer Advising Fellows (PAFs) Program. This program is a cornerstone of our highly regarded advising system for first-year students. PAFs are student mentors paired with first-year students to support them as they navigate life at Harvard, helping make residential life at Harvard a truly unique and memorable experience.

Financial Aid

We recently announced an enhancement to our leading need-based financial aid program. Students from families who make \$100,000 or less, with typical assets, can attend Harvard for free—no loans needed. Currently, 25% of our students qualify for this level of assistance.

Harvard also provides at least free tuition, plus additional financial aid, to students from families with annual incomes of \$200,000 or less with typical assets. Many students from families earning more than \$200,000 with typical assets qualify for financial aid depending on their financial circumstances.

QuestBridge National College Match Students

We are excited to welcome our first QuestBridge National College Match students to campus in Fall 2026. The QuestBridge National College Match applications for the Class of 2031 will open again in late summer. Additional information can be found on Harvard's QuestBridge page:

www.questbridge.org/partners/college-partners/harvard-college.

Newly Launched Digital Viewbook

We welcome you to explore our digital viewbook that launched this spring. This viewbook brings together digital content from across our platforms to share the Harvard College experience in one interactive and multimedia-rich space: college.harvard.edu/admissions/experience.

Thank you for your important work on behalf of the students applying to colleges, not just Harvard College. We are grateful for your partnership and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

William R. Fitzsimmons

Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid

Joy St. John

Director of Admissions

Jake Kaufmann

Griffin Director of Financial Aid

WE VALUE OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR SCHOOL AND CBO COUNSELORS. TO CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL ADMISSIONS OFFICER, PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL:
617-495-1551 | college@fas.harvard.edu | college.harvard.edu/school-counselors

Academic Opportunities & Student Life

Courses

2,900+

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

50 FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION (MAJORS)

49 SECONDARY FIELDS (MINORS)

120+ FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

85+ FOREIGN LANGUAGE OFFERINGS



Faculty

12

Median class size.

7:1

Average student/faculty ratio.

+

Each first-year student has **an advising network**.

+

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**, giving Harvard 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 Residential Life & Resources

98%

of students traditionally choose to live **on campus for all four years**, and they enjoy an **unlimited meal plan**.

Some resources include:

- Academic Resource Center**
- Disability Access Office**
- Mignone Center for Career Success**
- University Health Services**
- Office of Culture & Community**
- Student Employment Office**
- Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships**

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**.

500+

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?

We seek promising students who will contribute to the Harvard community during their college years and to society throughout their lives. While academic accomplishment is important, the Admissions Committee considers many other factors—your contribution to community, special talents or excellences of all kinds, varied perspectives, and the ability to take advantage of available resources and opportunities.

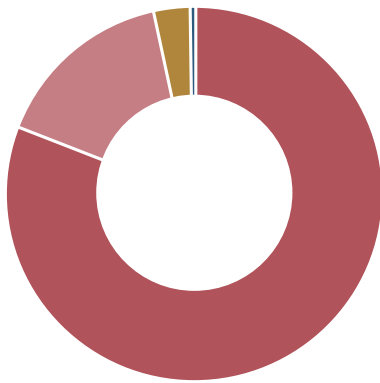
Typical Financial Aid Package

SCHOLARSHIPS \$71,150

PARENT CONTRIBUTION \$13,800

STUDENT TERM-TIME WORK \$2,750

STUDENT ASSET CONTRIBUTION \$200



100% of our students can graduate debt-free.

25% of our students attend Harvard College for free.

85% of American families would qualify for free tuition.

\$0 is the total parent contribution for families with typical assets and an income of under \$100,000.

Financial Aid: Removing Economic Barriers

Applying for financial aid does not jeopardize any student's chance for admission, including international applicants. 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 100% of demonstrated need of every student for all four years.

Harvard College is free (including tuition, fees, food, housing, and more) for students from families with annual incomes of less than \$100,000 with typical assets. Students from families earning

\$200,000 or less with typical assets will qualify for free tuition and may qualify for aid to cover additional billed expenses, depending on their financial circumstances. Many students from families earning more than \$200,000 will also qualify for aid.

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.

Deadlines*

Common Application

**Restrictive
Early Action**

November 1

**Regular
Decision**

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

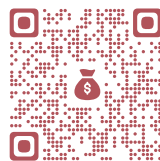
Mid-December

Late March

* We are also a QuestBridge partner institution. See college.harvard.edu/admissions/apply/questbridge for more information on the process and timeline for QuestBridge applicants.

YOU CAN GET AN ESTIMATE OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID ON OUR NET PRICE CALCULATOR (TAMBIÉN EN ESPAÑOL)

college.harvard.edu/npc | college.harvard.edu/npc-espanol



Watch this video to learn more about Harvard's financial aid.

<https://bit.ly/4c7sVeD>

HARVARD COLLEGE GRIFFIN FINANCIAL AID OFFICE:

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