COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID
Dear Colleagues,

We wish to extend our thanks for your work on behalf of students applying to Harvard College. School and adviser recommendations play an unprecedented role in shaping admissions decisions. Honest, thoughtful accounts of student performance remain among the most important determinants of success in the Harvard selection process.

Founded in 1636 as America’s first college, Harvard has been transformed in recent years. Today’s students attend an institution that combines many aspects of a small residential college with the resources of a large research university. Our students work closely with outstanding faculty. Nobel laureates lead introductory courses. Pulitzer Prize-winning authors teach General Education courses. We hope you will encourage your most talented students to consider applying to Harvard as we strive to further enrich the educational experience here.

Developing citizens and citizen leaders, both national and international, is a goal to which we have long subscribed. Remarkably diverse in their backgrounds, our students come from public, private, and parochial schools. They hail from every state in the nation and more than 100 foreign countries, as well as from all socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds. An increasing number are first-generation college students. We believe that Harvard College is well-equipped to help students realize their academic, personal, and career aspirations.

We hope you will communicate to your students that Harvard is, most of all, a home. We believe that learning occurs in dorm rooms and dining halls as well as laboratories and classrooms. At Harvard, students live in a unique residential House system: a community of undergraduates, advisers, visiting scholars, and tenured faculty members. Life in this intellectual, fun, and vibrant community, where everyone learns from one another, makes a Harvard education distinctive.

We look forward to working with you!

William R. Fitzsimmons
Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid
ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

COURSES

3,500+
Number of courses available (including cross registration at Harvard graduate schools and MIT).

49 FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION (MAJORS)
65+ SECONDARY FIELDS (MINORS)
120+ NUMBER OF FRESHMAN SEMINARS
80+ FOREIGN LANGUAGES

FACULTY

12 Median class size.

7:1 Average student/faculty ratio.
At the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the student/faculty ratio is 5:1.

1:3 Freshman/adviser ratio.

Virtually all faculty teach undergraduates.

CONCENTRATIONS

AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
ANTHROPOLOGY
APPLIED MATHEMATICS
ASTROPHYSICS
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
CHEMICAL & PHYSICAL BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS
CLASSICS
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
COMPUTER SCIENCE
EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES
EAST ASIAN STUDIES
ECONOMICS
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING SCIENCES
ENGLISH
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY
FOLKLORE & MYTHOLOGY
GERMANIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
GOVERNMENT
HISTORY
HISTORY & LITERATURE
HISTORY & SCIENCE
HISTORY OF ART & ARCHITECTURE
HUMAN DEVELOPMENTAL & REGENERATIVE BIOLOGY
HUMAN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY
LINGUISTICS
MATHEMATICS
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
MOLECULAR & CELLULAR BIOLOGY
MUSIC
NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATIONS
NEUROBIOLOGY
PHILOSOPHY
PHYSICS
PSYCHOLOGY
RELIGION, COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
SOCIAL STUDIES
SOCIOLOGY
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES
SPECIAL CONCENTRATIONS
STATISTICS
THEATER, DANCE, & MEDIA
VISUAL & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
WOMEN, GENDER, & SEXUALITY, STUDIES OF

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Concentration
12-16 courses
General Education
and Distribution Requirements
8 courses
Electives, Secondary
Field, Language
Citation 8-12 courses

GRADUATES

97% of our students graduate; one of the highest graduation rates in the nation.

APPLICATION

Students need only to apply to Harvard College. While applicants can indicate an interest in a specific academic area, applicants do not apply to a specific school or department. Students will declare their field of study (concentration) at the end of the third semester.

Student may submit additional materials such as art, music, or research through our Applicant Status Portal.

STUDENT LIFE

CAMPUS RESOURCES

97% of students choose to live on campus for all four years where they enjoy an unlimited meal plan.

BUREAU OF STUDY COUNSEL
WOMEN’S CENTER
OFFICE OF BGLTQ STUDENT LIFE
OFFICE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND PREVENTION
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES
UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES
ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION OFFICE

COMMUNITY AND ACTIVITIES

1,665 of our 6,700 undergrads are first-year students.

Cambridge & Boston:
Half college town, half metropolitan hub.

Learn from your peers.
Harvard students come from all 50 states and over 100 countries.

400+ Student organizations of all kinds including arts, public service, cultural, and pre-professional groups.

Harvard undergraduates can participate in athletics at the intramural, club, or varsity level. If you have a student who is interested in one of our 42 Division I teams, please direct them to the following site for more information.
college.harvard.edu/athletics
ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

ADMISSIONS: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
Some admission applicants will demonstrate extraordinary promise in academic or research endeavors. Some will 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.

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

100% of our students can graduate debt-free.

20% of our students’ families pay nothing. 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 $65,000 and asks an average of no more than 10% of income from the majority of families receiving financial aid. In addition, even families with incomes greater than $150,000 are eligible for aid depending on their particular circumstances, such as multiple children in college or unusual medical or other essential expenses. We do not require students to take out loans, although they are asked to contribute to the cost of their education through term-time and summer work.

Our aid is entirely need-based, and grant eligibility is determined in the same manner for all admitted students.

TYPICAL FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

- Scholarships [$45,250]
- Student Term Time Work [$1,300]
- Parent Contribution [$11,850]
- Student Summer Work & Asset Contribution [$1,300]

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS’ INCOME LEVELS

- <$20,000
- $20,000-$80,000
- $80,000-$120,000
- $120,000-$160,000
- $160,000-$200,000

There are several hundred families earning more than $200,000 who are receiving scholarship aid based on extenuating financial circumstances.

Your students can get an estimate of their financial aid on our Net Price Calculator college.harvard.edu/npc

We value our relationship with our school and CBO counselors. To be put in touch with your regional admissions officer, simply call our office at 617-495-1551 and we will connect you.