COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2018
Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your work on behalf of students applying to Harvard College. Teacher and guidance counselor recommendations continue to play an integral role in shaping admissions decisions. Honest, thoughtful accounts of student performance remain among the most important determinants of success in our process.

We believe that Harvard College is well equipped to help students realize their academic, personal and career aspirations. Harvard combines many aspects of a small residential college with the resources of a large research university. Students work closely with world-renowned faculty. Students live and learn in a unique residential House system: a community of undergraduates, advisors, and faculty members. It is our mission to educate citizens and citizen-leaders for our society through our commitment to the transformative power of a liberal arts and sciences education.

Remarkably diverse in their backgrounds, our students come from public, private, and parochial schools. They hail from every state and more than 100 foreign countries, as well as from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Today an increasing number of our students are first generation college students and we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting students from modest and low-income backgrounds. We aim to make Harvard accessible to all who are admitted, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Beginning with the 2018-2019 application cycle, applicants may choose to submit their ACT or SAT scores with or without writing. Additionally, while we recommend two SAT Subject Tests, applicants may apply without them if the cost of taking the tests represents a financial hardship or if they prefer to have their application considered without them. Applicants may also provide self-reported test scores (including ACT, SAT, Subject Tests, Advanced Placement, IB, etc.). Admitted students who decide to enroll at Harvard College will be required to submit official test scores.

We value our partnership on behalf of your students, and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

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).

50 FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION (MAJORS) OFFERED
49 SECONDARY FIELDS (MINORS) OFFERED
130+ FRESHMAN SEMINARS OFFERED
80+ FOREIGN LANGUAGES OFFERED

FACULTY

12 Median class size.

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

Each first-year student has three advisors.

Virtually all faculty teach undergraduates.

CONCENTRATIONS

AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
ANTHROPOLOGY
APPLIED MATHEMATICS
ASTROPHYSICS
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
CHEMICAL & PHYSICAL BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
CLASSICS
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
COMPUTER SCIENCE
EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES
EAST ASIAN STUDIES
ECONOMICS
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING SCIENCES
ENGLISH
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY
FOLKLORE & MYTHOLOGY
GERMANIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
GOVERNMENT
HISTORY
HISTORY & LITERATURE
HISTORY & SCIENCE
HISTORY OF ART & ARCHITECTURE
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & 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

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

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 Facility.

GRADUATES

98% of our students graduate; one of the highest graduation rates in the nation.

66% of students will have some international experience — study abroad, research, or some other opportunity — during their time at Harvard.

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.

Learning from 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 students who are interested in one of our 42 Division I teams, please direct them to the following site for more information.

college.harvard.edu/athletics
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.

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; asks no more than 10% of income for those with incomes up to $150,000; and expects proportionally more from families with incomes above $150,000. Families at all income levels who have significant assets are asked to pay more than those in less fortunate circumstances and our financial aid officers work closely with families to ensure Harvard is accessible to all admitted students. 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.

TYPICAL FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

- Scholarships [$53,850]
- Student Term Time Work [$2,800]
- Parent Contribution [$11,700]
- Student Summer Work & Asset Contribution [$1,650]

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

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

20% of our students’ families pay nothing.

100% of our students can graduate debt-free.

Your students can get an estimate of their financial aid on our Net Price Calculator.

[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+

APPLICATION

For undergraduate study, students apply only 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. Students may submit additional materials such as art, music, or research through our Applicant Status Portal.

HARVARD COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID
86 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

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.

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