



Harvard College
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Dear Colleague,

As another academic year begins, we are writing with information that we hope will be helpful as you counsel your students. We enclose an overview of Harvard College and a profile of the admitted Class of 2013.

We want to emphasize that our sweeping overhaul of financial aid policies, designed to make Harvard College more affordable for families across the economic spectrum, remains firmly in place despite the current economic downturn. An initiative announced in December 2007 focuses on ensuring greater affordability for middle and upper-middle income families through major enhancements to grant aid, the elimination of student loans, and the removal of home equity from financial aid calculations. This initiative builds on Harvard's recent innovative policies to ensure that families with incomes below \$60,000 are not asked to contribute to the cost of sending their children to Harvard. The new financial aid policies dramatically reduce the amount families with incomes below \$180,000 will be expected to pay. Families with incomes above \$120,000 and below \$180,000 and with assets typical for these income levels are asked to pay 10 percent of their incomes. For those with incomes below \$120,000, the family contribution percentage declines steadily from 10 percent, reaching zero for those with incomes of \$60,000 and below. There are even some families with incomes greater than \$180,000 who receive need-based financial aid due to unusually challenging financial circumstances. Nearly 70 percent of Harvard undergraduates receive some form of financial aid, and the average annual grant for the 2008-2009 academic year was over \$36,000.

Additionally, Harvard has eliminated its early admissions program, adopting a single application deadline of January 1. Believing that the college admissions process has become too pressured and too complex, we offer a single admissions process which is simpler, fairer and less vulnerable to public cynicism. With the time and capacity freed up by our move to a single admissions cycle, we can focus more energetically on outreach and recruiting in support of our goal of finding and admitting the most talented students across the full economic spectrum.

We hope students will help expedite the application process by sending us the Common or Universal Application as soon as they decide to apply. Doing so will allow us to create their files and arrange for alumni/ae interviews where possible. On December 1, we will begin our careful evaluation process, reading applications in the order they are completed. If circumstances preclude December 1 submission of materials, applicants will not be penalized in any way. January 1 is the final deadline for all application materials.

While Harvard honors the College Board's new Score Choice program and even allows January tests to be submitted for consideration, we hope applicants will have completed and submitted at least one component of the required tests (SAT or ACT and three College Board Subject Tests) by the November series. This will allow us to begin our evaluation process for those submitting applications by December 1 or thereafter.

Like most colleges during these difficult economic times, Harvard is exploring new and creative ways to reach out to prospective applicants, their families, and secondary school counselors. We are continuing our highly successful joint travel program, visiting 145 cities throughout North America along with several other colleges. Each visit includes evening meetings with students and parents, as well as a counselor breakfast the following morning. However, financial constraints will limit return trips to most locations, so it is less likely that we will be able to visit individual schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read these materials and to share this information with your students. We hope your students will consider Harvard as a possible college choice.

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Dean of Admissions and
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Marlyn E. McGrath
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Some Facts and Figures about Harvard College

- ◆ **Harvard is America's oldest college.** Founded in 1636, Harvard has been an innovator for more than 350 years. All undergraduates, men and women, attend Harvard College as part of a unified, coeducational undergraduate institution. There are 6,600 undergraduate students from all 50 states and from around the world, and our graduation rate of 97% is among the highest in the nation.
- ◆ **Nearly 97% of undergraduates live on campus.** Harvard guarantees each student college housing for four years. All 1,655 first-year students live in or near Harvard Yard and eat together in Annenberg Hall. Upperclassmen live in one of 12 Houses, small residential communities of 330 to 500 students.
- ◆ **Harvard has nearly 400 student organizations,** including:
 - More than 100 student productions per year in drama and dance
 - Five orchestras, several jazz combos, a marching band, wind ensemble, 12 a cappella singing groups, large and small choral groups, a gospel choir, and many others
 - Numerous student media groups and publications, including *The Harvard Crimson* (daily), *The Harvard Independent* (weekly), political journals, literary magazines, a student-run radio station, a yearbook, and television programs, to name a few
 - A wide variety of public service programs in which more than one-third of students are involved
 - The largest Division I athletic program in the country (41 men's and women's varsity sports teams) and "athletics for all" in an extensive intramural and recreational program
 - Support for student entrepreneurs through organizations such as Harvard Student Agencies and the Harvard College Entrepreneurship Forum
- ◆ **Harvard offers nearly 3,500 courses and more than 40 fields of study** from the natural sciences, computer science, engineering and mathematics to the social sciences and the humanities. Secondary fields enable students to pursue multiple interests and explore new intellectual areas while bringing opportunities for guidance and coherence to these explorations.
- ◆ **A new program of General Education will complement each student's individually designed course of study.** Within a flexible structure, the program seeks to equip students with critical attitudes, skills and knowledge to support their effectiveness as citizens.
- ◆ **The Freshman Seminar Program offers opportunities for first year students to work closely with members of the faculty on subjects of shared interest.** Over 130 seminars are offered, each limited to 12 students. Because Freshman Seminars are not letter-graded, they emphasize collegial and shared learning, and encourage intellectual risk-taking.
- ◆ **The new Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences plays a leading role in broadening the education of engineers and providing all Harvard students an exposure to various aspects of technology and its role in society.** In order to provide more extensive coverage of modern engineering and applied science for students and to remain in the vanguard of emerging research areas, the School is implementing a plan to increase the university's engineering and applied sciences faculty by about 50 percent over several years.
- ◆ **In Harvard's newly enhanced Advising Program, first-year students are now advised by 400 faculty and administrators, over 60 proctors and nearly 200 peer advising fellows.** Each of the over 40 concentrations also appoints faculty and peer advisers to provide guidance to upperclass concentrators and prospective concentrators.
- ◆ **Study abroad offers a structured and supported opportunity for students to have a significant international experience fully integrated into their Harvard undergraduate curriculum.** It is possible to organize study abroad for a semester, a year or a summer, in a carefully chosen program almost anywhere in the world.
- ◆ **Students interested in research can find research jobs or obtain funding to participate in research in any academic discipline.**
 - Last year, 600 undergraduates were awarded nearly \$1,000,000 for research through programs administered by the Student Employment Office.
 - Over 800 students were awarded \$2,100,000 from Centers and departments across the College that distribute funds for summer travel and research opportunities abroad, administered through a common application portal.
 - Hundreds of students receive academic credit through individualized reading and research courses.
- ◆ **An ambitious new initiative in the arts will expand support of Harvard's extensive opportunities in the performing and studio arts, and enhance their visibility.**

Breakdown of 2008 Fall Term Courses

by size

<i>Students Enrolled</i>	<i>Number of Courses</i>
1 – 10.....	618
11 – 15.....	296
16 – 20.....	108
21 – 25.....	54
26 – 50.....	101
51 – 100.....	61
101 – 200.....	25
201 – 300.....	13
301 – 400.....	2
401 – 500.....	1
501+.....	5
Total.....	1284

Facilities Include:

- Largest university library in the world with over 15 million volumes
- Fogg, Sackler, and Busch-Reisinger Museums, housing distinguished art collections
- Museum of Comparative Zoology
- Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology
- Semitic Museum
- Botanical and Mineralogical Museums
- Numerous science/laboratory facilities
- Extensive computer facilities, including the state-of-the-art Maxwell Dworkin building
- Computer terminals available for all students
- Harvard-Smithsonian Astronomical Observatory
- The Harvard Forest

Admissions and Financial Aid

- ◆ Admission to Harvard is based on achievement and promise without regard to financial need; applying for financial aid does not jeopardize a student’s chances of admission. Indeed, the Admissions Committee may respond favorably to evidence that a candidate has overcome significant obstacles, financial or otherwise.
- ◆ Financial aid at Harvard is entirely **need based**. Harvard fully supports every student who qualifies for financial aid, based on the family’s ability to pay. Harvard meets the full need of all students applying for financial aid for all four years, based on the information the Financial Aid Office receives from the family for each year.

A Brief Profile of the Class of 2013

Applicants.....	29,114	Men.....	50%	Public school graduates...	69%
Admitted.....	2,175	Women.....	50%	Private/parochial school graduates.....	31%
International.....	12%	African American.....	10%		
Middle Atlantic.....	24%	Asian American.....	19%		
Midwest.....	11%	Mexican American, Puerto Rican and Other Hispanic.....	9%		
New England.....	17%	Native American.....	1%		
Pacific.....	20%				
South.....	16%				

Components of an Average Financial Aid Package 2008-2009

Harvard & other scholarships.....	73%
Job or loan.....	4%
Student assets & summer work.....	4%
Parents’ contribution.....	19%

Parent Income for Harvard scholarship holders 2008-2009

<i>Income Range</i>	<i># of students</i>	<i>Income Range</i>	<i># of students</i>
1-10,000.....	118	90,001-100,000.....	239
10,001-20,000....	157	100,001-110,000....	185
20,001-30,000....	191	110,001-120,000....	167
30,001-40,000....	211	120,001-130,000 ...	169
40,001-50,000....	206	130,001-140,000....	182
50,001-60,000....	285	140,001-150,000....	154
60,001-70,000....	189	150,001-160,000....	164
70,001-80,000....	260	160,001-170,000....	140
80,001-90,000....	174	170,001-180,000....	129
		180,001+.....	531