

GETTING STARTED

Welcome Class of 2021!



Congratulations on your admission to Harvard! We look forward to talking and corresponding with you, and hope we will have the honor of greeting you in August and introducing you to the exciting first-year traditions at Harvard.

The Freshman Dean's Office (FDO) is responsible for the well-being of students in their first year at the College. I work closely with four Resident Deans who have special responsibilities in academic and co-curricular affairs. With the support of 70 resident Proctors, the deans advise students in four designated dorm clusters—Crimson, Elm, Ivy, and Oak Yards. The FDO also coordinates orientation (Opening Days) and pre-orientation programs. All staff welcome the opportunity to discuss your questions and concerns, academic or personal.

Helpful information for the Class of 2021 can be found on the FDO website: fdo.fas.harvard.edu. Staff members are also available between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday to Friday (Eastern Time) at (617) 495-1574 or fdo@fas.harvard.edu. If we don't know the answers to your questions, we will work hard to find out who does.

Please carefully review the important deadlines for the Class of 2021 that you and your family need to meet.

May the remainder of your final year of high school be satisfying and productive.

With all good wishes,
Thomas A. Dingman
Dean of Freshmen



SUMMER COMMUNICATIONS

All students can expect to receive mailings—both electronic and hard copy—from College offices over the summer. You should establish an @college email by the stated deadline and be responsible for checking it daily. You will receive a comprehensive **Guide to the First Year at Harvard for Students and Their Families** as well as the **Freshman Seminar Catalogue** in June.

Important deadlines for the Class of 2021

Checklist for May to August

Please complete the following tasks by the stated deadline. Items marked with **!** are required.

May

! **May 01:** Reply to Admission Offer (college.harvard.edu/reply)

! **May 01:** Memorize Harvard University ID Number

Consider this to be private, personal information, and commit to memory. The HUID number can be accessed on the admitted students website.

May 01: Register with the Accessible Education Office (aeo.fas.harvard.edu)

Students seeking residential and/or academic accommodations due to documented medical, mental health, ADHD, and/or learning disabilities must submit clinical documentation. AEO will review requests and make reasonable accommodation recommendations to the FDO. Requests submitted after the deadline may result in service delays.

May 10: Register for one or more Pre-Orientation Programs (if desired) (fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/pre-orientation)

See the Pre-Orientation at Harvard insert for more information.

! **May 12:** Claim HarvardKey (key.harvard.edu)

The HarvardKey allows you to access protected campus websites (e.g. to pay your bill, check grades, upload ID photo, submit housing questionnaire). The HarvardKey confirmation code will be emailed to the address you have on file with Admissions, which you can update in the applicant status portal (<https://apply.college.harvard.edu/status>).

! **May 12:** Establish @College Email Address

When claiming your HarvardKey, you will simultaneously be invited to establish your @college.harvard.edu email address, which will be the official address at which Harvard will contact you. @college addresses are Google-based and accessed at gmail.com.

May 15: Return Foreign Student Visa Survey (if applicable)

The Admissions Office will contact non-United States citizens/permanent residents by email in mid-April with instructions.

! **May 15:** Update Address and Parent Contact Information (my.harvard.edu)

Ensure College records are updated and verify your address for summer mailings. Visit the "Personal Information" tab in my.harvard.

! **May 26:** Upload Photo for Harvard ID Card (www.campusservicecenter.harvard.edu/photo-submission)

Submit a photo that meets passport specifications and Harvard size restrictions. Students who recently received a Harvard ID card (e.g. at Harvard Summer School) are not required to upload new photo.

! **May 26:** Complete Housing Questionnaire (available May 01; fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/deadlines)

Incoming students must review information about Yard and dorm life (fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/freshman-dorms) before completing the housing questionnaire. FDO senior staff members use information provided on this form to match roommate and entry groups. Please describe yourself, your habits, and your preferences frankly and completely. Harvard cannot honor requests for particular dorms, type of room, or roommates, though staff try to respect preferences for rooming group size whenever possible. Housing and roommate assignments are emailed the first week of August.

■ □ **May 26:** Complete Advising Questionnaire

(available May 01; fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/deadlines)

Every first-year student is assigned a team of advisers (Resident Dean of Freshmen, Proctor, Freshman Academic Adviser, and Peer Advising Fellow). On the advising questionnaire, students note their academic interests, challenges they suspect they may encounter in transitioning to college, and post-graduate educational or career plans they may be considering. Using these responses, the Advising Programs Office (APO) will assign students a Freshman Academic Adviser and PAF, and notification of each will be mid-August. Students' questionnaire information is available to members of the advising team.

□ **May 26:** Submit Family Introduction to the FDO

Join a time-honored tradition: families introduce your son or daughter to the Freshman Dean's Office staff. Introductions help staff set the stage for a successful transition to Harvard. And while they may address academic background, also helpful are experiences that have shaped the student's personality outside the classroom (e.g. frequent family moves, recent divorce or remarriage, serious illness or recent death), knowing how a student responds to new situations (adapting quickly or needing time to settle), medical concerns, inclination to seek help from adults, and reaction to challenges.

Introductions received by the deadline will aid in the rooming process, but are welcome any time during the summer. One letter may be submitted per student with a suggested length of one to two pages. Families may choose to leave instead a voicemail of up to four minutes.

Email: fdo@fas.harvard.edu

Writing: 6 Prescott Street; Cambridge, MA; 02138

Voicemail: 617-870-3729

Fax: 617-496-1624

■ □ **May 26:** Submit Photo and Bioform for the Harvard Freshman Register

(harvardyearbook.com/fr-info.html)

The Harvard Freshman Register is a hardbound yearbook published each August containing the photos, hometowns, and secondary schools of all incoming freshmen. This is the only tangible historical record that captures your entry to Harvard—copies are available for purchase and each edition is entered into the Harvard Archives. Do not miss this chance to be a part of Harvard history.

■ □ **May 26:** Submit Freshman Family Information Form to Alumni Records Office

(available April 03, fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/deadlines)

Provide key family information to the Alumni Records Office to ensure you and your parents receive important updates and mailings from local alumni groups and the Harvard Alumni Association.

June

□ **Early June:** Complete required online Mathematics and Writing Placement Exams

(placement-info.fas.harvard.edu)

□ **Mid-June:** Complete optional (but highly encouraged) online Biology, Chemistry, French, and Spanish Placement Exams

Exams provide course level recommendations. Any student interested in studying the life or physical sciences, or in medical school should take both biology and chemistry. It is also recommended that students take the placement exam in any language with which they have prior experience. In addition to the online exams above, additional language and music placement exams will be offered on campus during Opening Days.

■ □ **June 15:** Submit Immunizations History to Harvard University Health Services (HUHS)

(huhs.harvard.edu/forms)

Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) provides comprehensive health care to all enrolled students, who should review services and resources offered (huhs.harvard.edu/services).

Compliance with Massachusetts immunization regulations is a requirement of all enrolled students, who should review the list of required immunizations, receive any missing, and how to submit forms.



July

☐ ☐ July 01: Submit Final Transcript and Report

☐ ☐ July 15: Contact the College Board and Request Complete Advanced Placement Score Report

Use school code 3434. AP score reports include all scores, which Harvard uses to provide course placement recommendations.

☐ ☐ July 31: Evaluate the Student Health Insurance Plan and Decide Whether to Waive (hushp.harvard.edu/waive)

The Harvard University Student Health Program is comprised of the Student Health Fee (required of all undergraduates and guarantees access to most medical services) and the Student Health Insurance Plan. Since Massachusetts requires all enrolled students to have health insurance, undergraduates are automatically enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Program, which may be waived if another form of insurance offers the same or comparable coverage. Students and families should review coverage and, if applicable, waive the Harvard insurance. Waivers are not automatically renewed and must be completed either each term or academic year. Dental insurance is available; enrollment and renewal are not automatic.

August

☐ August 01: Select and Purchase a Personal Computer (huit.harvard.edu/personal-purchases).

Harvard offers educational discounts on select types of computer hardware and software. Anti-virus software (go.eset.com/us/Harvard) and security information are also available (security.harvard.edu).

☐ August 01: Complete NCAA Eligibility Center Registration (ncaaeligibilitycenter.org, if applicable)

Verification of eligibility takes at least two weeks after NCAA receives documentation; therefore registration prior to attending Harvard is imperative. Required only for freshmen wishing to compete on a varsity or junior varsity intercollegiate team. Those wishing to compete for men's crew, women's rugby, men's and women's squash, and men's and women's sailing do not need to register with the NCAA.

☐ ☐ August 15: Pay Fall Charges (sfs.harvard.edu/student-accounts)

A link to your student account will be sent to your Harvard email address in mid-July. Parents and others may view the account and pay charges if established as delegates.

☐ ☐ August 22: Move-in Day for the Class of 2021

Most freshmen will move in on August 22; those participating in pre-orientation will arrive on the date specified by the program. All students must be in residence by 3:00 pm; required orientation activities for students begin at 7:00 pm. Move-in instructions will be emailed in late July, and programming will be offered for families during the day. Families should depart in the evening.

☐ August 31: Complete Athletic Interest Form (athletics.harvard.edu/prefrosh, if desired)

For students who wish to contact varsity coaches and discuss athletic interests.

Parents and Families, mark your calendars for Freshman Family Weekend, held October 27 and 28, 2017.