

GETTING STARTED

Dear Class of 2023,



On behalf of the Dean of Students Office, I am delighted to offer my congratulations on your admission to Harvard College! We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to campus. Our vibrant campus will be the place you call home for the next four years, but more importantly we hope it will be the place where you feel at home. Harvard College is a community where you will not only achieve academic success but will grow as a person as you learn about yourself, learn about others, and explore who you are in the world.

As you begin to think about this important next chapter in your life, I'm writing to provide some useful information about our office and various resources that will help guide you over the coming months. Within the Dean of Students Office (DSO) the First Year Experience (FYE) office supports students in their first year at Harvard College and serves as your main point of contact for any issues, questions or concerns you may have. The Office of Student Engagement works closely with the FYE to coordinate important events such as orientation (Opening Days) as well as all pre-orientation programs.

Lastly, enclosed is a listing of important deadlines to note. Please review this information carefully, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions at 617-495-1574. Please also take a moment to visit the DSO website, where you will find additional useful information and contacts at dso.college.harvard.edu.

Congratulations again, and I wish you a wonderful spring and summer. We cannot wait for you to join the Harvard College community and to begin your journey with us next fall!

Warm regards,

Katie O'Dair
Dean of Students

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 2023

Checklist for May to August

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

May

- !** **May 1:** Reply to Admission Offer (college.harvard.edu/reply)
- !** **May 1:** Memorize Harvard University ID Number
Consider this to be private, personal information, and commit it to memory. The HUID number can be accessed on the admitted students website.
- May 1:** Register with the Accessible Education Office (aeo.fas.harvard.edu)
Students seeking residential and/or academic accommodations due to a documented disability must submit appropriate clinical documentation directly to the AEO, which will review requests, schedule appointments with students to discuss options for reasonable accommodations, and notify the FYE. Requests submitted after the deadline can result in service delays.
- !** **May 1:** Activate HarvardKey, Two-Step Verification, and @College Email
Claim your HarvardKey (key.harvard.edu) and activate two-step verification (huit.harvard.edu/twostep) to access protected Harvard online resources and applications (e.g. to pay your bill, upload ID photo, submit housing questionnaire). In addition, be sure to establish your @college email account, which will be the official address that Harvard will use to contact you (visit huit.harvard.edu and select *Get Started* and *Students*).
- May 6:** 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 10:** Register for One or More Pre-Orientation Programs (if desired) (firstyear.college.harvard.edu/pre-orientation)
See the Pre-Orientation at Harvard insert for more information.
- !** **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.edu.
- !** **May 15:** Submit Family Information Form (my.harvard.edu)
Provide key family information to ensure you and your parents receive important updates and mailings from the Office of Parent and Family Programs as well as the Harvard College Fund Parent Engagement Programs Office.
- !** **May 24:** Upload Photo for Harvard ID Card (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 a new photo.
- !** **May 24:** Complete Housing Questionnaire (available May 1; firstyear.college.harvard.edu/deadlines)
The Resident Deans of First-Year Students (RDFs) 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 RDFs try to respect preferences for rooming group size whenever possible. Housing and roommate assignments are emailed the first week of August.

■ □ May 24: Complete Advising Questionnaire
(available May 1; firstyear.college.harvard.edu/deadlines)

Every first-year student is assigned a team of advisers (Resident Dean of First-Year Students, Proctor, First-Year 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 First-Year Academic Adviser and Peer Advising Fellow, and notification of each will be sent mid-August. Students' questionnaire information is available to members of the advising team.

□ May 24: Submit Family Introduction to the FYE

Families may introduce the student to the First-Year Experience Office staff and help set the stage for a successful transition to Harvard. While letters 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, medical concerns, inclination to seek help from adults, and reaction to challenges.

Introductions are not limited to parents; another family member (sibling, aunt, uncle, or grandparent) or trusted adviser (teacher, coach, or religious leader) may write to the FYE. One letter may be submitted per student, with a suggested length of one to two pages. If writing is not convenient, families may instead leave a voicemail of up to four minutes. Letters received by the deadline will aid in the rooming process, but are welcome any time over the summer.

Email: firstyear@fas.harvard.edu
Mail: First-Year Experience Office; 6 Prescott Street; Cambridge, MA 02138
Fax: 617-496-1624
Voicemail: 617-870-3729

■ □ May 24: Submit Photo and Bioform for the Harvard Register
(harvardyearbook.com/firstyears)

The Harvard Register is a hardbound yearbook published each August containing the photos, hometowns, and secondary schools of all incoming first-year students. 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.



June

■ □ Early June: Complete Required Online Mathematics and Writing Placement Exams
(placement-info.fas.harvard.edu)

Watch your @college email for notification of your assigned exam window.

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

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 14: Submit Immunizations History to Harvard University Health Services (HUHS)
(huhs.harvard.edu/immunizations)

Massachusetts requires enrolled students to submit forms proving immunizations. Students should review the list of required immunizations, receive any missing ones, and submit their immunization history to HUHS. Non-submission and/or missing any of the required immunizations will place a hold on your account, and you will not be able to register for classes in August.

July

📅 July 1: Submit Final School Report and Transcript

Ask your high school to submit the form and transcript through the Common or Universal Application, or by mail.

📅 July 15: Request Complete Advanced Placement Score Report (collegeboard.org, if applicable)

Contact the College Board to request an AP score report that includes all scores, using school code 3434. Harvard uses AP scores to provide course placement recommendations.

📅 July 31: Evaluate the Student Health Insurance Plan and Decide Whether to Waive (available May 1, 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 including internal medicine and specialty care) and the Student Health Insurance Plan (provides major medical coverage throughout the United States and abroad). Since Massachusetts requires all enrolled students to have health insurance, undergraduates are automatically enrolled in and charged for 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 1: Select and Purchase a Personal Computer (huit.harvard.edu/personal-purchases).

If you are considering a computer or software purchase, Harvard offers educational discounts on select computer hardware and software. Microsoft Office (mso.harvard.edu) and anti-virus software (go.eset.com/us/Harvard) are available to students free of charge, along with other software (downloads.fas.harvard.edu).

📅 August 1: Complete NCAA Eligibility Center Registration (ncaaeligibilitycenter.org, if applicable)

Verification of eligibility takes at least two weeks after the 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, 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 27: Move-in Day for the Class of 2023

Most first-year students will move in on August 27; 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 First-Year Family Weekend, held November 1 and 2, 2019.