

Selected Dates, Deadlines, and Policies from the Harvard College *Student Handbook*

Refer to handbook.college.harvard.edu for a complete description of policies governing student behavior and academic progress. The Allston Burr Resident Dean (ABRD) is your primary resource for understanding these policies.

Selected dates and deadlines, 2025-2026

Fall semester

Sept 2: Check-in deadline on my.harvard

Sept 2: First day of classes

Sept 9: Open add/drop deadline

Sept 22: Last day to add/drop without a fee

Oct 6: Last day to add or drop a course with \$10 fee

Oct 10: Last day for sophomores to declare concentration

Nov 5-19: Spring term course registration

Nov 17: Last day to withdraw from a course or change grading status

Dec 4: First day of reading period; the last day that a student can take a leave of absence for fall semester

Dec 10-19: Final exam period

Spring semester

Jan 16-25: Wintersession

Jan 26: Check-in deadline on my.harvard

Jan 26: First day of classes

Feb 2: Open add/drop deadline

Feb 9: Last day to add/drop without a fee

Feb 23: Last day to add or drop a course with \$10 fee

April 1: Last day for May 2026 graduates to apply for their degree, change concentration, and submit request for a secondary field or a language citation

April 1-15: Fall term course registration

April 6: Last day to withdraw from a course or change grading status

April 30: First day of reading period; the last day that a student can take a leave of absence for spring semester

May 7-16: Final exam period

Requirements for the degree

See advising.college.harvard.edu for degree requirements. Your academic advising report within my.harvard helps track your progress in meeting the following requirements:

- Eight semesters and 128 credits
- Expos 20, taken during the first year
- Language requirement
- Quantitative Reasoning with Data (QRD) requirement
- Gen Ed and divisional distribution requirements
- Concentration requirements

Other academic opportunities include joint or double concentrations, concurrent master's degrees, language citations, secondary fields, research, study abroad during the semester or a summer, and fellowships.

Final exam period

Instructors cannot grant extensions on written work beyond the end of final exam period without Ad Board permission, nor can they change the date of a final exam administered by the Registrar. Missing a final exam is equivalent to failing the course.

If an exam conflicts with a religious obligation, contact the Registrar's office at least thirty days before the final exam period to make alternate arrangements.

Academic integrity

As indicated in the Honor Code, students are expected to complete their work with integrity, which includes, among other requirements: submitting their own work, properly citing sources, not submitting the same work for more than one course, and abiding by the collaboration policies set by each course. What is appropriate in one course may not be appropriate in another, so it is important to clarify exactly what is allowed in each course. When in doubt, contact the instructor or your ABRD.

Instructors concerned about a potential breach of academic integrity are required to contact the Honor Council, which asks the student to explain the matter and may impose disciplinary sanctions, up to a requirement to withdraw. Your ABRD is available to provide advice and support if you are asked to meet with the Honor Council.

Academic performance

Engaging with your instructors and seeking out mentors is important so that you can make the most of your time here. Harvard wants every student to thrive academically and also has minimum academic requirements.

- A course grade below C- is considered unsatisfactory and ordinarily leads to academic probation. Two semesters in a row with an unsatisfactory grade ordinarily results in a

requirement to withdraw for two semesters.

- A student with a failing course grade and any additional unsatisfactory grade in the same semester has failed to meet minimum requirements and is ordinarily required to withdraw for two semesters.

After being required to withdraw, students can petition the Ad Board to be readmitted if they have spent the necessary time away and have worked full-time for six months in the same paid position. A second requirement to withdraw is ordinarily considered final.

Instructors may notify an ABRD if a student is on track for an unsatisfactory grade. Ultimately, however, students are responsible for monitoring their progress. If you have concerns about your performance, contact your instructors and the Academic Resource Center.

Leaves of absence

Students are ordinarily allowed to complete only eight semesters at Harvard. (Students who do not finish requirements in eight semesters may do so in Harvard Summer School.) Students may take a leave of absence to pursue outside opportunities (such as travel or internships) or to address any challenges preventing them from making the most of their time as a student. Contact your ABRD to discuss and learn about the easy steps you need to take.

For leaves taken during the semester, room and board charges are pro-rated; tuition is charged incrementally:

- 1/4 if taken after Sept 10 (fall) or Jan 31 (spring)
- 1/2 if taken after Oct 8 (fall) or March 4 (spring)
- 3/4 if taken after Nov 5 (fall) or April 1 (spring)

The Administrative Board

The Administrative Board of Harvard College enforces the policies that are established by the Faculty and found in the *Student Handbook*. The Ad Board's work includes:

- Considering requests related to courses, including exceptions to deadlines for add/drop and withdrawal;
- Considering requests for extensions of time for written work beyond the end of the term, for a make-up exam, or for an exam taken *in absentia* or on a different day;
- Reviewing unsatisfactory records to place students on probation or require them to withdraw; and
- Approving leaves of absence and requests to return from a requirement to withdraw or a leave of absence.

When considering a request, the Ad Board considers the circumstances presented in the student's written statement and any supporting documentation. Contact your ABRD for more information or to make a petition.

Classroom Social Compact

The classroom is at the center of a Harvard College education, and students are expected to prioritize their coursework. Students should expect to encounter arguments and ideas in the classroom that may challenge their own views. Students may not post comments made in class by fellow students on any social media. Being away from class for more than two weeks may result in students being placed on a leave of absence.

Resources and support

ABRD: Your Allston Burr Resident Dean is available to

- provide academic advice;
- to offer support and guidance during times of difficulty, whether those be academic, health-related, or personal;
- to serve as a bridge between you and resources throughout the College and University.
- Charles (Chip) Lockwood is ABRD of Adams and can be reached at adamshousedean@fas.harvard.edu. You can also reach out to Amber Kuzmick, our Adams Academic Coordinator, at adams_coordinator@fas.harvard.edu for questions about routine academic matters.

DAO: The Disability Access Office seeks to ensure inclusion and access by providing support and accommodations to students dealing with a short- or long-term disability that interferes with life as a student.

ARC: The Academic Resource Center provides academic coaching, workshops, accountability hours, and peer tutoring to help students learn and grow at Harvard.

Peer Counselors: Contact, ECHO, Indigo, RESPONSE, and Room 13 can help identify and address challenges.

HUHS and CAMHS: Harvard University Health Services and Counseling and Mental Health Services help students treat and manage a wide range of health concerns.

SHARE: The SHARE team (24/7 hotline: 617-495-9100) supports students who have experienced sexual violence or gender-based harassment by connecting you with health-related resources and support throughout the complaint process if you wish to file a complaint.

Chaplains: Individuals from a diverse array of faith traditions who are available to consult on matters affecting the spiritual, ethical, or religious lives of students.

HUPD: The Harvard University Police Department uses community-based policing to keep the campus safe.

Additional resources include your instructors, concentration advisors, sophomore mentor, resident and non-resident tutors, our Faculty Deans, and our House Administrator. We are all here to help you make the most of the transformative experience that the College offers.