Oldest institution of higher learning in the U.S. and widely considered one of the most prestigious. Founded in 1636 in Cambridge, Mass., it was named Harvard College for a Puritan minister, John Harvard , who bequeathed to the school his books and half of his estate. It became a university with the establishment of the medical school in 1782. Following the American Civil War, President Charles W. Eliot's transformed the college into a modern research university

The number of students is 21000. Harvard has faculties of Medicine, Divinity, Law, Arts and Sciences, Business, Extension, Design, Education, Public Health, Government, Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Harvard has educated eight , U.S. presidents, including George Bush Junior and Barak Obama, dozens of major literary and intellectual figures, and numerous Nobel laureates. Harvard is also the alma mater of sixty-two living billionaires, the most in the country.

Among its affiliated research institutes are the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and the Fogg Art Museum. Its Widener Library is one of the largest and most important libraries in the world.