General & Handbook Questions

# Financial Aid

1. Does financial aid cover me if I petition for an extra semester to meet A.B. or S.B. requirements?
   1. On page 29 of the Handbook, it says. “Ordinarily, students in an additional term are not eligible for College housing or financial aid.” Since it does not mention transfer students, I am not sure if this applies to me.
2. From what I understand from the financial aid letter, 100% of billed university expenses are covered. Is this correct?
3. According to page 102 of the Handbook, scholarships may be used to cover the term-time work expectation. Is it possible to also cover the expectation with an external job (e.g., salary from a summer job)?
4. Do I have to pay tuition during a Leave of Absence if I petition for it before the term starts? If so, is it covered by my financial aid package? (Handbook p. 46)
5. Is there some sort of guarantee that the same level of aid will be maintained until I graduate if my family’s circumstance does not change substantially? If so, for how many terms would this apply?
6. Is financial aid available for the Harvard Summer School?

# Health Insurance

1. I understand that according to Massachusetts regulations, I am not allowed to waive Harvard’s health insurance (Handbook p.91), but am I allowed to purchase additional insurance from another provider on top of the HUSHP. Is this correct?
   1. Additionally, is vision insurance covered under the HUSHP?
2. Is there a website or document I could read containing more information about the copay costs associated with the HUSHP?
3. Does the health insurance fee in my financial aid documents include the HUSHP dental coverage add-on (Handbook p. 92) or would I have to pay that separately?
4. Am I required to get a fourth COVID shot (second booster) before arriving on campus?
   1. If so, that might pose a problem since I got my first booster a couple of weeks ago and, to my understanding, one needs to wait a couple of months before being able to get another booster shot.

# Credit Transfer

1. Would it be possible to get a transfer credit assessment before June 1st?
2. Do the classes that transfer still hold a letter grade or will they be deemed “Satisfactory”, essentially resetting my GPA?
3. Below are two sections of the Handbook touching on petitioning for a transfer term. Do they mean that I can petition for an “additional term” **plus** an “extra transfer term” or that I can overall just petition for one more term besides the 6 allotted terms (3 years)?
   1. “[...] transfer students may petition the Administrative Board for an “extra transfer term” in addition to the allotted number of terms they were granted on admission.” (Handbook p.19)
   2. “Under no circumstances will the Administrative Board grant a student permission for more than one additional term.” (Handbook p. 29)

# Housing

1. By when would I be assigned a House?

# Academic Advice & Questions

1. Is there an academic advisor I can speak with to familiarize myself with the available resources to help me choose my major and classes for next semester, and ideate a 4-year plan?
   1. I did find the Student Handbook and Fields of Concentration book, but perhaps there is a more “big picture” resource that can highlight the important required components of a 4-year plan at Harvard.
2. Will I be able to participate in a Freshman Seminar (Handbook p. 22)?
3. Do I have to pay extra tuition if I take cross-registered courses at MIT or HBS? Is that extra tuition covered by my scholarship?
4. Who should I talk to before choosing between Honors and non-Honors programs?
5. Do I have to take Harvard’s [Math Placement Test](https://summer.harvard.edu/adult-college-students/course-registration/math-placement-test/), and if so, when? Would I be able to skip linear algebra (S-21B) or multivariable calculus (S-21A) if I self-teach it over the summer?
6. Where could I get more information about language citations (including recommendations on whether that is something I should do as a transfer student)? (Handbook p.18)
7. Where could I get more information about studying abroad (including recommendations on whether that is something I should do as a transfer student)? (Handbook p.17)
8. Is attendance mandatory for all courses?
9. Does the CS or Math department have a “proof-writing requirement” for classes that require proofs? If so, could I waive that requirement by presenting the syllabus and work produced for RICE:COMP182 “Algorithmic Thinking”?
10. Would I be eligible to take Harvard College summer courses this Summer and would I be accepted credit from Rice’s Summer courses for Summer 2022?

# General Requirements

1. **Double counting:** Can a class count towards multiple general requirements? For example, could my “First-Year Writing Seminar: Dilemmas of Society” satisfy the writing and the humanities distribution requirement at the same time?
2. **Language study:**
   1. My high school in Argentina (Escuela Técnica ORT Belgrano) followed the Argentinian National Curriculum. Because of this, every class except “English” was taught in Spanish. Does that satisfy the College’s language requirement or would I have to take a second Chinese class to satisfy the requirement?
      1. “If you attended a high school outside of the United States where the primary language of instruction was not English, this may also satisfy our language requirement.”
   2. Alternatively, would it be enough to present proof of an 800 score on the Spanish SAT Subject Test? (Handbook p. 14)
3. **Distribution requirements:**
   1. **Arts and Humanities:** Does RICE:FWIS148 satisfy this requirement?
   2. **Social Sciences:** Does RICE:ECON100 satisfy this requirement?
   3. **Science and Engineering and Applied Sciences:** Does RICE:COMP182 satisfy this requirement?
4. **Writing requirement:**
   1. Could RICE:FWIS148 “First-Year Writing Seminar: Dilemmas of Society” satisfy this requirement? I reviewed [this webpage](https://writingprogram.fas.harvard.edu/expos-20) describing the structure and deliverables of “Expository Writing 20”, and FWIS had a very similar structure. Would the collection of all my graded papers (around 20 pages excluding sources and cover) from the class be an acceptable submission for review by the Harvard College Writing Program? (Handbook p. 14)
      1. My FWIS professor, Asa Stahl, is the one that wrote one of my recommendation letters.
      2. I do have to note that my first two papers do not have the same quality as the last one. I improved my writing and revision skills throughout the semester so my last paper is the most representative of my current writing skills.