

= Harvard Extension School =

Harvard University Extension School , in Cambridge , Massachusetts , is one of the twelve degree @-@ granting schools of Harvard University , offering graduate and undergraduate liberal arts @-@ based degree programs as well as professional and continuing education in 60 fields . Approximately 150 bachelor 's and 550 master 's degrees are awarded each year .

The school also has a long history of offering professional and distance education , and provides a variety of amenities and opportunities to students and degree earning alumni . Since its establishment in 1910 , it is estimated that 500 @,@ 000 students have taken a course at the Extension School . The majority of these students are not degree seekers but take one of the 715 on @-@ campus and distance @-@ learning based courses offered for professional development or personal enrichment . Such students are not granted the same privileges as degree @-@ seeking students .

= = History = =

Founded in 1910 by President A. Lawrence Lowell , the Harvard Extension School grew out of the Lowell Institute , which was created according to the terms of a bequest by John Lowell , Jr . It was designed to serve the educational interests and needs of the greater Boston community , particularly those " who had the ability and desire to attend college , but also had other obligations that kept them from traditional schools . " It has since extended its " academic resources to the public , locally , nationally , and internationally . "

During the 1920s professors from Boston and Harvard Universities left the confines of their campuses and traveled to teach courses offsite . While they were primarily aimed at teachers , courses were offered wherever 40 or more students expressed an interest . Professors traveled on a weekly basis to places around New England and as far away as Yonkers , New York , some 200 miles away .

Despite falling revenue due to the Great Depression , A. Lawrence Lowell insisted in 1931 that the bequest from John Lowell prevented courses from costing more than two bushels of wheat . As a result , a half @-@ year course cost could no more than \$ 5 , and a full course no more than \$ 10 . Some courses cost as little as \$ 2 @.@ 50 .

University Extension courses were to be taught by " the most experienced teachers that can be secured " who all received " excellent pay . " In the early years courses were run by a commission composed of several Boston area schools , though it was largely a Harvard @-@ run program . In 1938 there were 28 professors from Commission faculties , including 11 full professors . Early faculty included Charles Townsend Copeland , William Yandell Elliot , William Langer , Oscar Handlin , Perry Miller , John Kenneth Galbraith , and Frank M. Carpenter . In 1953 there was a similar number of professors .

In his will , John Lowell asked his successors to set up courses " more erudite and particular corresponding to the age and wants of the age . " By the 50th anniversary of the University Extension in 1960 , more than 1 @,@ 400 courses had been offered and there had been more than 85 @,@ 000 enrollments . While the vast majority of classes were held on the Harvard campus , a few in the late 1960s were offered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University , as well as at the Old South Meeting House . At this time non @-@ credit courses cost between \$ 15 and \$ 25 , and courses for credit cost between \$ 20 and \$ 35 .

After 100 years , an estimated 500 @,@ 000 students have taken courses at the Extension School . While there has never been an entrance exam and fees were kept as low as possible to allow as many as possible to enroll , only .18 % have ever earned a degree . Including certificate earners , 2 @.@ 5 % have graduated . Today more degrees are awarded each year than were awarded in the first 50 years combined .

Several years after retiring , President Lowell wrote that the Extension courses " have given a service to the public ... which seems to me of the utmost importance . " In 2013 , more than 100 years after its founding , the Extension School 's classes were described as " surprisingly affordable

" and the school itself was said to be a " thriving institution . "

= = = Degree development = = =

Harvard University currently offers two degrees in Extension Studies , the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and the Master of Liberal Arts ( ALM ) . From 1911 to 1933 , the university offered an Associate in Arts , and from 1933 to 1960 they offered an Adjunct in Arts . Both were considered the equivalent of a bachelor 's degree . From 1971 to 2014 , the University offered an Associate of Arts in Extension Studies ( AA ) , the equivalent of a two @-@ year degree . A Master 's in Liberal Arts was added in 1979 .

A proposal before the Faculty of Arts and Science in 2009 and 2010 to rename the school and the degrees offered was not accepted . A committee , led by Professor of Computer Science Harry R. Lewis , proposed renaming the school the " Harvard School of Continuing and Professional Studies , " and to drop the words " in Extension Studies " from degrees , so that the School would offer Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees . Some faculty objected , saying that those degrees were already offered by the College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences .

In 2016 , a student group calling itself the Harvard Extension Degree Change Initiative rallied in front of University Hall to call for removing ? Extension Studies ? from the degree name and adding a student 's concentration instead . The Harvard Crimson editorialized in favor saying that they " urge [ d ] Harvard to consider changing the title of Extension School degrees to include the field of study rather than the ambiguous ' Extension Studies . ' "

In 2014 , Harvard University conferred four certificates on behalf of the Extension School , as well as the following academic degrees : five Associate in the Arts , 152 Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies , and 539 Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies .

= = = Deans = = =

There have been six deans in the School 's history :

James Hardy Ropes , Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses , Dean of University Extension , 1910 ? 1922

Arthur F. Whittem , Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses , Director of University Extension , 1922 ? 1946

George W. Adams , Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses , Director of University Extension , 1946 ? 1949

Reginald H. Phelps , Chairman of Commission on Extension Courses , Director of University Extension , 1949 ? 1975

Michael Shinagel , Director of Continuing Education and University Extension , 1975 ? 1977 , and Dean of Continuing Education and University Extension , 1977 ? 2013

Huntington D. Lambert , Dean of Continuing Education and University Extension , 2013 ? present

= = = Academics = = =

As a part of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences , the Harvard Extension School offers more than six @-@ hundred on @-@ campus and online courses . Students take courses with Harvard professors , including Nobel laureates , as well as faculty from Boston @-@ area universities , business professionals , and community leaders in various fields .

Most of the courses at the Extension School are " virtually identical " to courses offered to the traditional students at Harvard College , with " the only significant difference " being that the classes are taught at night instead of during the day . This has remained constant over time , as Ropes , the first dean , said that " our aim will be to give the young people of Boston who have heretofore been prevented from securing a college education the same instruction they would receive were they undergraduates at Harvard . " In 1953 , it was said that the " format of the classes is exactly the same . "

Many daytime Harvard College courses are videotaped , and offered to Extension students online . Extension degree candidates who meet required criteria may also apply for " Special Student status " in order to take classes that are offered only to Harvard College students . Students may enroll full or part @-@ time , and classes may be taken on campus , via distance @-@ learning , or both . In order to earn an academic degree , students must complete a minimum number of on @-@ campus @-@ only credits at Harvard .

Non @-@ degree seeking students have access to resources through Harvard 's Grossman Library , electronic resources through the Harvard Libraries Portal and select computer facilities . A professor at both the Extension School and Harvard College has opined that the open enrollment system " ' give [ s ] a lot ' to the institution by permitting an atmosphere of valuable diversity that does not exist at any of Harvard 's other schools . "

= = = Accreditation and partnerships = = =

Harvard Extension School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges as one of the twelve degree @-@ granting schools of Harvard University .

The Extension School and Harvard Business School have together created the the HBX Credential of Readiness ( CORE ) program . Having begun in 2014 , This program allows undergraduate students at the Extension School to take courses with Business School professors for credit . Students at other institutions may be able to take the courses for transfer credit as well .

The graduate program in Museum Studies has also developed a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution . The new courses include two active learning weekends in Washington , D.C.

= = = Pre @-@ medical program = = =

A pre @-@ med program was established at the Extension School in 1980 . Two years later , in 1982 , five students applied to medical school , and 3 were accepted at the University of Massachusetts , Tufts University , and New York University . Of the 19 students who applied to medical schools in 1985 , 15 were admitted , including two women to Harvard Medical School .

All 27 graduates who applied to medical school in 1989 were accepted , including three to Harvard Medical School and nine to the University of Massachusetts . Five years later , 90 % of students were accepted to medical school , including 5 to Harvard . Only one in three were accepted nationwide . The Health Careers Program has sponsored nearly 1 @,@ 000 students for admission to medical school since it was started in 1979 ? 80 , and more than 845 were accepted . This 85 % success rate far exceeds the national acceptance rate of 35 % .

Students who successfully complete the pre @-@ medical program are eligible for sponsorship through the program and a committee letter of support in their applications to medical school .

= = = Distance education = = =

= = = History = = =

Harvard Extension was a pioneer in distance education . Beginning on December 5 , 1949 , courses were offered on the Lowell Institute 's new radio station . New Englanders could go to college six nights a week at 7 : 30 in their living rooms simply by tuning into courses on psychology , world history , and economics . The first course on radio was by Peter A. Bertocci of Boston University . For 30 years he taught Extension courses , with never fewer than 100 students . He often taught over 300 students per course and once had over 400 . Over the years Bertocci had at least 7 @,@ 000 Extension students , " surely a record in the annals of Extension at Harvard . "

The radio courses proved to be so successful that when the television station WGBH went on the air in October 1951 they began broadcasting an Extension class every weekday at 3 : 30 and 7 : 30 . The first course , offered by Robert G. Albion , was on European Imperialism on Monday and

Thursday evenings . In the late 1960s , three of the televised courses were offered in the Deer Island Prison . Students who watched the courses on television could attend six " conferences " and take a mid @-@ term and a final exam at Harvard in order to gain credit for the class .

= = = = Modern = = = =

As of 2014 , distance @-@ learning courses at Harvard Extension School are offered in two formats : asynchronous video courses ( lectures are recorded and uploaded within 24 hours of on @-@ campus class meetings ) ; and live web @-@ conference courses ( courses are streamed live , and typically allow for synchronous participation from students via a secondary online platform ) .

= = = Awards and honors = = =

The Dean 's Prize for Outstanding Master of Liberal Arts thesis is awarded during commencement ceremonies , and includes a medal , a certificate , and a monetary award . It is awarded to a student whose graduate thesis " embodies the highest level of imaginative scholarship . " In addition to the Dean 's Prize for Outstanding ALM Thesis , there are several other academic prizes :

The Academy of American Poets is awarded to an ALB candidate or an undergraduate student at the college for the best poem or group of poems .

The Santo J. Aurelio Prize , named for Santo J. Aurelio , ALB ' 83 , ALM ' 85 , is awarded annually on the basis of " academic achievement and character . " It is normally given to Extension School undergraduate degree recipients who ? as did Mr. Aurelio ? complete their academic work with distinction after age 50 .

The Derek Bok Public Service Prizes are awards presented at Commencement . They consist of a cash prize along with a citation and a medal given to two graduating Extension School students . The award recognizes creative initiatives in community service or long @-@ standing records of civic achievement .

The Commencement Speaker Prize is awarded to either an ALB or ALM graduate who delivers the student Commencement speech at the Extension School diploma awarding ceremony .

The Annamae and Allan R. Crite prizes are awarded for a mother and son who are Extension School alumni . Annamae faithfully attended Extension courses for more than 50 years . Allan , who is widely recognized as the dean of African @-@ American artists in the Greater Boston area , received a bachelor 's degree in 1968 . The prize is awarded to Extension School degree recipients who demonstrate " singular dedication to learning and the arts " .

The Klein Family History Prize recognizes the thesis in the field of history that represents superior achievement in historical scholarship .

The Harold Langlois Award recognizes a Certificate of Special Studies graduate who has demonstrated exceptional academic accomplishment and promise as a manager . It was established in 2003 .

The Patrick Lee Award in Drama is an annual award given to the student who shows the best promise in the field of dramatic arts .

The Reginald H. Phelps Prize , named for the former dean , is awarded annually on the basis of " academic achievement and character " to outstanding graduating students receiving bachelor 's degrees .

The Emanuel and Lilly Shinagel prize , named in honor of Dean Michael Shinagel in honor of his parents , supports deserving and needy students in the Extension School 's Institute for English Language Programs . The prizes are awarded by the Institute for English Language . The Programs to outstanding students based on an essay writing contest .

The John Osborne Sargent Prize for a Latin Translation is offered for the best metrical translation [ students may choose meter ] of a lyric poem of Horace , to be selected each year by the Department of the Classics . In addition to ALB candidates , it is also open to undergraduates at the College and visiting undergraduate under the Faculty of Arts and Sciences .

The Thomas Small Prize is named for a Lithuanian immigrant who , at the age of 89 , became the

oldest earned graduate degree recipient in the history of Harvard University . Two prizes are awarded annually on the basis " academic achievement and character " to two outstanding Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies degree recipients .

The Judith Wood Memorial Prizes are awarded during Commencement Week to Harvard Extension School students who , while compiling honors academic records at the School , also contended with disabilities of a serious nature . It was established in honor of a blind Extension Student student who had cystic fibrosis and diabetes to recognize students who must travel a singularly difficult path to degree or certificate completion .

The Katie Y. F. Yang Prize Fund was established to promote East Asian culture , grant scholarships to exceptional students , and provide charitable assistance to those in need . Mrs. Yang was a leading Chinese opera singer under the stage name Fong Yim Fun . Her daughter , Simmone Yang , received her Certificate of Special Studies ( CSS ) from the Extension School . The purpose of the Prize is " to recognize the initiative , character , and outstanding academic achievement of foreign students graduating from the CSS Program " in the Extension School . The award is generally given to the foreign student with the highest academic standing in the CSS program .

= = Academic degrees = =

Extension offers open enrollment courses , but its degree programs are not " open admission " . Students are " presumed capable " but then must " prove that presumption with actual performance . " The " democratic admissions policy for its degree programs ... is based on proof that a student is capable of Harvard @-@ level work , giving degree and certificate candidates the chance to prove themselves . " The " most relevant predictor " of success for students is a students ' " ability to do honors @-@ level work at Harvard . "

ALB students may graduate with the Latin honors , cum laude , but magna- and summa- cum laude are not offered . ALM students may , upon graduation , be included in the ALM Dean 's list for Academic achievement , based on strict GPA requirements .

Students who wish to earn degrees must be formally admitted to the Extension School by the Admissions Committee . Admitted degree candidates are granted full privileges to Harvard 's libraries , facilities , student resources , as well as access to Harvard 's museums and academic workshops .

An Extension School professor asserts that undergraduate HES students " are brilliantly milking the cow of Harvard University , " as they " get a very similar experience and then have the Harvard name on [ their ] résumé . " A professor at both the Extension School and Harvard College has opined that the open enrolment system " ' give [ s ] a lot ' to the institution by permitting an atmosphere of valuable diversity that does not exist at any of Harvard 's other schools . "

= = = Bachelor of Liberal Arts = = =

Undergraduate degree programs are based upon the curriculum for Harvard College students ; degree requirements include expository writing , quantitative reasoning , foreign language , moral reasoning , writing @-@ intensive classes , and courses in the student 's area of concentration . The expository writing class is known as a " gatekeeper course " as it will typically " determine whether [ students ] are prepared for the intensive and demanding curriculum . "

Once admitted as an ALB degree candidate , students must successfully complete 128 credits ( Harvard courses are typically 4 credits each ) and maintain good academic standing ( 3 @. @ 0 GPA ) to meet graduation requirements . Upon admission into the ALB program , students may petition to transfer up to a maximum of 64 credits from other accredited post @-@ secondary institutions , but 64 credits must be completed at Harvard University ( Extension School , Summer School , or the Faculty of Arts and Sciences ) . Students must also select one of three ' areas of concentration ' including : Sciences ; Social Sciences ; or Humanities . Students must earn 40 credits with at least a B ? in their areas of concentration .

ALB degree candidates are also required to complete a minimum of 16 on @-@ campus @-@ only

credits at Harvard ; students must also complete a minimum of 12 credits in " Writing intensive " courses , and earn a minimum of 52 credits in courses that are taught by Harvard instructors . In addition to a concentration , degree candidates have the option to pursue one of twenty ' Fields of study ' , ( akin to a traditional major ) . In order to successfully complete a field of study , students must earn a B ? or higher in 32 Harvard credits in one field , and maintain a B average in the field . Students may also complement their field of study with a maximum of one liberal arts minor .

= = = Undergraduate admissions = = =

Undergraduate degree programs require pre @-@ admission courses as well as a formal application process . Students applying for degree candidacy must first complete three 4 @-@ credit liberal arts courses at Harvard ( Extension School , Summer School , or the Faculty of Arts and Sciences ) with at least a B grade in each , and maintain a minimum 3 @.@ 0 cumulative GPA . One of these three pre @-@ admission courses must be EXPO E @-@ 25 , the equivalent of Harvard College 's mandatory and " notoriously difficult " expository writing course . To enroll in this course , students must pass a placement test , which measures critical reading and writing skills . Students failing to earn at least a B in a class can retake it once . Students who meet all these criteria are then eligible for admission in the Extension School 's undergraduate degree programs .

= = = Master of Liberal Arts = = =

The Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies ( ALM ) includes 19 liberal arts fields of study and seven professional degree programs ( Biotechnology , Information Technology , Journalism , Management , Mathematics for Teaching , Museum Studies , & Sustainability and Environmental Management ) . ALM candidates must complete 10 to 12 courses including a thesis or capstone project depending on their degree program , which must be crafted under the direction of an instructor or Harvard faculty member holding a teaching appointment in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences .

= = = Graduate admissions = = =

Generally , admission into a graduate degree program at Harvard Extension School requires a minimum of an accredited bachelor 's degree ( or foreign equivalent ) , as well as completion of three pre @-@ admission courses with grades of B or higher and a minimum of 3 @.@ 0 overall GPA . One of the three pre @-@ admission courses must be the " Proseminar " course for the intended area of study , which is akin to a traditional research methods course , and prior to registering for a proseminar students must pass a qualification test to assess graduate @-@ level critical reading and writing skills . Certain disciplines have other specified pre @-@ admission coursework , while some have specific coursework that is required before submitting a master 's thesis proposal ( e.g. biology and psychology fields must take a specific graduate statistics course ) . Students who meet these criteria are then eligible to submit an application for admission into the graduate degree programs .

Once a student has met the three course requirement , he or she is then eligible to formally apply to the ALM program . Typically applicants must submit a completed application , proof of an accredited bachelor 's degree ( or foreign equivalent ) plus transcripts , resume , two essays , and a nonrefundable application fee . Some programs require additional specific classes to be part of the initial three before formal admission . Students will be denied admission indefinitely if they fail to earn a grade of B after twice enrolling in the Proseminar course .

Some programs have additional requirements , including specific pre @-@ admission courses and supplemental application materials . For instance , the Literature and Creative writing candidates must submit original manuscripts .

= = Student life = =

Beginning in the 1960s , the university began providing additional facilities for Extension students . Study spaces , conferences rooms , library facilities , and a dining hall were set up in Lehman Hall for students in 1964 . In addition , there was a television lounge where students could watch the WGBH programs .

Today , admitted degree candidates are granted access to Harvard 's athletic facilities , dining services , on and off campus apartment housing , career services and student life organizations . Students have " nearly unfettered access to some of Harvard 's most prized resources ? world @-@ renowned libraries , a distinguished faculty , and an impressive body of speakers . "

ALB candidates are eligible for membership in the Harvard Extension Student Association ( HESA ) . Established in 2001 , the HESA 's mission is to build and maintain a sense of community among Extension students . In partnership with many other organizations on campus , HESA provides a variety of social activities , educational events , and forums that enrich student life and experience . All degree and diploma candidates in good standing at Harvard Extension School are voting members of HESA . Alpha Sigma Lambda , a national honors society for nontraditional students , established the Phi Beta chapter in 2002 ? 03 . The Harvard Extension School Pre @-@ Health Society offers advising , events , and networking for students who wish to go to medical school or to pursue a career in the health care industry .

President Faust said that " the Extension School is a critical part of the University " and " students increasingly should come to see themselves as full @-@ fledged members of not just an individual school but Harvard as a university . "

= = Student demographics = =

The graduating class of 2016 , the largest class to date , had 801 students receiving degrees . Of them , the youngest was 16 and the oldest was 70 with an average age of 36 . They were nearly equally split between the genders , with 52 % being male , and came from 36 countries and 42 states .

In 2000 there were 14 @, @ 216 students , with the youngest in their early teens and the oldest in their late 80s . There is often a span of 60 years between the oldest and youngest students , and students as young as 11 years old have taken courses alongside those old enough to be their parents or grandparents . Of the students enrolled at the turn of the century , 75 % had a bachelor 's degree , and 20 % had a graduate degree . More than 1 @, @ 700 were staff members using the Tuition Assistance Program , and an estimated 10 % -15 % were exclusively online students . Of the 255 Certificate of Special Studies graduates that year , 163 were international students hailing from 39 countries .

In the early 2000s there were 208 students under the age of 18 . Most attended local high schools , but a growing number of them were home @-@ schooled . Professor Paul Bamberg taught a class with both Extension and Harvard College students , and the top two students were from the Extension School , with the top student being a home @-@ schooled teenager .

Harvard Extension School accepts international students . To be admitted to courses or degrees , a student must prove proficiency in the English language . If English is not a student 's native language then he or she must submit an official TOEFL or IELTS score with a minimum score of 100 for the TOEFL or a minimum score of 7 @. @ 0 for the IELTS . International students must also meet the on @-@ campus @-@ only course requirements as outlined above . The Extension School does not issue I @-@ 20s for the F @-@ 1 visa but the Summer School does . In 2007 ? 08 , more than 2 @, @ 500 international students and nearly 2 @, @ 000 Harvard University employees were enrolled in classes . In 2013 , students came from 118 countries and 46 states .

= = Alumni = =

Upon graduation , students are eligible for membership in the Harvard Alumni Association ( HAA ) and the Harvard Extension Alumni Association ( HEAA ) . Graduates also take part in the

commencement ceremonies with all other schools of Harvard .

The HEAA was founded in 1967 ? 68 by Ella Smith and Edgar Grossman , both members of the class of 1966 . Extension School alumni have been admitted to all of the graduate schools at Harvard .

= = = Notable alumni = = =

Both the oldest and youngest graduates in the more than 375 @-@ year history of Harvard University received their degrees from the Extension School . In 1997 Mary Fasano became the oldest undergraduate degree recipient , and in 1983 Thomas Small became the oldest student to ever earn a master 's degree . Both were in their 90th year . The youngest degree earner in Harvard history was 18 @-@ year @-@ old Amit Chatterjee who earned an ALB in 2002 .

One of Small 's classmates , Christopher Lohse , was selected to give the graduate commencement address . His speech , " The 10 @,@ 000 Ghosts of Harvard " , was a play on both the university 's fight song and the fact that classes are taught after dark . In 1989 another ALM graduate gave the commencement address . Joseph R. Paolino , Jr. began his studies as a Providence city councilor , and at the time of his speech he was the Mayor of Providence . He went on to become Ambassador to Malta .

In 1936 , one person had taken courses for 26 consecutive years . Two others that same year had been students for 24 years .

= = Coat of arms = =

The coat of arms for the Extension School was approved in 1983 . At the top of the shield the three books spelling out Veritas ( Latin for " truth " ) represent graduate education , as the same device is found on the arms of the other graduate schools . Instead of a straight line separating it from the rest of the shield , as is found in the other schools , a line with six arcs pointing up was used instead . A silver chevron was used to represent undergraduate education , a device used in the shield of Harvard College in the 17th to 19th centuries . Two bushels of wheat are included to represent John Lowell 's stipulation that courses should not cost more than two bushels of wheat . A golden lamp is included to represent both learning and the fact that classes are taught at night .