

Getting Into Harvard: Admission Requirements 2023

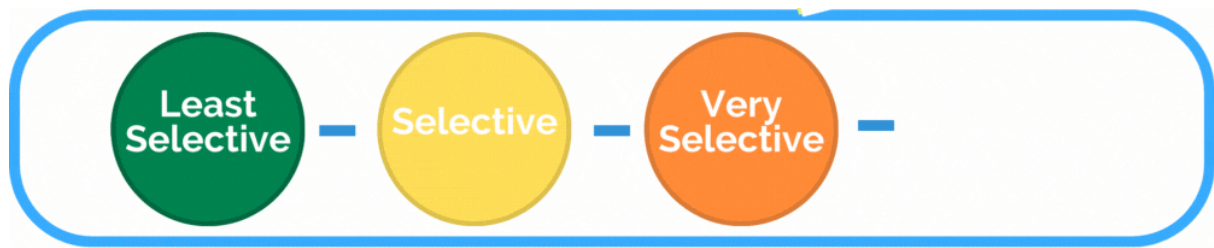


What kind of students get into Harvard? **Well, there is no one "type" of student that gets into Harvard. But the admissions committee does look for applicants who have excellent academic records, are engaged in their community, and will contribute to the vibrant intellectual culture on Harvard's campus.**

Sound like you? Great! Then this post on the admissions requirements for Harvard University is going to help you understand how to put together a strong application. And to be super blunt, you're gonna need that, because the most recent admissions rate hit a record low of 3.19% after 61,220 students applied!

HOW HARD IS IT TO GET INTO HARVARD UNIVERSITY?

It is extremely difficult to get into Harvard University. The standardized test scores, like SAT and ACT, and grade point average of admittees are in the highest percentiles.



HARVARD ACCEPTANCE RATE

The Harvard acceptance rate is 3.19%, making it one of the most competitive universities in the world. Acceptance rate is an indication of how competitive a school is, but it is also an indication of how popular a school is. **To get into a school like Harvard University, you will need to excel in almost every major college application factor.**



HARVARD UNIVERSITY GPA REQUIREMENTS

The GPA requirements for Harvard University are between 3.9 to 4.1. **You will need an incredibly high GPA and will likely be graduating at the top of their class in order to get into Harvard University.** If you're GPA is lower than suggested at the time you apply, you may have to perform above average on your standardized tests. If your grades aren't as high as they could have been due to life experiences or hardship, you should consider writing about it in your [additional information section](#).



Average Unweighted GPA: 4.22

GPA Distribution: Unweighted

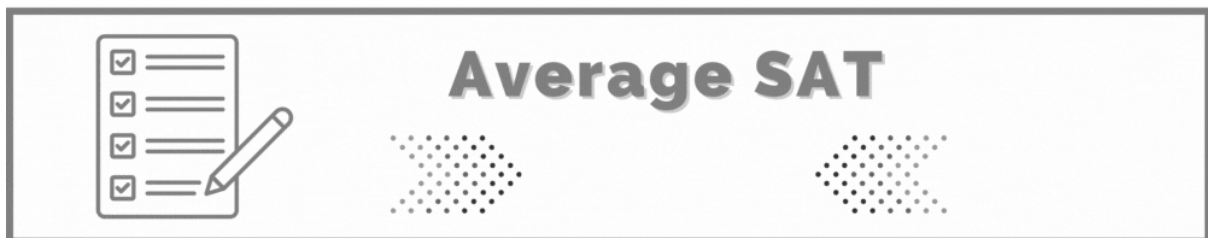
4.0 = 75.76%
3.75-3.99 = 18.02%
3.50-3.74 = 4%
3.25-3.49 = 1.79%
3.00-3.24 = 0.32%
2.5-2.99 = 0.11%
2.0-2.49 = 0%
1.0-1.99 = 0%
Below 1.0 = 0%

What GPA should I have?

Applicants should be **between 3.9 and 4.0** to be strong candidates for admission to this school. Having less than this will require compensating by increasing your SAT or ACT score.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SAT REQUIREMENTS

The SAT requirements for Harvard University are a 1,500 to 1,600 composite score, combining the reading and writing, and math sections together. **You will need an incredibly high SAT score and getting close to perfect scores in order to get into Harvard University.** If your SAT is lower than suggested at the time you apply, you may have to perform above average on your standardized tests. If your grades aren't as high as they could have been due to life experiences or hardship, you should consider writing about it in your [additional information section](#).



Average SAT Composite Score: 1520

SAT Distribution: Score = Reading | Math

700-800 = 83.81% | 87.88%

600-699 = 15.49% | 10.82%

500-599 = 0.7% | 1.3%

400-499 = 0% | 0%

300-399 = 0% | 0%

200-299 = 0% | 0%

What SAT score should I have?

Applicants should score **between 1,500 to 1,600** on their SAT to be strong candidates for admission to this school. Having less than this will require compensating by using a substitute ACT score or having an above-average GPA. Either an SAT or ACT score is required for application to this school.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY ACT REQUIREMENTS

The ACT requirements for Harvard University are a 34 composite score combining all English, mathematics, reading, and science sections. **You will need an incredibly high SAT score and getting close to perfect scores in order to get into Harvard University.** If your ACT is not what you'd hoped by the time you apply, you may have to make it up by getting above-average scores on the SAT and having an above-average grade point average. If your ACT wasn't as high as you'd like because of difficulties or hardship, you should consider writing about it in your [additional information section](#).



Average ACT

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What ACT score should I have?

Applicants should score **between 30 and 36** on their ACT to be strong candidates for admission to this school. Having less than this will require compensating by using a substitute SAT score or having an above-average GPA. Either an SAT or ACT score is required for application to this school.

Average ACT: 34

ACT Distribution: Composite Score

30-36 = 95.27%

24-29 = 4.57%

18-23 = 0.16%

12-17 = 0%

6-11 = 0%

Below 6 = 0%

HARVARD UNIVERSITY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY APPLICATION DEADLINES

The Harvard University application deadline for regular decision is January 1st. Harvard University also provides an alternative form of application in addition to regular decision: restrictive early action. The application deadline for Harvard University's restrictive early action is November 1st. Below is a table showing the deadlines for each of the steps of the Harvard University admissions process.

Notification Plan	Application Material	Application Deadline
Restrictive Early Action	Submit Test Scores (optional)	October 31
	Submit Application and Financial Aid Application	November 1
	Admissions Decisions Released	Mid-December
Regular Decision	Submit Test Scores (optional)	Early November
	Submit Application	January 1
	Submit Financial Aid Application (if still pending)	February 1
	Admissions Decisions Released	End of March

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAY PROMPTS

To complete Harvard University's supplemental essay requirements, applicants must answer two and may answer one of the Harvard University application supplemental essays. If you are applying as an international student, you will have to also write an additional essay. Their prompts are below and [the Harvard University Supplement that they were sourced from can be found here](#).

Tips Below

PROMPT #1

Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences. (150 words)

PROMPT #2 (TECHNICALLY OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED)

You may wish to include an additional essay if you feel that the college application forms do not provide sufficient opportunity to convey important information about yourself or your accomplishments. You may write on a topic of your choice, or you may choose from one of the following topics (650 words)

- *Unusual circumstances in your life*
- *Travel, living, or working experiences in your own or other communities*
- *What you would want your future college roommate to know about you*
- *An intellectual experience (course, project, book, discussion, paper, poetry, or research topic in engineering, mathematics, science or other modes of inquiry) that has meant the most to you*
- *How you hope to use your college education*
- *A list of books you have read during the past twelve months*
- *The Harvard College Honor code declares that we “hold honesty as the foundation of our community.” As you consider entering this community that is committed to honesty, please reflect on a time when you or someone you observed had to make a choice about whether to act with integrity and honesty.*
- *The mission of Harvard College is to educate our students to be citizens and citizen-leaders for society. What would you do to contribute to the lives of your classmates in advancing this mission?*
- *Each year a substantial number of students admitted to Harvard defer their admission for one year or take time off during college. If you decided in the future to choose either option, what would you like to do?*
- *Harvard has long recognized the importance of student body diversity of all kinds. We welcome you to write about distinctive aspects of your*

background, personal development or the intellectual interests you might bring to your Harvard classmates.

- *If none of these options appeal to you, you have the option to write on a topic of your choice.*

PROMPT #3

Additional Essay: Your intellectual life may extend beyond the academic requirements of your particular school. Please use the space below to list additional intellectual activities that you have not mentioned or detailed elsewhere in your application. These could include, but are not limited to, supervised or self-directed projects not done as school work, training experiences, online courses not run by your school, or summer academic or research programs not described elsewhere. (Optional – 150 words)

PROMPT #4 (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY)

For International Students: What specific plan do you have, if any, for using the education you hope to receive? (0-50 words)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY APPLICATION ESSAY TIPS

Prompts Above

TIP #1 FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTAL PROMPT#1

Don't write about an activity you've already shared a lot about elsewhere on your application.

If you've already written about your most important **extracurricular activity** in your main Common App personal statement or any of the other Harvard supplements, write about your 2nd or 3rd most important activity. This essay is your chance to say "Hey, here's this other cool thing I've spent some time doing that I haven't told you about yet!"

TIP #2 FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTAL PROMPT#2

Complement your personal statement but make sure it isn't too similar.

This supplemental essay should differ in either content, structure, or tone—or perhaps all three—from your personal statement. As an example, say your

personal statement uses montage structure to illustrate many different sides of yourself, covering some of the breadth of who you are. Then maybe for your Harvard supplemental essay you use narrative structure to describe a recent challenge you've overcome. (We've seen this approach work well with students before.) Or maybe your personal statement explores elements of your life that have shaped what you want to study. Then your Harvard supplemental essay could be on your cultural background. One might be light, the other deep; one fun, the other more serious. And while it can be tricky to do so, you can possibly save yourself a ton of writing time by using a "super essay" approach for some or all of this prompt.

TIP #3 FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTAL PROMPT#3

Write about something you haven't talked about elsewhere in your application.

This can be a list (since they say "...list additional intellectual activities..."). For example, you might be able to include more details and further explanation of activities you haven't had a chance to mention elsewhere in your application. But we've also seen students be admitted who wrote short essays on complex or intriguing intellectual pursuits they weren't covering elsewhere in their application.

If you're not sure what to include, head over to our guide on [How to Use the Common App Additional Information Section](#).

TIP #4 FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTAL PROMPT #4

Give a short and straightforward summary.

What will you do once you finish your education at Harvard? Will you go back to your home country to have an impact there? Will you stay here in the US to work in an area you're passionate about? If you aren't sure, it's totally OK to come up with a placeholder career/life after graduation. Feel free to dream and get ambitious here.