

HGSE Student Handbook 2023-24

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Welcome to HGSE!

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Harvard Graduate School of Education! We are thrilled that you have chosen to become part of our community. One of the first things you will discover is that all of us—faculty, staff, and students—are here for the same reason: we care deeply about education, and we believe in the importance of education for all. Regardless of background or identity, we believe in the worth of each person, and we know that the opportunities afforded by a good education are critical to creating thriving individuals and communities as well as addressing pressing challenges around the world.

During your time at HGSE, we will help to prepare you to become future leaders who will expand educational opportunity, enhance academic achievement, improve student supports, and advance our understanding of how children and adults learn. You will be immersed in discussions of how best to accomplish the goal of educating all students, and you will benefit from interacting with colleagues whose differing perspectives will engage you in rigorous debate. With each step we take together, we move closer to a time when all have access to an education that enables them to reach their full potential.

We know that transitioning to graduate school requires many adjustments that can make it both an exciting and a stressful time. That is true whether you are a recent undergraduate or returning to school after many years and whether you majored in education or never had an education course. Remember that change can be hard, but it also offers opportunities. We are committed to supporting your transition and success at HGSE and beyond.

This Student Handbook is designed to provide you with information about HGSE and the University, including the policies and procedures that govern academic and student life, as well as the many resources and supports available to you, such as student support services including accommodations for a disability, counseling and mental health services, and many others.

We urge you to familiarize yourself with this Handbook, as it will be a helpful resource to you during your graduate studies. We also point out that it is your responsibility as an HGSE student to be aware of and compliant with all the policies, procedures, deadlines, and expectations detailed in the Student Handbook.

You enrolled at HGSE with a passion to contribute to the world through education, and you will leave with the knowledge, skills, and relationships that will make that goal a reality. We look forward to meeting you and wish you a productive and rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

Bridget Long
Dean
Saris Professor of Education and Economics

Marty West
Academic Dean
Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education

Preface

This Handbook contains policies and procedures of the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). Students should become familiar with the material pertaining to their degree program and, together with their advisors, make certain that their chosen program of study complies with all policies.

Although we have attempted to include most of the regulations governing graduate academic programs, some programs have additional requirements and regulations of their own. Students also should become familiar with the academic policies relevant to their individual program.

HGSE reserves the right to make changes to the Student Handbook at any time without advance notice. These changes may affect such matters as tuition and other fees, degrees and programs offered (including the modification or possible elimination of degrees and programs), degree and other academic requirements, academic policies, rules pertaining to student conduct and discipline, fields or areas of concentration, and other rules and regulations applicable to students. The ultimate responsibility for knowing and complying with HGSE policies, regulations, and requirements rests with the student.

In addition, SCHOOL retains the discretion to act as it deems necessary in extraordinary circumstances to protect the health and safety of the Harvard community. For these purposes “extraordinary circumstances” include, but are not limited to, public health emergencies, extreme weather events, and other conditions posing broad threats to community health and safety or significantly disrupting campus life or learning.

Discretionary measures available to SCHOOL may include, but are not limited to, making recourse to remote or hybrid instruction, suspending or limiting access to University-provided residential housing, limiting its provision of or access to certain activities and services, introducing or modifying vaccination, mask, and physical distancing mandates, and implementing compulsory testing and tracing programs as required conditions for accessing the Harvard campus or Harvard facilities.

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HGSE's Commitment to Diversity

The Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) is committed to recruiting, cultivating, engaging, and encouraging a diverse and vibrant community of faculty, staff, and students. Diversity can be multivariate, intersectional, and complex, and at HGSE we define a diverse population to include a wide range of racial, ethnic, sexual, and gender identities; economic and geographic backgrounds; abilities; life, school, and career experiences; and political, religious, and personal beliefs. As part of our commitment to our common mission, we each share a responsibility to respect the rights, differences, and dignity of others, and to sustain an environment that is conducive to fostering the highest levels of learning for all.

There are four notable reasons—each critical to our School's mission—why fostering a diverse community is important to HGSE.

Providing the Highest Quality Educational Experience

As the leading school of education in the United States, we are committed to providing the highest quality educational experience, and we continually seek to improve our pedagogical practices and curricular offerings. When students with differing backgrounds and perspectives are supported to engage in rigorous and shared inquiry, the results lead to deep learning, excellence, and innovation in the form of new ideas for all our students. Core to our approach is the pedagogical strategy of classroom discussion, which we use to broaden and enhance student thinking. The richness of these discussions relies on the differing viewpoints, perspectives, and insights that a diverse group of students and faculty brings.

Preparing Graduate Students for Careers in a Diverse World

HGSE graduates will likely meet, work with, and serve a vast array of people with different backgrounds from their own, both in the United States and around the world. Even though the differences between our graduates and the students they serve might not be visible, the realities of our polarized and divergent society mean our graduates will certainly encounter a wide variety of views and opinions. The best way to prepare our students for success in an increasingly diverse society is to expose them in meaningful ways to a diverse group of peers.

The Importance of Producing Diverse Leadership for Education

The students who HGSE attracts and trains to be leaders are an important part of the contributions we make to the field of education. HGSE strives to meet the great demand for strong leadership and innovation in education, including highly educated and well-prepared teachers, principals, systems leaders, faculty members, and leaders at all levels of education systems. Moreover, non-profit organizations, government agencies, foundations, and other related fields are also in need of highly qualified individuals. In order to prepare the talented, leadership-oriented individuals needed in education, we must reach out to as broad a pool as possible, recognizing the range of aptitudes and talents necessary to be an effective educator. This necessarily requires a diverse pool of students, including those from underserved communities, underrepresented minorities, and individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds. In addition, research has shown that students from preschool through college benefit inside and outside the classroom from diverse classroom teaching and leadership.

Building a Knowledge Base that Reflects a Diverse World

One of the most basic and important questions in education is how we can best help each and every child learn across the lifespan. As a School, we devote much of our time and attention to the rigorous

study and evaluation of this issue and the implementation of promising practices. In the context of an increasingly diverse nation and world in terms of students' backgrounds and circumstances, we must approach our work using the broadest set of perspectives and insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the wide-ranging set of students, schools, and communities we serve. Our work must account for the diversity of those we seek to help so that we can figure out what works best for whom and in what context. To do this work in a rigorous way, we utilize our diverse faculty, students, and staff. The varied backgrounds and perspectives of our community members provide a unique window into education systems—prompting our faculty and students to ask new questions, utilize different methodologies, and foster a range of helpful insights.

Taken together, HGSE's mission relies fundamentally on having a highly diverse community and fostering engagement across the School. Including a diverse set of backgrounds and perspectives at HGSE is essential to our ability to engage in meaningful teaching and practice, conduct relevant and pioneering research, and have a positive impact on the larger field.

Academic Programs and Affiliations

Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.)

The Ph.D. in Education is an interdisciplinary, joint degree offered in collaboration with Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). The Ph.D. also culminates with a dissertation rooted in original research. Further details about program-specific requirements and policies can be found on the program website, in [GSAS Policies](#) and in relevant sections of this handbook.

Doctor of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D.)

The Doctor of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D.) is a three year, full-time, practice-based program including core coursework, elective coursework, and a third-year residency with one of the program's partner organizations. The degree culminates with a Capstone documenting the student's leadership of and contributions to a strategic project within the organization. Further details about program-specific requirements and policies can be found on the program website and in relevant sections of this handbook.

Residential Master of Education (Ed.M.)

The residential Master of Education (Ed.M.) is intended to be a yearlong, intensive program for students who wish to study a particular field in education, acquire a general theoretical background for understanding past and future field experiences, or develop skills for use in professional work in education. A thesis or comprehensive exam is not required. Further details about Program-specific requirements and policies can be found in relevant sections of this handbook.

Online Master of Education Leadership (Online Ed.M.)

The online Master of Education (Ed.M.) in Education Leadership (OEL) is a *mostly* online, part-time, two-year program for experienced professionals in the PK-12 and Higher Education sectors. The primarily prescribed curriculum is geared toward students with at least seven years of relevant work experience who are seeking to strengthen the invaluable skills they have already developed and who want to build additional tools to propel them toward new leadership opportunities and greater impact. Further details about Program-specific requirements and policies can be found on the OEL Program website and in relevant sections of this handbook.

Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) in Counseling

The Human and Development and Education Program (HDE) is approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to offer a two-year curricular sequence leading to an initial license as a school guidance counselor or school social worker/school adjustment counselor. Further details about Program-specific requirements and policies can be found on the program website and in relevant sections of this handbook.

Concentrations

The Harvard Graduate School of Education offers six optional Concentrations: Arts and Learning (A&L), Early Childhood (EC), Global, International, and Comparative Education (GICE), Higher Education (HE), Identity, Power, and Justice in Education (IPJE), and Language and Literacy (L&L). Concentrations are available only for residential master's students; students in the TTL Licensure track may not declare a Concentration in addition to the requirements necessary to pursue licensure. Declaring a Concentration offers advanced study, applied learning, and co-curricular activities to deepen knowledge in one of the six disciplines. Students may declare one Concentration. Double Concentrations are not permitted.

Non-Degree Study

The Harvard Graduate School of Education offers students the opportunity to take graduate-level courses without formally pursuing an HGSE degree. To be eligible for non-degree study, students must fall into one of the categories below. Some of these categories allow students to enroll in courses and receive academic credit; others allow students to do research or audit courses. It is the responsibility of all non-degree students to meet registration deadlines (see the *Academic Calendar*). Non-degree students are ineligible for financial aid, health insurance, housing, or office space.

Students should note that professors reserve the right to limit courses to degree-seeking students if it is determined that the enrollment of non-degree students is counterproductive to the goals of the course. This right is not limited to courses designated as “limited enrollment.” HGSE also reserves the right to terminate the registration, and/or to disallow any future registration, of any HGSE non-degree student who, in the judgment of the School, receives an unsatisfactory grade or whose behavior in any way interferes with the academic or other operations of the University.

For information about obtaining credit toward an HGSE degree program for HGSE courses taken as a non-degree student, see *Credit for Prior Course Work*.

Harvard Employees

The Harvard Graduate School of Education allows individuals who are Harvard University employees to enroll in HGSE courses and pay for their HGSE tuition by using the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP). For more information on Harvard-wide TAP policies, please visit: <https://hr.harvard.edu/tuition-assistance>. Online master's students will not be eligible to use TAP outside of the AY22-23 cohort. Please note that non-degree seeking students pay by credit and degree-seeking students pay part-time flat rate tuition. TAP degree-seeking students must follow the same policies as residential students.

Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni

HGSE degree holders may enroll for credit in one course (or its equivalent in credits) per semester by registering during the designated period for HGSE non-degree registration and submitting a petition via *my.harvard* by the course enrollment deadline. No application is necessary, but degree holders are expected to pay for the course, at the current one-course tuition rate, upon receipt of the student bill. Enrollment in courses is by permission of the professor. HGSE alumni also have free access to select J-Term workshops, which are announced annually via email. Finally, HGSE alumni can access a growing range of [online learning opportunities](#) across Harvard. More information can be found on the HGSE Alumni website.

Programs in Professional Education Participants (PPE)

The Harvard Graduate School of Education has numerous opportunities for educators to expand their skills. Onsite and online, the programs are designed for teachers, principals, administrators, and policymakers. For information about these professional development opportunities, please visit the [PPE website](#).

Visiting Fellows

A select number of visiting fellows may be admitted for a period of enrollment of three months to one year. This option is available for advanced doctoral students at other universities who are conducting relevant research and who have appropriate funding (for instance, from a grant or fellowship). Each

visiting fellow must be sponsored by an HGSE faculty member and must be approved by the Office of Faculty Affairs.

Special Student in Education (SSE)

Applicants who wish to study without the constraints of a formal degree program may apply to be a Special Student in Education (SSE). Individuals applying for SSE status fall into one of three categories: faculty from institutions other than Harvard wishing to take courses for credit; advanced doctoral students conducting relevant research; or professional educators seeking to enhance current work. A limited number of applicants are admitted in this category each year. Course enrollment is on a space-available basis and is limited to HGSE courses only. Once admitted, a student's official enrollment in a course is subject to the approval of the instructor. SSE students are not eligible for HGSE funding, housing, or office space.

Voucher Holders

HGSE issues tuition vouchers to teachers and other practitioners who supervise HGSE students in a variety of educational settings. These vouchers can be used to cover basic tuition requirements for degree and non-degree students, as well as (with certain limitations) in any faculty allowing HGSE cross-registration or in the Division of Continuing Education. HGSE course enrollment is on a space-available basis. A student's official enrollment in a course is subject to the approval of the instructor. Please note the following voucher policies:

- Voucher holders are allowed to redeem only one voucher per semester.
- Vouchers must be redeemed before the designated expiration date.
- Voucher holders are not eligible for HGSE funding, housing, or office space.
- Vouchers are not eligible for courses offered at the Programs in Professional Education (PPE).

Registration Policies

All HGSE degree and certificate candidates are required to register until the degree or certificate is awarded or until their candidacy is terminated. It is the responsibility of all students to meet registration deadlines. HGSE does not offer any dual or concurrent degree programs within Harvard or with other institutions, other than the Ph.D. in Education (offered jointly with the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences): HGSE students must enroll in only one degree program at a time, which is their HGSE degree program.

Exceptions:

- Ed.M. and C.A.S. candidates who have “Incomplete” grades in courses for which additional course work is needed, but have no further courses in which to enroll, do not register for the semester(s) prior to graduation.
- Ed.L.D. students who have completed their third-year residency and have submitted an approved Capstone prior to the fall course registration deadline are not required to register for the fall semester.

My.harvard Check-In and Course Registration

In order to be officially registered for a given semester, students are expected to complete the HGSE Check-in process in my.harvard **AND** register in their course selections by the appropriate deadlines. Students cannot register for courses until they complete the HGSE Check-in process. Students are required to obtain the approval of the instructor for each “limited enrollment” course chosen. Students may enter the lottery-based enrollment event and rank their course choices for each “lottery enrollment” course chosen. See the [Academic Calendar](#) for all relevant dates and deadlines. After the registration deadline, all courses require instructor permission. For more information about the my.harvard check-in process and course registration, please visit the HGSE [Office of the Registrar website](#).

Course Previews

At HGSE, course previews are designed to give students an opportunity to become familiar with course structures, materials, and learning goals, and help them to finalize their schedule by the registration and enrollment deadline. Course previews happen before the first day of classes and are intended for students to make informed decisions prior to the first day of classes. Attendance during course previews is not required in order to enroll in any particular course; however, it is highly encouraged to attend course previews.

Course Lotteries, Petitions, and Enrollment Limits

Some courses have enrollment limits and are managed by either instructor permission or course lottery. Check course Canvas sites and my.harvard course descriptions for details about the process and the individual course deadlines. It can take some time for petitions to be approved, so be mindful of this as you approach the enrollment deadline.

Registration is not complete until students have enrolled in the minimum required course load. To avoid being charged a late registration fee, HGSE students must be enrolled in at least 12 credits (full-time residential students), 6 credits (part-time residential students), or 8 credits (part-time online students) by the course registration deadline. Students have until the add/drop deadline to adjust their schedule. Failure to complete the course registration process may result in an involuntary leave of

absence or administrative withdrawal from the student's program. **Late registration fees and deadlines are posted on the [HGSE Office of the Registrar website](#).**

In-residence students are expected to reside continuously in the greater local area of Harvard University during the Fall and Spring semesters in order to participate in the in-class and co-curricular experiences planned for their program and (if applicable) concentration. Please note that at HGSE, the Fall semester starts in August. **In-residence students may only enroll in in-residence courses, and online students may only enroll in online courses.**

Time Status Definitions

Full-time:

- Full-time Ed.M. and C.A.S. candidates must register for a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 20 credits for each of the fall and spring terms and a maximum of 56 credits for the academic year. (See below for more information about the credit limit.)
 - Credits for courses taken during June and July do not count toward the fall or spring *semester* minimums or maximums, though they do count toward the *overall* degree program minimum (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates) and maximum (56 credits). ALL students are considered less than half-time during June and July.
 - Credits for courses taken during August Term do not count towards the fall semester minimum (12 credits) or maximums (20 credits), though they do count toward the overall degree program minimum (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates) and maximum (56 credits).
 - Credits for courses taken during January Term count toward the spring semester minimums and toward the overall degree program minimum (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates) and maximum (56 credits). Courses taken during January do not count towards Spring semester maximum (20 credits for full-time).
 - Credits for courses taken during May Term do not count towards the spring semester minimum nor the overall degree program minimums (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates), though they do count toward the max overall program credits (56). Credits for courses taken during May Term cannot be applied to a graduation in the same month. Credits for courses taken during May Term can be applied to a future graduation date.
 - Students enrolled under the flat tuition rate may take June, July, August, January, or May courses at no extra charge, but they must not exceed the 56-credit maximum.
- Full-time students are expected to meet all academic and financial degree requirements within one academic year (i.e., June, July, and August Term required courses AND fall and spring semesters) and may take up to three years to complete the degree if circumstances require a leave of absence or a transition to part-time study. For full-time students, tuition is assessed at a full-time rate. Exceptions may be granted for students who are approved to take a semester-long leave of absence or for other extenuating circumstances.
 - Ph.D. candidates are expected to be enrolled full time at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) and to complete all coursework (minimum 64 credits), comprehensive examinations (written and oral), and dissertation requirements within the seven-year program limit. Please visit [GSAS Policies](#) for information on tuition assessment.
- Ed.L.D. candidates are expected to be enrolled full time and follow the standard guidelines of: one year of core coursework; one year of additional coursework, including the L-200 course

series and elective courses drawn from across the University, to complete at least 32 credits; and a required ten-month leadership development residency and Capstone work, including the L-300 course series.

- Full-time tuition is assessed in Years 1 and 2, and reduced tuition (50% of full rate) is assessed in Year 3. Students enrolled in the Ed.L.D. Program beyond the stated program duration limit (three years/six semesters) will be assessed a Facilities Fee of \$250 for each additional semester in which they are enrolled.

Part-time:

Part-time Ed.M. and C.A.S. students are those who are expected to take more than one academic year for Ed.M. and more than two years for C.A.S. to complete their academic and financial degree requirements.

- Part-time Ed.M. candidates must register for a minimum of 6 credits and a maximum of 10 credits for each of the fall and spring terms and a maximum of 56 credits toward the degree.
 - Credits for courses taken during June and July do not count toward the fall or spring *semester* minimums, though they do count toward the *overall* degree program minimum (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates) and maximum (56 credits). ALL students are considered less than half-time during June and July.
 - Credits for courses taken during August Term do not count towards the fall semester minimum (6 credits), though they do count toward the overall degree program minimum (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates) and maximum (56 credits).
 - Credits for courses taken during January Term count toward the spring semester minimum and toward the overall degree program minimum (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates) and maximum (56 credits). Courses taken during January do not count towards Spring semester maximum (10 credits for part-time).
 - Credits for courses taken during May Term do not count towards the spring semester minimum nor the overall degree program minimums (42 credits for Ed.M. and 32 credits for C.A.S. candidates), though they do count toward the max overall program credits (56). Credits for courses taken during May Term cannot be applied to a graduation in the same month of May. Credits for courses taken during May Term can be applied to a future graduation date.
 - Students enrolled under the flat tuition rate may take June, July, August, January, or May courses at no extra charge, but they must not exceed the 56-credit maximum.
- Part-time students are expected to meet all academic and financial degree requirements within two academic years (four semesters). Students cannot petition to complete the program in fewer than two academic years. Students may take up to three years to complete the degree if extenuating circumstances result in either a leave of absence or a reduced course load. Regardless of the number of semesters taken to complete the degree, the HGSE tuition requirement remains the same for all students.
- For part-time students, tuition is assessed at a half-time rate.¹ For those who enrolled prior to fall 2020, tuition is assessed on a per credit basis. Ed.M. students admitted prior to academic year 2020-2021 and students using the Harvard Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) admitted prior to academic year

¹ Part-time students who were approved to graduate under the 3 Semester Plan in December 2020 will have their tuition costs adjusted to fulfill the tuition requirement in three semesters versus four. For questions regarding 3 Semester Plan tuition, please contact Miguel Sahagún (miguel_sahagun@gse.harvard.edu). Note that the 3 Semester Plan was only offered during academic year 2020-21.

2022-2023 or transferring prior HGSE coursework have the option of being billed per credit. Students using TAP admitted to academic year 2023-2024 are billed flat-rate tuition.

- Ph.D. candidates may, under certain circumstances, petition the department and the GSAS Student Affairs Office for permission to enroll as a part-time student. Petition forms can be downloaded from the [GSAS website](#).
- Ed.L.D. candidates are expected to enroll in full-time study. In cases of exceptional circumstances (such as unforeseen medical conditions), Ed.L.D. candidates may be granted an exception to the full-time study rule.

Students are required to be registered at least half time, and in some cases full time, to be eligible for student loans, loan deferments, and financial aid. Teaching activities, research appointments, and other activities such as committee assignments are not included in the calculation of a student's time status.

Part-time students must add and drop courses according to the same procedures required for full-time students. Courses not dropped by the appropriate drop deadlines are subject to normal tuition charges up to the full-course charge. A course is not considered to have been dropped until the student has officially dropped it through *my.harvard*; informing the instructor of the course is not considered an official notification.

Petitioning to Switch to Part-time Status

Ed.M. and C.A.S. students may petition to switch from full-time to part-time status by completing the "Petition for Part-Time Study Ed.M. & C.A.S." form available on the [HGSE Office of the Registrar website](#) no later than the Spring Semester add/drop deadline. Please note that petitions are not automatically approved. Prior to completing the form, students should meet with the relevant Associate Director for their program and other program representatives (e.g., the Program Assistant Director) as well as advisors to discuss their enrollment options. We also encourage students to seek support from the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of the Registrar.

Students considering switching from full-time to part-time study who are currently receiving financial aid must also contact the [HGSE Financial Aid Office](#) to discuss their current package and how changing to part-time enrollment would affect their award.

International students with an active F-1 or J-1 record must contact their advisor at the Harvard International Office before petitioning for part-time study as this change may impact their immigration status.

Degree Program Duration Limits

Ph.D. students must complete all degree requirements and graduate within seven years of first registration. Degree candidates who reach the program duration limit without completing all degree requirements must petition the Steering Committee for an extension of up to one year. Petitions should include the student's reasons for not completing the work, current progress made, and a detailed, realistic timetable for fulfilling all remaining requirements. The student's faculty advisor must approve and sign the petition, which will then be reviewed by the program Steering Committee. Extending study beyond the seven-year limit may have implications for financial aid packages.

Ph.D. students without an approved dissertation proposal are unlikely to be granted an extension of the seven-year limit. Decisions on petition requests will be communicated by the Director for Doctoral Studies and/or the program Faculty Director.

Ed.L.D. students must complete all degree requirements and graduate within three years of the date of first registration. Ed.L.D. students who reach the program duration limit without completing all degree requirements must petition the Faculty Director and the Director for Doctoral Studies for an extension.

Ed.M. students who received an offer of admission in March 2022 or who switched to part-time enrollment prior to June 3, 2022, may take up to three years to complete the degree. Ed.M. degree candidates who reach the program duration limit without completing the degree requirements must petition the Associate Director of their program for an extension, which may be no longer than one year.

Adjustment to the Academic Clock

An adjustment of one semester of the academic clock may be made for medically documented severe illness, childbirth, or other major family-related disruptions. However, please note that international students considering such an adjustment must first consult with the Harvard International Office to make sure they are eligible.

Options for Doctoral Students:

1. Adjustment of academic clock **without** a leave of absence

Students will register for the semester and be eligible for HGSE's tuition and fees guarantee, Harvard health insurance, teaching fellowships (TF), and research assistantships (RA). Students must work out arrangements with faculty in advance for the fulfillment of TF and RA responsibilities.

Ph.D. and Ed.L.D students must inform their respective doctoral programs in writing to request this option. Requests should be submitted to the Director for Doctoral Studies via email, with a copy to the student's academic advisor.

2. Adjustment of academic clock **with** a leave of absence

In some cases, a student might be better advised to take a leave of absence. For information about requesting a leave of absence, please see the *Leave of Absence* section below.

Options for Residential Ed.M. Students:

1. Adjustment of academic clock with registration for one course

Enrollment in at least one in-person course entitles a student to Harvard health insurance, but not financial aid.

2. Adjustment of academic clock with registration for at least six credits

Enrollment in at least two courses entitles a student to Harvard health insurance and eligibility for financial aid.

3. Adjustment of academic clock **with a leave of absence**

The student will have tuition and fees charges postponed until the student returns to enrolled status. Please note that when a student is on leave from Harvard University, the applicable student health

insurance coverage will end the last day of the month of the official last date of attendance as recorded by the Office of the Registrar. See the *Health Insurance Coverage While on Leave of Absence* section for additional details.

Options for Online Ed.M. Students:

1. Adjustment of academic clock **with registration for one course**

Online Ed.M. students will not receive Harvard health insurance.

1. Adjustment of academic clock **with registration for at least six credits**

Enrollment in at least two courses entitles a student to eligibility for financial aid.

2. Adjustment of academic clock **with a leave of absence**

The student will have tuition and fees charges postponed until the student returns to enrolled status. Online Ed.M. students will not receive Harvard health insurance.

Credit Limits and Course Options

Credit Limit

Full-time Ed.M. students are expected to complete 12 credits during the summer in their Foundations courses. It is then customary for students to take 16 credits in each of the fall and spring semesters (e.g., 4 four-credit courses or a combination of modules and 4-credit courses). This common enrollment pattern will exceed the Ed.M. degree completion requirement of a total of 42 credits.

In some cases, students would like to take additional courses. Therefore, to support your further exploration and learning, students may take an additional 4 credits during both the fall and spring terms for a limit of 20 credits each semester, including credits taken in Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, and Spring 2 modules. Part-time students may take no more than 10 credits per semester (Fall and Spring), including credits taken in Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, and Spring 2 modules. Ed.M. students may also enroll in courses during the January and May terms (with no more than 4 credits in January and no more than one course in May Term). Altogether, **students may take up to 56 total credits**. However, the workload of all courses above the required 42 credits should be considered carefully in light of numerous co-curricular offerings, opportunities to engage in a range of activities, and the time needed to do a job search or applications for further study.

Note: Foundations courses taken during June, July, or August will not be counted toward the fall or spring semester minimum or maximum credits, though they do count toward the overall degree program minimum (42 credits) and maximum (56 credits). Credits for courses with transcript grades of NCR, WD, or DRP count against the 56-credit overall enrollment limit.

January Term Courses

While students may take more than one course during the January Term (and up to 4 credits), individual faculty may decide based on educational grounds not to allow students to take their course and another January Term course concurrently (including through cross registration). Students should consider

carefully whether it is in their best interest to take multiple January Term courses during one year due to the intensive and compressed nature of the coursework. Students should consult with their advisors and the course instructors when considering such an option. Students enrolled under the flat tuition rate may take January Term courses at no extra charge. Finally, please note that January Term courses count towards the overall maximum credit count.

May Term

Credits for courses taken during May Term do not count towards the spring semester minimum nor the overall degree program minimums (42), though they do count toward the max overall program credits (56). Credits for courses taken during May Term cannot be applied to a graduation in the same month. Credits for courses taken during May Term can be applied to a future graduation date. Students enrolled under the flat tuition rate may take May courses at no extra charge. May Term courses are only open to residential students.

Independent Studies and Field Experiences

Carefully crafted and well-supervised independent studies and field experiences can be a powerful learning experience. They offer students the opportunity to work with a faculty member on a program of special reading, research, or fieldwork to augment HGSE course offerings. Independent Studies (S-999) and Field Experiences (S-997) may be designed to carry either two credits or four credits, based on the scope of the work involved.

The following policies apply to Independent Studies and Field Experiences:

- Students enrolling in an Independent Study (S-999) are required to file an Independent Study Contract, which must be signed by both the faculty member agreeing to supervise the course and the relevant staff member from the Office for Degree Programs. Ed.M. students must obtain a signature from the Associate Director of their Program. Ed.L.D. students must obtain a signature from the Director for Doctoral Studies. *Note that the S-999 Independent Study course is not available to Ph.D. students; instead, they can utilize EDU302 for independent study, up to 8 credits of which may count toward degree requirements.*
- A full-time student is limited to a maximum of four credits of independent study or field experience per semester. A part-time student is limited to a maximum of four credits of independent study or field experience per year.
- No more than eight credits of independent study, field experience, or combination thereof may count towards each degree (Ed.M., C.A.S., Ph.D., or Ed.L.D.). Independent studies and field experiences cannot be used to satisfy substantive degree requirements.
- If a student chooses to take more than one independent study, field experience, or a combination, a maximum of four credits may be supervised by the same HGSE faculty member. Students may not be enrolled in two field experiences or independent studies concurrently.
- S-997, Field Experience, is offered on a SAT/NCR basis only.
- A non-degree seeking student cannot enroll in an S-997.
- Cross-registration for S-997 is not permitted.
- S-997 and 2-credit courses. A student may enroll in one 4-credit S997, which extends a full term, or two 2-credit S997s, which are offered during Fall 1 and Fall 2, or Spring 1 and Spring 2. A student may also choose to enroll in one 2-credit S997, which is only offered during Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, or Spring 2.
- S-997, Field Experience, is not offered during J-Term or May Term.

- The supervisor of an independent study must be an HGSE faculty member with the title “Adjunct Lecturer,” “Lecturer,” “Senior Lecturer,” “Member of the Faculty,” or any level of “Professor.” In the case of a field experience, the supervisor is an assigned faculty advisor.
- International students studying on F-1 or J-1 visas should check with the [Harvard International Office](#) about work authorization considerations before seeking any non-Harvard affiliated independent studies or field experiences.

Summer Courses and Institutes

HGSE Summer Courses

Continuing students who wish to take summer independent studies are expected to register and enroll on or before July 1. Students in programs requiring or offering enrollment in summer courses (June and July) will be notified about relevant registration and enrollment deadlines in advance. All students enrolling in summer courses are expected to meet the regular registration requirements. **HGSE degree-seeking students cannot enroll in more than 5 credits during the summer (June and July).** Non-degree seeking students may not enroll in How People Learn or other Foundations courses.

Students enrolled under the flat tuition rate may take June or July courses at no extra charge. Harvard employees enrolled as a non-degree seeking student under the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) will continue to be charged per course. Students transferring in prior HGSE coursework will continue to be charged per course. Students paying per credit are subject to the refund dates below if a summer course is ultimately dropped.

Course	2023 Start date	2023 End date	2023 Credit	Cost of course	0% complete/ 100% refund	25% complete/ 75% refund	50% complete/ 50% refund	75% complete/ 5% refund
Any HGSE course (except HPL)	June 2	July 31	4	\$5,452	June 2	June 16	June 30	July 7

Harvard Summer School (Division of Continuing Education)

HGSE degree candidates may count courses taken at Harvard Summer School toward their academic degree requirements only with prior permission from the Associate Director of their Program. No reduction will be made in HGSE tuition requirements if permission is granted, and HGSE degree candidates taking courses at Harvard Summer School must pay applicable tuition to the Division of Continuing Education for any courses attempted.

Credits for Prior HGSE Course Work and for Harvard Summer School Courses

Students seeking credit are required to submit the petition with the signature of the Associate Director of their Program or Director for Doctoral Studies at least two weeks prior to the Harvard Summer School registration deadline. Credits transferred from Harvard Summer School count towards overall degree maximums but do not count towards fall semester credit minimums or maximums.

HGSE does not award academic credit toward its own degrees for modules offered as part of the Certificate in Advanced Education Leadership (CAEL). Certain CAEL credits count as transcriptible graduate credits programs outside HGSE, though. With the exception of Ed.L.D. candidates, an HGSE

degree candidate may, by petitioning the Associate Director of their Program or Director for Doctoral Studies, obtain *academic credit only* (not financial credit) toward the degree for selected courses taken within three years of matriculation.

Both *academic and financial* credit may be obtained for courses taken while enrolled as a non-degree student at HGSE before beginning the current degree program. Students may obtain *academic credit only* (not financial credit) for courses taken while enrolled at the Harvard Summer School. Academic credit will be granted only if the prior coursework fits into the student's academic program and if the degree program duration limit is met. For students in the online master's in Education Leadership, approved prior coursework will only count toward required elective credits, not toward required program or pathway courses.

Ph.D. students may petition to have up to 16 credits of coursework count toward the degree. Students must have graduated from an Ed.M. or C.A.S. from HGSE within three years of enrolling as doctoral students and may receive credit only for a maximum of 16 of those credits. Approval of the petition is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

For the Ed.M. degree program, students may petition to have up to 8 credits of coursework count towards their degree. Only courses that meet the current program requirements and have been taken within three years of enrolling as a degree candidate will be considered. Students will still be subject to all program requirements and so prior coursework will not replace other necessary courses. Courses taken previously at HGSE as part of an Ed.M., Ed.D. and/or Ed.L.D. program may count to satisfy requirements but not towards minimum requirements such as minimum credits.

If a continuing Ed.M. candidate plans to apply one course taken prior to entering a HGSE Ed.M. Program, the student has two-and-one-half years from the time of matriculation into the degree program to complete the degree. Likewise, if an Ed.M. candidate plans to apply two courses taken prior to entering a HGSE Ed.M. Program, the student has two years from the time of matriculation to complete the degree. All Ed.M. candidates who matriculate in fall 2022 will be expected to complete the degree within two years regardless of whether a petition to include prior coursework is approved.

Credits from other institutions are not accepted toward HGSE degree requirements. However, to avoid duplication of previous work, a student may ask their Program Co-Chairs for release from a course requirement and may, with the approval of the Program Co-Chairs, take a suitable replacement or more advanced course.

No agreement can be made before admission to the degree program that prior courses taken will receive credit toward the degree.

Course Add/Drop

Full-term courses may be added to or expunged from a student's record through the add/drop deadline for the semester as designated in the [Academic Calendar](#). Students may still drop a full-term course after the deadline until the 9th Monday of the semester, but the course will remain listed on the student's transcript with a "DRP" notation (fees may apply; see *Associated Fees* below). A student may petition to withdraw from a full-term course until the last day of classes for the semester. If a petition to withdraw from a course is approved, the student's record will carry the notation "WD" for the course. Similarly, modules that run for part of the semester must be added or dropped before the designated module add/drop deadline. If dropped after the deadline and up to two weeks before the last day of

classes for the module, the module will remain listed on the student's transcript with a "DRP" notation (fees may apply; see *Associated Fees* below). A student may petition to withdraw from a module until the last day of classes for each module. If a petition to withdraw from a module is approved, the student's record will carry the notation "WD" for the module. Dropping a course or a module is not permitted once the instructor has posted an official grade.

Note for Ed.L.D. students: Due to the unique nature of the Ed.L.D. curriculum, Ed.L.D. students are not permitted to drop Year 1, 2, or 3 core courses. In cases of extenuating circumstances, the Director for Doctoral Studies may grant permission for students to drop core courses and repeat them at a later time; however, all core requirements must be completed in order to earn the Ed.L.D. degree.

Note for residential Ed.M. students: Due to the unique nature of the Foundations courses in the Ed.M. curriculum, full-time Ed.M. students are not permitted to drop the core Foundations courses *How People Learn*, *Leading Change*, *Evidence*, and *Equity & Opportunity: Identity in Context*. The second part of the *Equity & Opportunity* requirement—students' choice from a list of *Equity & Opportunity* Foundations elective courses in Fall, Winter, or Spring—may be dropped provided students fulfill their *Equity & Opportunity* Foundations requirement by taking another approved *Equity & Opportunity* elective course. Part-time Ed.M. students must complete *How People Learn* in Year 1 and must fulfill all remaining Foundations coursework within two years. In cases of serious illness, emergency, or other exceptional circumstances a student may submit a petition via a [Student Appeal Form](#) to request permission to drop a required Foundations course and repeat it at a later time; however, all Foundations requirements must be completed in order to earn the Ed.M. degree. Please see the Registration and Enrollment Policies section of this Handbook for additional details on add/drop policies.

Note for students in the online Master's Program in Education Leadership (OEL): Due to the unique nature of the Foundations courses in the Ed.M. curriculum, online Ed.M. students are not permitted to drop the core Foundations courses *How People Learn*, *Leading Change*, *Evidence*, and *Equity & Opportunity: Identity in Context*. In cases of serious illness, emergency, or other exceptional circumstances a student may submit a petition via a [Student Appeal Form](#) to request permission to drop a Foundations course and repeat it at a later time; however, all Foundations requirements must be completed in order to earn the Ed.M. degree. Please see the Registration and Enrollment Policies section of this Handbook for additional details on add/drop policies.

Note for Concentrations: Students must declare a Concentration and add the relevant courses by the first fall course registration deadline. Students may drop their concentration at any time before the graduation application deadline. Courses to fulfill the concentration requirement may be added or expunged from a student's record through the add/drop deadline. After the add/drop deadline has passed, courses may still be dropped up to the last day of classes for the semester, but the transcript will carry a permanent "DRP" notation for any courses dropped after the add/drop deadline.

Courses and modules are officially added or dropped via *my.harvard*. Students who wish to add a course (or drop a course without incurring the "DRP" notation) after the add/drop deadline must submit a [petition via a Student Appeal Form](#) with the Office of the Registrar. Such petitions are approved only in cases of serious illness, emergency, or other exceptional circumstances. If the petition is submitted after the deadline and is approved, a late fee will be charged. Late registration fees and deadlines will be posted on the Office of the Registrar website.

Students may add or drop January and August Term courses without a “DRP” notation on their transcript through the respective add/drop deadlines. (Please refer to the [Academic Calendar and/or class notes](#) for specific dates). August Term drops only applies to part-time Ed.M. students and, on rare occasions, doctoral students enrolled in those courses. After the add/drop deadline has passed, courses may still be dropped up to the last day of class for the course and will receive a “DRP” notation on their transcript.

Courses taken at other schools through cross-registration may be added or dropped only until the HGSE add/drop deadline, unless the host school’s deadline is earlier, in which case the other school’s deadline supersedes that of HGSE.

Cross-registration at other Harvard schools and/or MIT is not available for students in the online Master’s in Education Leadership (OEL).

Full-time students who have not been given official written authorization for part-time study remain at full tuition even if their semester course load is less than 12 credits. Refunds for dropped courses are provided only to students being charged on a per-course basis. See the [Withdrawals](#) section for more information.

Associated Fees

Late Fee Waivers

Fees for late check-in, late course registration, and change-of-course petitions are waived only when the University is responsible for the difficulty or when the situation involves a serious illness of the student (usually including hospitalization) or a death in the student’s immediate family. It is the student’s responsibility to meet the deadlines on the [Academic Calendar](#) to avoid being charged late fees.

Late add/drop fee

- HGSE students who drop courses after the second course meeting and before the applicable module, term, and/or semester add/drop deadlines will be charged a late drop fee. HGSE students who drop courses after the January Term registration deadline will be charged a late drop fee. Late registration fees and deadlines are posted on the Office of the Registrar website.
- HGSE students who wish to add a course (or drop a course without incurring the “DRP” notation) after the add/drop deadline must submit a petition with the Office of the Registrar. Such petitions are approved only in cases of serious illness, emergency, or other exceptional circumstances. There is a processing fee for petitions submitted after the deadlines. Late registration fees and deadlines are posted on the Office of the Registrar website. After the add/drop deadline has passed, courses may still be dropped up to the last day of classes for each semester. The transcript will carry a permanent “DRP” notation for any courses dropped after the add/drop deadline. Late registration fees and deadlines will be posted on the Office of the Registrar website.

Financial aid cannot be used for associated late fees.

Cross-Registration

Please note: Courses taken at other schools through cross-registration may be added or dropped only until the HGSE add/drop deadline, unless the host school's deadline is earlier, in which case the other school's deadline supersedes that of HGSE.

Cross-registration at other Harvard schools and/or MIT is not available for online Ed.M. students (OEL Program).

Please note: Due to differences in the academic calendars of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, students are cautioned that **spring 2024 grades for MIT courses may not be received in time to count towards May 2024 graduation. If students wish to receive their diploma on time, they should carefully consider whether to take an MIT course in the final semester.**

Through cross-registration, students may take courses offered by any faculty at Harvard University (except the Division of Continuing Education), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions' M.S. Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Ph.D. Program in Rehabilitation Sciences.

Students enrolling in courses through cross-registration are subject to the rules of the host school. HGSE students with accommodations who are cross-registered must notify the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services to be sure the accommodations are communicated to the host school. Students interested in cross-registering are advised to plan well in advance, since some courses in other schools begin earlier than HGSE courses.

No more than half of the courses taken toward an HGSE degree may be taken through cross-registration. For Ed.L.D. students, there is no limit to the number of cross-registration courses permitted in Year 2 of the program. For all students, at least 50% of the earned credits toward the degree must be taken at HGSE (please also refer to program-specific course requirements). Students are advised to visit *my.harvard* for information about courses offered by the other Harvard faculties, as well as for cross-registration information, including dates and deadlines, credit translations, and policies in effect at the other faculties. Grades issued through cross-registration are recorded as such and are not converted by HGSE.

Cross-registered courses taken for letter grades (e.g., A, B, C, etc.) count toward the 16-credit minimum but are included in the student's grade point average only if they are based on the letter grade scale used at HGSE. If an instructor requires that all students receive letter grades or satisfactory/no credit grades, then the instructor's grading system overrides the student's preference, if different.

HGSE Foundations courses are only available to HGSE Ed.M. and Ed.L.D. students, as well as to Ph.D. in Education students by exception. Cross-registration and auditing are not permitted.

Course Evaluations

HGSE places a great deal of importance on the evaluation of its courses and programs. Course evaluations have four purposes: (1) to help instructors improve their courses and strengthen their teaching; (2) to provide information about courses to students; (3) to encourage student reflection on their own learning; and (4) to be used as part of the professional review process for faculty members.

It is an institutional requirement that students complete course evaluations for each class in which they are enrolled. (Note: some courses, such as independent studies, are not evaluated via the course evaluation process.) A student may view final grades for the semester only after submitting all course evaluations and/or after the fully graded date² published in the GSE Academic Calendar.

Continuing students who do not complete all their course evaluations by the published deadline will be prevented from registering for further courses until they fulfill the course evaluation requirement. Diplomas will be withheld for graduating students who do not fill out all course evaluations.

Individual student responses to the course evaluation questions are confidential at all times. Instructors are not given access to evaluation summary reports until grades have been submitted to the Office of the Registrar. New instructors and instructors teaching a course for the first time may elect to withhold publication of the evaluations for that course. Evaluations for fall semester courses are usually available midway through the spring semester; spring semester evaluations are usually available by the end of the summer. Course evaluations may be accessed electronically via *my.harvard*. For additional information, students may contact the [Office of the Registrar](#).

Course Catalog

Changes and Exceptions to Course Catalog

In certain courses, faculty may supplement the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook and information contained in the *HGSE Course Catalog* (available on *my.harvard*), by disseminating course outlines, notices, and announcements that deal with course-specific grading policies, examinations, or other academic matters. It is the student's responsibility to be informed of any such supplementary information.

Attendance

Class attendance policies are determined at the individual course level but are subject to Massachusetts law, which provides that "Any student in an educational or vocational training institution, other than a religious or denominational educational or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement which the student may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of availing themselves of the provisions of this section" (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151C: Section 2B).

Appeal Process for Exceptions

In rare instances, the committee will review requests for exceptions to the school's financial and registration policies. Students with compelling reasons may request exceptions to policies and procedures pertaining (but not limited) to the following:

² The fully graded date is the date when all grades for the semester are displayed on *my.harvard* and on unofficial transcripts, regardless of whether a course evaluation has been submitted or not.

- Late registration
- Tuition, fee, or fine refunds or waivers
- Adding courses beyond the school deadline in cases in which the instructor approves the change
- Dropping courses beyond the school deadline with having a notation on the transcript
- Grade option changes beyond the school deadline in cases in which the instructor approves the change

A student who wishes to request an exception to a specific policy, procedure, or deadline must submit the **Student Appeal Form**, which is available on the Forms page of the HGSE [Office of the Registrar website](#).

Appeals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Whether the details of the appeal are compelling, and special circumstances are relevant. Simple mistakes with the pertinent deadlines are not sufficient.
- Issues of equity and consistency, which are taken into account whenever a student is requesting an exception to a policy or procedure to which other students remain accountable.
- Government statutes and regulations that may govern enrollment policies.

Appropriate documentation should also accompany the request to provide proof of the circumstances and should be sent to Registrar@gse.harvard.edu.

If the Registrar considers the case to be compelling, then a review committee will be assembled to make a final decision. The review committee will be comprised of at least three members of the following: the Registrar; the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid; the relevant Associate Director for Master's Studies; the Director for Doctoral Studies; the Director of Student Affairs; the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services; and the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services. The committee also may contact course instructors or other school officials as appropriate to gather additional relevant information.

Students' requests, supporting documentation, committee deliberations, and correspondence are treated confidentially. Students will be notified in writing of the final decision. Students who wish to appeal a decision of the committee will be referred to the Academic Dean.

Degree Application

All HGSE students are expected to apply for a degree via *my.harvard* by the designated deadline. Ph.D. students who complete the requirements for an AM in Education while they are enrolled in a doctoral program are eligible to submit a degree application to GSAS by the date indicated in the [GSAS Academic Calendar](#) for whichever degree award date applies (November, March, or May).

Leaves of Absence

Voluntary Leaves of Absence

Students who need to interrupt their studies before completing degree requirements may request a leave of absence. Requests for a leave of absence may be granted by the Director or Associate Director of their program in consultation with other officers of the School/University as appropriate. Please note

that leaves of absence are granted only in extenuating circumstances. Leaves of absence are not available for the first summer of the master's programs, including August Term.

Students who wish to request a voluntary leave of absence should meet with the Director or Associate Director of their program. To be eligible for a Fall Full Term (starting in September) leave of absence in the first year of the program, a full-time residential Ed.M. student must have completed all summer and August courses required prior to the start of the program in the Fall Full Term. Leaves of absence are not permitted during a student's first summer/August Term; in those instances, the student should consider delaying their enrollment status or withdrawing from HGSE. Students who withdraw from HGSE may apply for reinstatement in accordance with the policy on *Withdrawals* set forth in this Handbook.

Please note that Ph.D. in Education students considering a Leave of Absence should consult with the Director for Doctoral Studies and the GSAS Policies. International students with an active F-1 or J-1 record must contact their advisor at the Harvard International Office to discuss the potential impacts of a leave of absence on their immigration status.

To request a voluntary leave of absence, HGSE students must follow the steps outlined below:

1. Obtain the Leave of Absence form, available electronically on [the HGSE Office of the Registrar website](#).
2. Financial aid recipients: Consult with the Financial Aid Office to determine the impact of the proposed leave on financial aid status. International students: Consult with the Assistant Director for Community Building and International Student Support to determine visa status.
3. Complete the form and obtain the signatures of relevant program staff members:
 - Ed.M. students must obtain the signature of the Associate Director of their Program.
 - Ph.D. students must consult the Director for Doctoral Studies and request leave through GSAS.
 - Ed.L.D. students must obtain the signature of the Director for Doctoral Studies.

The Associate Director of the student's Ed.M. Program or the Director for Doctoral Studies may consult with others at the school and University and will then provide a written response to the student within five to seven business days. If approved, the effective date for the leave of absence is the date that the request form was received by the appropriate Program staff member.

Students may be granted a voluntary leave of absence for a maximum of two semesters. Students seeking additional leave beyond two semesters must apply for an extended leave of absence (see below).

Requesting an Extended Voluntary Leave of Absence

Students who are not actively working toward their degree and who need to be away from the University for more than two consecutive semesters are required to request an extended voluntary leave of absence. The maximum length of an extended leave of absence is four consecutive semesters. An extended leave requires approval of the Faculty Director or Co-Chair of the student's Program and the Associate Director of the student's Ed.M. Program or the Director for Doctoral Studies. The Office of Student Affairs, the Financial Aid Office, and the Office of the Registrar are notified of an approved leave.

To request an extended voluntary leave of absence:

1. A student must first submit a written petition to the Associate Director of the student's Ed.M. Program or the Director for Doctoral Studies. In the petition, students must explain the reasons for the extended leave along with how, and in what time frame, they expect to complete their degree.
2. The Associate Director of the student's Ed.M. Program or the Director for Doctoral Studies may consult with others at the school and University for review and recommendation and will then provide a written response to the student within five to seven business days. If approved, the effective date for the leave of absence is the date that the request form was received by the appropriate program staff member.

In most circumstances, the academic clock is not stopped for the duration of an extended leave of absence. However, exceptions will be made for a medically documented severe illness, childbirth, adoption, or other major family-related disruption. Students on academic timetables must continue to comply with these deadlines. Semesters on leave/extended leave are included in the calculation of the number of years a student has been in a degree program.

The Associate Director of the student's Ed.M. Program or the Director for Doctoral Studies will notify the student of its decision in writing.

Involuntary Leaves of Absence

Under certain circumstances, a student may be placed on an involuntary leave of absence. An involuntary leave of absence is not a disciplinary sanction. However, an incident that gives rise to a leave of absence, whether voluntary or involuntary, may subsequently be the basis for disciplinary action. A student who prefers to take a voluntary leave of absence for medical reasons rather than to be placed on an involuntary leave of absence for medical reasons is ordinarily allowed to do so.

Transcripts do not distinguish between voluntary and involuntary leaves of absence.

An involuntary leave of absence may be required for the following reasons:

1. Medical circumstances:
 - a. (i) The student's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of any person or has seriously disrupted others in the student's residential community or academic environment; and (ii) either the student's threatening, self-destructive, or disruptive behavior is determined to be the result of a medical condition or the student has refused to cooperate with efforts by Harvard University Health Services or other clinicians to determine the cause of the behavior.
 - b. The student is not cleared to return to enrollment and/or residence at HGSE following either: (i) a hospitalization or emergency room visit; or (ii) other circumstances that reasonably call into question their ability to function as a student in the HGSE environment. For more about the process of clearance to return to enrollment and/or residence after a hospitalization or emergency room visit, see section [5Gii](#) of the HGSE Handbook.

The decision to place a student on an involuntary leave of absence for health related reasons is made in consultation with Harvard University Health Services (which may consider information from the student's current and/or former health care providers, if made available by the student), after an individualized assessment of all of the pertinent factors, such as: the nature of the student's conduct; the nature, duration and severity of the risk; the likelihood of potential injury; and whether reasonable modifications of policies, practices or procedures will mitigate the risk, such as a reduced course load or course modifications. However, reasonable modifications do not include changes that would fundamentally alter the academic program or

unduly burden the School's resources or staffing capabilities or, with respect to the required level of care or monitoring, that would exceed the standard of care that a university health service can be expected to provide

2. Failure to adhere to the terms of an agreement to engage in treatment. The student's continued enrollment and/or residence is conditioned on the student's agreement to meet the expectations set forth in an agreement to engage in treatment, such as following the recommendations of the student's treatment team, and the student has failed to adhere to the terms of that agreement.
3. Alleged criminal behavior. The student has been arrested on allegations of serious criminal behavior or has been charged with such behavior by law enforcement authorities.
4. Risk to the community. The student allegedly has violated a disciplinary rule of the School, and his or her presence on campus poses a significant risk to the safety of others or to the educational environment of the community.
5. Indebtedness. The student's term bill is unpaid and the student has not made arrangements acceptable to the School to address the issue.
6. Failure to provide medical documentation of required immunizations.
7. Unfulfilled School requirements. The student has not met an academic or other School requirement, including without limitation, attending class or participating in required activities, and has not taken steps acceptable to the School to meet the requirement.
8. Failure to register. The student has not registered as required at the beginning of each term.

The decision to place a student on involuntary leave for medical circumstance, failure to adhere to the terms of an agreement to engage in treatment, alleged criminal behavior, and risk to the community is made by the Director of Student Affairs in consultation with the Registrar, the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities, the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services, or the Academic Dean, or such other person as the Dean designates and other officers of the University, as appropriate. As noted above, in the case of an involuntary leave of absence for medical reasons, the School will consult with an appropriate person at Harvard University Health Services.

The decision to place a student on involuntary leave for indebtedness, failure to provide medical documentation, unfulfilled school requirements, and failure to register is made by the Registrar in consultation with the Director of Student Affairs, The Associate Director of the corresponding program, the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, and the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services. Students may return from involuntary leave of absence the following term once they have satisfied any unmet requirements that led to the involuntary leave. Students who fail to register or withdraw for a second consecutive term will be withdrawn on the full term add/drop deadline of the next term. Students who have been withdrawn must apply for readmission to HGSE and pay any relevant fees.

Students are notified in writing that they have been placed on involuntary leave. A student may petition the Academic Dean for reconsideration, generally within five calendar days, and may appeal a final decision to the Dean of the School.

Policies During a Leave of Absence

Academic Progress While on Leave of Absence

In most circumstances, the academic clock is not stopped for the duration of a leave of absence. However, exceptions will be made for a medically documented severe illness, childbirth, or other major family-related disruption. Students should contact the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services for more details. Students must continue to comply with degree duration deadlines; semesters on leave are included in the calculation of the number of years a student has been in a degree program.

Students who are on a leave of absence are not considered to be making continued progress toward the degree. While on leave, students do not have access to advising time, or other HGSE or Harvard University services and facilities. While on leave, Ph.D. students may not submit proposals or dissertations to their committee, nor are they eligible for Teaching Fellowships. Ed.L.D. students on leave may not submit final Capstones or Capstone components, nor are they eligible for Teaching Fellowships. Students on leave during the spring semester are not permitted to enroll in January or May courses.

Access and Expectations for Conduct While on Leave of Absence

Students on leave may not participate in HGSE co-curricular or extracurricular activities. Exceptions to this rule must be specifically approved in advance by the School. If so instructed by the School, a student on leave must remain away from the University campus. Virtual access to *my.harvard* and the Harvard libraries (including unlimited library privileges, HOLLIS catalog and library e-resources) ordinarily will be available to students on leave, provided they are paying the facilities fee (\$250/semester), though they will not be available to students on leave who are paying only the active file fee (\$125/semester). Students on leave who are in good standing and who are living in Harvard Housing may remain in Harvard Housing through the end of their lease term. If the student account is inactive, rent payments are made directly to Harvard University Housing. Students on F-1 and J-1 visas must consult the Harvard International Office concerning their status while on leave.

Students going on leave are reminded that all degree candidates, whether currently registered or not, are expected to maintain a satisfactory standard of conduct.

Following an individualized assessment, the School may require students who are on leave for medical reasons to comply with a treatment plan during their time away.

Health Insurance Coverage While on Leave of Absence

When a student is on leave from Harvard University, the applicable student health insurance coverage will end on the last day of the month of the official last date of attendance as recorded by the Office of the Registrar. Students with a last date of attendance between December 1 and January 31 for the fall term and between May 1 and July 31 for the spring term will retain coverage through the end of the health insurance period for that term.

Students are eligible to purchase six months of additional coverage (in three-month increments), effective from the first day without coverage. To initiate enrollment, the student must submit an enrollment application to HUSHP Member Services (617-495-2008, mservices@huhs.harvard.edu) within 30 days from the date of loss of coverage (or, in the case of students going on leave before a new term starts, by September 15 or March 15).

The six-month extension of coverage is intended to facilitate a student's transition from HUSHP to other outside insurance and is only meant to be for a limited duration. Students expecting to take a leave of

absence should contact HUSHP Member Services as early as possible so that information regarding insurance options can be reviewed with the student in a timely manner.

For details, review the Leave of Absence policy on the HUHSP website <https://hushp.harvard.edu/> or contact the Student Health Insurance Office, Member Services, at 617-495-2008 or mservices@huhs.harvard.edu.

Tuition and Fees Refund While on Leave of Absence

Any student who goes on leave of absence during the academic year is charged tuition and any applicable fees to the end of the period in which they leave. This includes rent if the student’s housing is provided by Harvard. The HGSE tuition refund policy is outlined below.

Ed.M. Students:

Fall Term	Spring Term	Rate	Amount Per Course
August 16, 2023	February 5, 2024	Full refund	\$5,452
October 9, 2023	February 26, 2024	¾ refund	\$4,089
October 30, 2023	March 18, 2024	½ refund	\$2,726
November 20, 2023	April 8, 2024	¼ refund	\$1,363
Thereafter	Thereafter	No refund	No refund

Ed.L.D. Students:

Fall Term	Spring Term	Rate	Amount Per Course
September 18, 2023	February 5, 2024	Full refund	\$5,452
October 9, 2023	February 26, 2024	¾ refund	\$4,089
October 30, 2023	March 18, 2024	½ refund	\$2,726
November 20, 2023	April 8, 2024	¼ refund	\$1,363
Thereafter	Thereafter	No refund	No refund

In lieu of tuition, students who are on leave will be charged either the \$125 Active File Fee or the \$250 Facilities Fee for each semester of leave.

Important note concerning Financial Aid: Students on a leave of absence are not eligible to receive institutional or federal financial aid. In addition, students should be aware that a leave of absence counts toward the grace period on most student loans and that these loans may go into repayment during the leave. Financial aid recipients who are considering requesting a leave of absence are urged to contact the HGSE Office of Financial Aid to review their financial aid package and loan deferral options prior to submitting the request form.

Returning to HGSE after a Leave of Absence

A student in good standing on a voluntary leave of absence ordinarily may return by notifying the Registrar twelve weeks in advance of the start of any term, although it remains the student’s responsibility to ensure that they have adequate time to complete the degree within the time limits established by the School.

Students who were not in good standing at the time a voluntary leave of absence was granted and students who were placed on an involuntary leave of absence must petition the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services for permission to return to the School and must demonstrate that the circumstances that led to their leave have been satisfactorily addressed and that they are ready to resume their studies. The decision whether to allow a student to return is made by the Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services, in consultation with the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities or such other person as the Dean designates.

If the leave, whether voluntary or involuntary, was for medical reasons, then the student must petition the Director of Student Affairs for permission to return to the School and must demonstrate that the circumstances that led to their leave have been satisfactorily addressed and that they are ready to resume their studies. In addition, so that the School may conduct an individualized assessment of their circumstances, students on medical leave ordinarily will be required to consult with Harvard University Health Services (and to grant permission to Harvard University Health Services to obtain their relevant treatment records and communicate with their treatment providers) so that a professional assessment about the student's productivity during their time away and readiness to return can be shared with the School. In addition, if the School learns of serious concerns about the health or well-being of a student who either has been hospitalized or visited the emergency room or whose behavior reasonably calls into question their ability to function as a student in the HGSE environment, then the School similarly may require the student to consult with Harvard University Health Services (and to grant permission to Harvard University Health Services to obtain their relevant treatment records and communicate with their treatment providers). For more about the process of clearance to return to enrollment and/or residence after a hospitalization or emergency room visit, see the section called Clearance for Return below. The purpose of such consultation is so that a professional assessment can be shared with the School about the student's readiness to return and function in the student environment, with or without reasonable accommodation. Note that while the input of a student's treatment provider is an important consideration in the petition process, Harvard University Health Services clinicians may have special knowledge of the University context to which students will be returning. In all such cases, the decision whether to allow a student to return is made by the Director of Student Affairs, in consultation with the Director for Doctoral Studies or the relevant Associate Director of an Ed.M. program, as appropriate, or such other person as the Dean designates. Any student whose petition to return from a medical leave of absence is denied will receive a written explanation of the decision and may submit a written appeal of the decision to the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services or their designee within five (5) calendar days, based on the following grounds: (a) new materially relevant information has become available; and/or (b) there is reasonable evidence of a procedural error in the decision-making process.

Any disciplinary matter must be resolved before a student on leave of absence will be allowed to return and, if the student has been required to withdraw while on leave of absence, then any conditions for return after a required withdrawal also must be satisfied.

Students returning from a leave who wish to apply for financial aid must notify the Financial Aid Office and file the necessary application forms by mid-May for the following fall term, and by October 1 for the following spring term. Late applicants cannot be assured that their aid will be available in time for registration payment deadlines.

A student will not be allowed to register in the University again until all previous term-bill charges have been paid and no loan is in default.

Clearance for Return

After a hospitalization or emergency room visit by one of its students, or in other circumstances that raise serious questions about the student's health or well-being and reasonably call into question their ability to function as a student in the HGSE environment, HGSE ordinarily will not permit that student to return to enrollment or participation in any Harvard-related programs or activities before making its own assessment of the suitability of the student's return. (See "Procedure for Notice and Consultation"). To better inform that assessment, students are expected to notify both HGSE and HUHS of any hospitalization or emergency department visit. HUHS can be notified by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 617-495-5711.

Reason for Policy

An important consideration in the HGSE's decision as to whether a student may continue in or return to enrollment is the impact of the student's presence on the community. A student who is injured, ill, or exhibiting disturbing or disruptive behavior may require ongoing care. HGSE regards as unreasonable the expectation that roommates, suitemates, friends, or HGSE staff will take on health care responsibilities for other students. Any student may, of course, refuse to allow consultation between the student's clinician(s) and HGSE, but such a refusal will not prevent HGSE from making a decision regarding a student's return to residence or continued enrollment.

Procedure for Notice and Consultation

HGSE will consult with clinicians at HUHS and/or, if the student has been treated elsewhere, clinicians at other facilities or in private practice, ordinarily with the student's permission. Depending on all of the relevant circumstances, such consultation may be initiated either by HGSE or by clinicians at HUHS. Notice that a student has been hospitalized or treated in an emergency department of an area hospital may prompt HGSE to begin a process of consultation through which it will decide whether and under what circumstances the student may continue in or return to enrollment.

HGSE also may independently decide that, based on its observations or other information it has about a student, it should initiate the process of consultation with HUHS clinicians, which may include ascertaining whether that student has been hospitalized or treated by an emergency department.

Consultation will be focused on the concerns raised by the student's condition or behavior and requirements for continued care, in order to facilitate HGSE's decision about the student's capacity to continue in or return to residence and enrollment.

Agreements to Engage in Treatment

The School may condition a student's enrollment and/or residence on certain terms or conditions, as set forth in a written contract between the School and the student, when the student's conduct or circumstances have caused heightened concerns about the student's safety and/or well-being and: (a) the appropriateness of the student's continued enrollment and/or residence; or (b) the student's readiness to return to the Harvard community. The agreement to engage in treatment may include, among other things, compliance with a medical treatment plan, regular consultations with health care professionals, communication with administrators, and limited disclosure of relevant medical information, on a need-to-know basis, such as compliance with treatment and restrictions on certain activities. The decision to require such an agreement is arrived at in consultation with Harvard University Health Services after an individualized assessment of the nature of the student's conduct and circumstances and any other pertinent factors.

Withdrawals

HGSE students who decide to discontinue their degree or non-degree program must file an official *Withdrawal Form*.³ This form is available online from the [Office of the Registrar website](#). For the determination of tuition and financial aid refunds, the official date of withdrawal is the date on which the Withdrawal Form is filed, unless one of the following conditions applies:

1. If the date on which the student signs the Withdrawal Form is earlier than the date on which the form is received, then the earlier date will be the official date of withdrawal, as long as it is reasonably close in time to the date the form is submitted.
2. If the student notifies (email or phone) a staff member of the Office of the Registrar, Office of Student Affairs, Financial Aid Office, Degree Programs Office, or advisor that they are withdrawing before submitting the Withdrawal Form, then the official withdrawal date is the date on which the student first notified such person, not the date on which the Withdrawal Form is received.
3. If the student officially withdraws during a scheduled break that is at least five days long, the last day of scheduled classes before the break will be considered the withdrawal date.

If a student registers and subsequently ceases attendance without providing notification to HGSE of their withdrawal, the withdrawal date is the midpoint of the semester.

Important Note: Please keep in mind that the HGSE transcript includes a student's complete academic history at HGSE, including courses taken as a non-degree student. If the student withdraws from HGSE, a grade of "WD" will be recorded on the HGSE transcript for all courses in the semester in which the student withdraws.

Insurance and Billing Post-Withdrawal

Health Insurance Coverage after Withdrawal

When a student withdraws from Harvard University, the applicable student coverage will end on the last day of the month of the official last date of attendance as recorded by the Office of the Registrar. Students with a last date of attendance between December 1 and January 31 for the fall term and between May 1 and July 31 for the spring term will retain coverage through the end of the health insurance period for that term.

Students are eligible to purchase six months of additional coverage (in three-month increments), effective from the first day without coverage. To initiate enrollment, the student must submit an enrollment application to HUSHP Member Services (617-495-2008, mservices@huhs.harvard.edu) within 30 days from the date of loss of coverage (or, in the case of students going on leave before a new term starts, by September 15 or March 15). Payment is by check only.

The six-month extension of coverage is intended to facilitate a student's transition from HUSHP to other outside insurance and is only meant to be for a limited duration. Students expecting to take a leave of absence or withdraw from the University should contact HUSHP Member Services as early as possible so that information regarding insurance options can be reviewed with the student in a timely manner.

Billing after Withdrawal/Administrative Withdrawal

Students being charged on a per-course basis who drop a course, withdraw, or take a leave of absence by the dates shown below are eligible for the following per course refunds:

³ Ph.D. in Education students considering a Withdrawal should consult the GSAS Policies.

Ed.M. Students:

Fall Term	Spring Term	Rate	Amount Per Course
August 16, 2023	February 5, 2024	Full refund	\$5,452
October 9, 2023	February 26, 2024	$\frac{3}{4}$ refund	\$4,089
October 30, 2023	March 18, 2024	$\frac{1}{2}$ refund	\$2,726
November 20, 2023	April 8, 2024	$\frac{1}{4}$ refund	\$1,363
Thereafter	Thereafter	No refund	No refund

Ed.L.D. Students:

Fall Term	Spring Term	Rate	Amount Per Course
September 18, 2023	February 5, 2024	Full refund	\$5,452
October 9, 2023	February 26, 2024	$\frac{3}{4}$ refund	\$4,089
October 30, 2023	March 18, 2024	$\frac{1}{2}$ refund	\$2,726
November 20, 2023	April 8, 2024	$\frac{1}{4}$ refund	\$1,363
Thereafter	Thereafter	No refund	No refund

Students who withdraw after completing more than 60% of the term may be eligible to keep all of their federal financial aid; students should consult with the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Reinstatement After Withdrawal for Ph.D. Candidates

To be eligible for reinstatement after withdrawal, applicants must meet the following conditions:

1. Applicant has been out of the program fewer than four years;
2. Applicant withdrew voluntarily;
3. Applicant was in good academic standing at the time of withdrawal;
4. Applicant has no outstanding financial obligations to Harvard University; and
5. A current HGSE faculty member is willing to serve as the applicant's advisor. (This criterion only applies if the first four are met, and the applicant has been given approval by the degree program to apply for reinstatement. See reinstatement petition procedure below.)

If an applicant does not meet the above eligibility criteria but believes there are extenuating circumstances that justify reinstatement, it is the responsibility of the applicant to present a compelling case in writing to the Director for Doctoral Studies for consideration. The applicant must present evidence that they can successfully complete Ph.D. Program in a timely manner following reinstatement. Exceptions will be granted very rarely and require the permission of the Academic Dean before they are forwarded to the Ph.D. Steering Committee for review.

Ph.D. Reinstatement Petition Procedure

1. Applicant contacts the Director for Doctoral Studies to ascertain reinstatement eligibility. As part of this initial request, applicants must include a letter with all the following information:
 - Why they originally failed to complete the program;
 - What have they been doing since they left the program;
 - Why they think they can successfully complete the program;

- Their proposed research topic, should they be reinstated; and
- A reasonable timeline and plan for completing all remaining academic milestones.

The letter should be submitted to the Director at least three months prior to the semester in which the applicant hopes to register. Petitioners will be notified in writing of the decision.

2. In consultation with the Ph.D. Faculty Director(s), the Director reviews the request, along with the applicant's file and transcript, to determine if the petition should go forward to the Ph.D. Steering Committee for review.
3. If the applicant does NOT meet the eligibility criteria set forth above or does not present a compelling case for reinstatement, the Director informs him/her that no reinstatement petition will be considered.
4. If a reinstatement petition is invited, it must include a letter of support from a current HGSE faculty member who agrees to serve as advisor, and agreements from two faculty members who will serve on applicant's committee of readers. The documents are submitted to the Director for Ph.D. Steering Committee review.
5. The Ph.D. Steering Committee reviews the petition and approves or denies reinstatement. The Ph.D. Steering Committee may require a revised timeline for degree completion and/or determine additional requirements.
6. Applicants may only apply for reinstatement once. If an applicant has been denied reinstatement, either because eligibility criteria were not met or because the Ph.D. Steering Committee denied the petition, no further petitions will be considered.
7. If reinstated, the student is charged an Active File Fee (\$150 charged by GSAS) for each semester since the termination of degree candidacy (maximum charge of \$1000). Academic reinstatement to degree candidacy, if granted, is contingent upon the meeting of financial and other obligations to the University, as well as any academic conditions imposed by the faculty.
8. Once the reinstatement request is approved by the Ph.D. Steering Committee, students must apply for readmission to return to registered student status in the Ph.D. Program. Completed applications should be submitted to the GSAS Office of Student Affairs.

Reinstatement After Withdrawal for Ed.L.D. Candidates

To be eligible for reinstatement after withdrawal, applicants must meet the following conditions:

1. Applicant has been out of the program fewer than four years;
2. Applicant withdrew voluntarily;
3. Applicant was in good academic standing at the time of withdrawal;
4. Applicant has no outstanding financial obligations to Harvard University;
5. Applicant has successfully completed the first-year core curriculum.

If an applicant does not meet the above eligibility criteria but believes there are extenuating circumstances that justify reinstatement, it is their responsibility to present a compelling case in writing to the Director for Doctoral Studies for consideration. The applicant must present evidence that they have the ability to successfully complete the Ed.L.D. program in a timely manner following reinstatement. Exceptions will be granted very rarely and require the permission of the Academic Dean before they are forwarded to the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee for review.

Reinstatement Petition Procedure:

1. Applicant contacts the Director for Doctoral Studies to ascertain reinstatement eligibility. As part of this initial request, applicants should include a letter with the following information:
 - Why they originally failed to complete the program;
 - What they have been doing since they left the program;
 - Why they think they can successfully complete the program;
 - A reasonable timeline and plan for completing remaining degree requirements.The letter should be submitted to the Director at least three months prior to the semester in which the applicant expects to register. Petitioners will be notified in writing of the decision.
2. The Director reviews the request, along with the applicant's file and HGSE transcript, to determine if the petition should go forward for Ed.L.D. Steering Committee for review.
3. If the applicant does NOT meet eligibility criteria or does not present a compelling case for reinstatement, the Director informs the applicant that the petition will not move forward to the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee.
4. If eligibility criteria are met and the Director has determined the petition can proceed, the reinstatement petition goes to the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee.
5. The Ed.L.D. Steering Committee reviews the petition and approves or denies reinstatement. The Ed.L.D. Steering Committee may require a revised timeline for degree completion and/or determine additional requirements.
6. Applicants may only apply for reinstatement ONCE. If an applicant has been denied reinstatement, either because eligibility criteria were not met or because the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee denied the petition, no further petitions will be considered.
7. If reinstated, the student is charged an Active File Fee (\$125) for each semester since the termination of degree candidacy (maximum charge of \$500). Academic reinstatement to degree candidacy, if granted, is contingent upon the meeting of financial and other obligations to the University, as well as any academic conditions imposed by the faculty.

Reinstatement After Withdrawal for Ed.M. Candidates

Former Ed.M. candidates who withdrew voluntarily may apply for reinstatement to complete all degree requirements within three consecutive years from the date of original matriculation. Applicants beyond the three-year degree completion limit must reapply via the official Admissions process. After reapplying, should the applicant be admitted, up to 16 previously earned credits may be counted toward the degree at the discretion of the Academic Dean in consultation with the relevant program, the Associate Director of the student's Program, and the Office of the Registrar.

To be eligible for reinstatement applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Applicant was in good academic standing at the time of withdrawal;
- Applicant has no outstanding financial obligations to Harvard University; and
- Applicant must be able to complete all degree requirements within three consecutive years from the date of original matriculation.

To apply for reinstatement, the applicant must submit a petition that includes:

- A proposed study plan for the completion of the degree and program requirements;

- A satisfactory explanation for the time away from the School; and
- The academic rationale for the return to HGSE.

The letter of petition should be submitted to the Associate Director for Residential Master's Education or the Associate Director of Teaching and Teacher Leadership, depending on the student's program, or the Associate Director of Online Master's Education for online Ed.M. programs at least three months prior to the semester in which the applicant hopes to register. The relevant Associate Director may consult with other members of the HGSE administration in making the decision about if a student may return from withdrawal. Petitioners will be notified in writing of the decision.

The School reserves the right to require additional information or documentation as part of a student's reinstatement petition.

If reinstated, the student is charged an Active File Fee (\$125) for each semester since the termination of degree candidacy (maximum charge of \$500). Academic reinstatement to degree candidacy, if granted, is contingent upon the meeting of financial and other obligations to the University, as well as any academic conditions imposed by the faculty.

Candidacy Termination

A student may terminate degree candidacy by notifying the Associate Director of their master's Program or the Director for Doctoral Studies in writing.

A student's degree candidacy may be terminated if the student has exceeded the program duration limit for completion of degree requirements. Ph.D. candidacy may be departmentally withdrawn (equivalent of HGSE candidacy termination) if students do not pass the written or oral comprehensive examinations. *(Please note: for Ph.D. students sitting for the written comprehensive examination during summer 2021 through spring 2022, this policy was amended in light of COVID-19. The amendment noted that students who do not pass the written comprehensive examination will not face department withdrawal from GSAS.)*

The Steering Committee of a student's degree program (i.e., Ph.D., Ed.L.D., or Ed.M.) may take appropriate action, including termination of candidacy, in matters involving academic discipline, professional and personal misconduct, or failure to meet specific requirements and deadlines. The Committees will consult with the academic faculty advisor prior to taking any of these actions.

Upon termination, the student's registration is canceled. Students who are academically eligible for a terminal Ed.M. or C.A.S. must apply for the degree within three years of their termination or withdrawal from the Ed.L.D. Program. Ph.D. students who have met all requirements for the degree may petition to be awarded a terminal A.M. from GSAS or a terminal Ed.M. from HGSE.

Appeal Procedure

Students may request review of the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee or the Ed.M. Steering Committee's decision to terminate their candidacy by submitting a written appeal to the Associate Director of their master's program or the Director for Doctoral Studies for consideration by the Academic Dean. Appeals must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the course enrollment deadline of the relevant academic

semester. The decision of the Academic Dean is not subject to further appeal. Ph.D. students must appeal to the GSAS Administrative Board.

****SECTION 5J: FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)****

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA")

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended ("FERPA") is a federal law that gives students certain rights with respect to their education records.

Education Records

The Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) routinely maintains records for its students that describe and document their work and progress. These education records generally include records such as permanent and local addresses, admissions records, enrollment status, course grades, reports and evaluations, completion of requirements and progress toward the degree, records of disciplinary actions, letters of recommendation, and other correspondence with or concerning the student.

Access

To be useful, students' records must be accurate and complete. The officials who maintain them are those in charge of the functions reflected in the records and the offices where the records are kept. These ordinarily include the Registrar, as well as certain officers of HGSE, including, for example, the Academic Dean, the Associate Director for Residential Master's Education, the Associate Director for Online Master's Education, or Director for Doctoral Studies, Program Directors or Co-Chairs, Concentration Co-Chairs, Program Assistant Directors, Program Coordinators, Concentration Coordinators, the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, the Director of Student Affairs, the Senior Associate Director for Student Support Services, and the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services. All students have access to their own education records and may contribute to them if they feel there is need for clarification.

Students wishing access to their education records should contact HGSE Office of the Registrar. Ordinarily, students are asked to submit a written request that identifies the specific record or records they wish to inspect. Access will be given within 45 days from the receipt of the request. When a record contains information about more than one student, the student requesting access may inspect and review only the portion of the record relating to them. Students also are not permitted to view letters and statements of recommendation to which they waived their right of access, or that were placed in their file before January 1, 1975.

Students should direct any questions they have about the accuracy of records to the person in charge of the office where the records are kept. If questions remain, the matter may be referred to the Registrar.

Should it be necessary, a hearing may be held to resolve challenges concerning the accuracy of records in those cases where informal discussions have not satisfactorily settled the questions raised.

Directory Information

HGSE regards the following information as “directory information,” that is, information that, under FERPA, can be made available to the general public: name, local address and telephone number, university email address, dates of enrollment, anticipated or actual date of graduation, degree and field of study, digitized image (please note that while Harvard classifies photos and images as directory information, these are rarely released to parties outside the University without the student's permission), and prior colleges and universities attended. For student employees, directory information also includes job title, teaching appointment (if applicable), employing department, and dates of employment.

Please note that Harvard University's definition of “directory information,” found here https://provost.harvard.edu/files/provost/files/ferpa_overview.pdf, may include elements in addition to those used by HGSE, and that requests for directory information received at the University level thus may result in disclosure of such additional elements.

Students may direct HGSE not to disclose their directory information, usually known as putting in place a “FERPA Block.” To do so, a student must inform the HGSE Office of the Registrar in writing and sign a form requesting that the information be blocked. A student who is cross-registered at more than one Harvard School must submit separate FERPA Block forms to each School. Students should be aware of the possible consequences of invoking a FERPA Block, such as missed mailings, messages, and announcements, non-verification of enrollment or degree status, and non-inclusion in the Harvard Commencement booklet. Students who have previously chosen to invoke a FERPA Block may decide to reverse this decision, also by informing the HGSE Office of the Registrar in writing.

Other Disclosures permitted under FERPA

In addition to permitting the disclosure of directory information, as set forth above, FERPA permits disclosure of educational records without a student's knowledge or consent under certain circumstances. For example, disclosure is permitted to Harvard officials with a legitimate educational interest in the records, meaning that the person needs the information to fulfill his, her, or their professional responsibilities, including instructional, supervisory, advisory, administrative, academic or research, staff support or other duties. “Harvard officials” include: faculty; administrators; clerical employees; professional employees; Harvard University Health Services staff members; Harvard University Police Department officers; agents of the University, such as independent contractors or vendors performing functions on behalf of a Harvard School or the University; members of Harvard's governing boards; and students serving on an official School or University committee, or assisting another Harvard official in performing his or her tasks.

A student's education record also may be shared with parties outside the University under certain conditions, including, for example, in situations involving a health and safety emergency. In addition, HGSE will forward a student's education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

If HGSE finds that a student has committed a disciplinary violation involving a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, then it also may, if legally permitted and in HGSE's judgment appropriate, disclose certain information about the disciplinary case. The disclosure may include the student's name, the violation committed, and the sanction imposed.

Student Rights under FERPA

As set forth above, under both Harvard policy and FERPA, students and former students may inspect and review certain of their education records that are maintained by Harvard. They also have the right to: exercise limited control over other people's access to their education records; seek to correct their education records if they believe them to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of their FERPA rights; file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe Harvard has not complied with the requirements of FERPA; and be fully informed of their rights under FERPA. Complaints regarding alleged violation of rights of students under FERPA may be submitted in writing within 180 days to the Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-5920.

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and Fees

The following tuition charges are in effect for the 2023-2024 academic year (subject to change in future years).

Full-Time Students Tuition Rate	
Per academic year	\$57,246
Per semester	\$28,623
Part-Time Students: Per Credit Tuition Rate	
1 credit	\$1,363
2 credits	\$2,726
4 credits	\$5,452
6 credits	\$8,178
8 credits	\$10,904
10 credits	\$13,630
12 credits	\$16,356
Part-Time Students: Flat Tuition Rate (4 Semester Plan)	
Per semester	\$14,312
Other Students	
Advanced Doctoral Fee for doctoral students who have fulfilled the tuition requirements per semester	\$5,725
Active File Fee per semester	\$125
Facilities Fee per semester	\$250
Visiting Fellow per semester	\$500
Other Fees	
Harvard University Student Health Fee per year	\$1,408
Harvard University Student Health Insurance Plan	\$4,120
Document Fee per year	\$220*
Student Activity Fee per year	\$75**

*The document fee is a mandatory fee charged to students upon matriculation. The fee covers digital content created specifically for HGSE courses during the academic year, as well as the maintenance of the official HGSE transcripts and the production of enrollment verification letters issued to the student while **active in the program**. The document fee does not include processing fees paid to the official transcript vendor.

** The student activity fee funds officially recognized student organizations, student activities and community wide events available to all students. All residential Ed.M., C.A.S, Ed.L.D. Year 1, and Ed.L.D. Year 2 students will be automatically assessed the student activity fee. Students on leave of absence will not be assessed the fee. The fee may be waived by written request to the Director of Student Affairs, by Friday, September 9, 2023; fee waiver requests are valid only for the academic year in which they are requested.

Degree requirements stipulate that all Ed.M. students are to be charged for at least 42 credits and C.A.S. students are to be charged for at least 32 credits at full-time student tuition rate. Beginning in academic year 2023-24, both full-time and part-time students may take a maximum of 56 credits during their degree. There is no charge for audited courses.

Full-time students are not assessed additional tuition for courses taken during June, July, August, or May. Part-time students paying by the credit will have any January or May courses added to their spring tuition bill; June and July courses would be added to the fall tuition bill. Part-time students on the flat tuition rate have January and May courses included in their spring tuition, and June and July courses are included in their fall tuition.

After fulfilling the tuition requirements, Ed.M. and C.A.S. students who have not completed their required coursework will be charged the HGSE facilities fee for any semesters in which they are enrolled in courses needed to fulfill degree requirements. The tuition charged for any repeated courses may not be included in the budget for financial aid purposes. Any courses taken that are not being used to fulfill degree requirements will be assessed tuition at the current per-course rate.

Students being charged on a per-course basis who drop a course, withdraw, or take a leave of absence by the dates shown below are eligible for the following per course refunds:

Ed.M. Students:

Fall Term	Spring Term	Rate	Amount Per Course
August 16, 2023	February 5, 2024	Full refund	\$5,452
October 9, 2023	February 26, 2024	$\frac{3}{4}$ refund	\$4,089
October 30, 2023	March 18, 2024	$\frac{1}{2}$ refund	\$2,726
November 20, 2023	April 8, 2024	$\frac{1}{4}$ refund	\$1,363
Thereafter	Thereafter	No refund	No refund

Ed.L.D. Students:

Fall Term	Spring Term	Rate	Amount Per Course
September 18, 2023	February 5, 2024	Full refund	\$5,452
October 9, 2023	February 26, 2024	$\frac{3}{4}$ refund	\$4,089
October 30, 2023	March 18, 2024	$\frac{1}{2}$ refund	\$2,726
November 20, 2023	April 8, 2024	$\frac{1}{4}$ refund	\$1,363
Thereafter	Thereafter	No refund	No refund

Students who withdraw after completing more than 60% of the term may be eligible to keep all of their federal financial aid; students should consult with the Financial Aid Office for more information.

The Harvard University Student Health Program (HUSHP) Student Health Fee is billed to all registered students. Students may waive the HUSHP Student Health Fee if they meet any of the following criteria:

1. Enrolled half time or less (must also waive the Student Health Insurance Plan).
2. Enrolled in Harvard University Group Health Plan (HUGHP).
3. On active military duty and prohibited from receiving health care from any facility other than Hanscom Air Force Base (requires an attestation form).

Massachusetts law requires that all full-time and part-time students enrolled in an institution of higher learning in Massachusetts participate in a qualifying student health insurance program or in a health plan with comparable coverage. Students enrolled in a comparable health insurance plan may be eligible to waive the Student Health Insurance Plan. Waivers must be completed by the appropriate deadline or

the charges will remain on the student’s term bill. For more information on waiving, visit the [Student Health Insurance website](#).

Important: Online part-time Ed.M. students must have health insurance that covers urgent and emergency care when visiting Harvard University for in-person activity, e.g., 5-day pre-program residency. Online Ed.M. students are NOT eligible to enroll in Harvard University’s Health Programs.

TUITION REQUIREMENTS FOR Ed.L.D.

Tuition Requirements for Doctor of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D)

All Ed.L.D. students (including those previously in the Ed.M. or C.A.S. Programs) are subject to the following tuition requirements:

First Two Years of Registration	Full Tuition
Third Year of Registration	Half Tuition
Registration Beyond Year Three	Facilities Fee

Students enrolled in the Ed.L.D. Program beyond the stated program duration limit (three years/six semesters) will be assessed a Facilities Fee (\$250) each semester.

TUITION REQUIREMENTS FOR ED.M. AND C.A.S.

Tuition Requirements for Master of Education (Ed.M.) and Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.)

Master’s and Certificate of Advanced Study students must pay one year of full tuition. Courses taken at Harvard Summer School (the Division of Continuing Education) and accepted for academic credit do not reduce tuition requirements. Students enrolled half-time must pay tuition at the half-rate for two years (four semesters). After fulfilling the tuition requirement, Ed.M. and C.A.S. students who have not completed their required coursework will be charged the HGSE facilities fee for any semesters in which they are enrolled in courses needed to fulfill degree requirements. Any courses taken that are not being used to fulfill degree requirements will be assessed tuition at the current per-course tuition rate. For additional information, please contact the HGSE [Office of the Registrar](#).

TUITION REQUIREMENTS FOR NOVEMBER/MARCH DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Tuition Requirements for Ed.L.D. Students Graduating in November and March

Doctoral students who graduate in November 2023 or March 2024 are subject to the following deadlines affecting tuition and health insurance charges:

November 2023 Doctoral Candidates - Deadlines that Affect Fall 2023 Tuition and Health Insurance Charges	
Date by which student completes third-year residency AND submits an approved Capstone	September 15 –October 17, 2023
Must register for fall semester?	Yes
Charged fall tuition?	Yes, but tuition charges will be reversed.

Covered by fall Harvard University Student Health Insurance?	Yes. Will be charged for the period 8/1/23 - 1/31/24 (unless waiver is approved).
Last Date of Attendance	October 18, 2023

*In order to receive a November 2023 degree, the Doctoral Program Office must receive all reader approvals no later than Friday, October 14, 2023, 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

March 2024 Doctoral Candidates - Deadlines that Affect Spring 2024 Tuition and Health Insurance Charges	
Ed.L.D.: Date by which student completes third-year residency AND submits an approved Capstone	February 14, 2024
Must register for spring semester?	Yes
Charged spring tuition?	Yes, but tuition charges will be reversed
Covered by spring Harvard University Student Health Insurance?	No. If already charged for spring insurance, it will be retroactively cancelled back to January 31, 2024 and students will be charged for any medical costs incurred on or after February 1, 2024.
Last Date of Attendance	February 14, 2024

** In order to receive a March 2024 degree, the Director of Doctoral Studies must receive all reader approvals no later than Friday, February 10, 2024, 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Students must be registered in the spring semester and pay spring tuition in order to be eligible for a May 2024 degree.

Schedule of Tuition Payments

Current tuition is due in advance of each semester for which the student registers. Before being allowed to register, a student is expected to pay the semester’s tuition in full by the stated deadline, unless they are on the Monthly Payment Plan (MPP). The Monthly Payment Plan, which carries a \$35 service charge per semester, is available to all students through the University Student Billing Office. A student who is on the Monthly Payment Plan is expected to pay any outstanding previous balance in full and at least one-quarter of the current semester’s bill. Students who fail to make timely monthly payments may not be allowed this option in the future. No student will be permitted to register in any term until all money due from prior term bills is paid in full.

Important:

- Financial aid or outside award credits will be applied to the total balance before it is divided into installments.
- Financial Aid in one academic year may not be used to cover a balance due from a prior year.

- Charges for HU Housing rent and for incidentals, such as library fines, are not included in the MPP and are added to the current installment amount due.

In accordance with the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, HGSE will not: impose a late fee, prevent a student from attending classes, or demand payment for funds expected to be covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) until 90 days after the beginning of the term for students who are covered under Chapter 31, VR&E, and Chapter 33. Students are responsible for all charges posted to their student accounts beyond the amount of tuition and fee payment from the VA. HGSE may require students to provide documentation to ensure that they are entitled to GI Bill benefits.

Students at Harvard University are billed electronically. In lieu of a monthly paper bill, students are sent, via monthly emails, web links that will enable them to view their student bills online as well as to make payments electronically. Payments may be made either electronically or by check. Credit card payments are not accepted. Students who need a paper copy of their bill may print a PDF copy.

If an e-payment or check is returned by the bank, the student's account will be charged a \$25 returned check fee. Multiple returned payments may result in the University requiring future payments to be made by certified or bank check. Please note that it can take a week or more before a bank notifies the University that a payment has been returned. Student accounts will not reflect a returned payment until information is received from the bank.

Students should be aware that diplomas will be withheld until all indebtedness to the University is paid in full. In addition, the School may withhold some services to students or former students with outstanding debts to the University.

Financial Aid

Financing the high cost of a graduate education can be a serious challenge. The HGSE Financial Aid Office is committed to working with all students to assist in financing their education. It is important that students in multi-year degree programs apply for financial aid each academic year to maximize their financial aid possibilities. Deadlines are communicated via the HGSE Financial Aid website and through email.

Financial aid funds are limited and are not sufficient to cover all the costs of attending graduate school, therefore all students are strongly encouraged to seek additional sources of funding. Students should check the [HGSE Financial Aid website](#) for information about various funding options.

Sources of Aid

Need-Based Grant Awards

HGSE Grant Funds

HGSE Grant funds are offered primarily on the basis of demonstrated financial need. If eligible, students may receive up to \$21,500 in need-based grant assistance. HGSE Grant funding is applied to tuition and fees.

Harvard University Restricted Scholarships

Students across Harvard University are eligible to apply for restricted scholarships administered by the Committee on General Scholarships, most of which are based on need with some additional criteria. These scholarships are listed on the HGSE Financial Aid Application. Students who believe they qualify for a restricted scholarship should complete the form by the stated deadline. Documentation of eligibility may be required. The scholarships are relatively small, generally less than \$10,000. Harvard University Restricted Scholarships are applied to tuition and fees, unless otherwise noted, and are available only to full-time students.

HGSE Fellowships

There are a variety of HGSE fellowships and scholarships that are offered, typically shortly after the time of admissions decisions. Information about the various fellowships and scholarships may be found on the HGSE Financial Aid Office website. These awards are applied to tuition and fees, unless otherwise noted.

Employment

Federal Work Study Program

A student's financial aid package may include a Federal Work Study offer. Under the Federal Work Study Program, a student may earn up to a specific amount for the year in an approved job. Hourly wage rates for graduate students in 2022-2023 ranged from \$14.25 and up/hour for on campus work, including work done remotely. We expect the 2023-24 hourly rates to be released by September 2023. Depending on the financial aid package offered, a student may earn up to \$5,000 or their offered ceiling amount per academic year in part-time work. Federal Work Study job opportunities are posted at the [Harvard University Student Employment Office website](#). Students generally seek work study positions after the

beginning of the academic year. Full-time master's students are given priority for this very limited program.

A Federal Work Study offer is not required to work on or off campus, nor is a student required to utilize a Federal Work Study offer that has been granted. There are many non-Federal Work Study job opportunities available each year, and most students who wish to work can find suitable employment during their academic program regardless of Federal Work Study status.

Teaching Fellowship Program

Ph.D. and Ed.L.D. students who wish to be Teaching Fellows may apply for available positions after completing one full year of HGSE coursework. Teaching Fellows must be registered, HGSE doctoral students during the term of the appointment. A Teaching Fellow who is awarded a degree in November is not eligible to hold the appointment during the following spring semester.

Year 2 Ed.L.D. students may work up to 20 hours per week in Teaching Fellowships, Research Assistantships, advising roles, and other co-curricular engagements. Year 1 and Year 3 Ed.L.D. students are not permitted to hold employment due to the intensive time commitment of required Ed.L.D. coursework and residency engagement. Questions about this policy may be directed to the Director for Doctoral Studies.

All Ph.D. in Education students are required to complete four HGSE TF "slots" over the course of their time in the program. Most students will fulfill this requirement in Year 3 or Year 4, though students can fulfill the requirement any point in the program before the year in which they receive their dissertation completion funding. However, Ph.D. in Education students are not permitted to serve as Teaching Fellows during Year 1 and Year 2 without written permission of the Director for Doctoral Studies along with support from the faculty advisor. For more information about Ph.D. Teaching Fellow requirements, please review the Ph.D. Student Guide, available on the program website.

Ed.M. and C.A.S. students who wish to be Teaching Fellows must receive prior permission of the Associate Director for Residential Master's Education. Appointments are generally limited to qualified C.A.S. students and second-year part-time Ed.M. students who have previously taken the course and who have outstanding academic records.

Details of the Teaching Fellowship Program and appointment process are available in the Academic Affairs Office and at <https://tf.gse.harvard.edu/>.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

This is a Federal Loan not based on need that is available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the U.S. only. Information regarding current interest rates and loan fees can be found on the [HGSE Financial Aid website](#). Borrowers may defer payment during the in-school period and for six months after ceasing to be enrolled as at least as a half-time student, however interest starts to accrue once the loan has been disbursed. Students must complete the financial aid application process to be considered for this loan. Students may borrow up to a maximum of \$20,500 per year.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

This is a Federal Loan that is credit-based and is available only to U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens. Information regarding current interest rates and loan fees can be found on the [HGSE Financial Aid website](#).

Interest starts to accrue once the loan has been disbursed, but payments may be deferred until after graduation. Students may borrow up to the student budget minus financial aid received but must first maximize Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan eligibility before borrowing a Federal Direct PLUS Loan. These loans are serviced by lenders contracted by the U.S. Department of Education, which is the lender. Students interested in applying for this loan may apply online via the [HGSE Financial Aid website](#).

Supplemental Loans

Private supplemental loans are credit-based and may be borrowed by students who require additional resources. The Financial Aid Office assists students with several supplemental loan programs. These loans have varying interest rates and repayment provisions, and students should pay careful attention to specific loan program details. As terms and conditions change frequently during these financially volatile times, please refer to the [HGSE Financial Aid website](#) for the most recent information. Students may borrow up to the student budget minus financial aid received through a supplemental loan program.

International Students

A limited number of need-based grants and teaching fellowships are available to international students. Grants are based on the relative need of students applying for assistance and do not cover the full cost of attendance. There are no tuition waivers. International students are not eligible for federal student loans or work study and are generally restricted from working in the United States. Therefore, even those receiving grants must have additional personal resources. International students are strongly advised to seek financial support for their studies from governmental and private agencies in their home countries. International students should check the [HGSE Financial Aid website](#) for additional information.

Fulbright Cultural Exchange Fellowships, U.S. Student Program*

Fulbright fellowships are intended to provide opportunities for personal development and international experience through study and research in over 100 countries, with the aim of promoting mutual understanding among nations. Award allowances may include round trip transportation; tuition (in some cases); book and research allowances; maintenance for the academic year; and supplemental health and accident insurance. Enrolled students must apply through HGSE. Information is available through the Career Services Office. A required interview with the faculty review committee is scheduled when a candidate's application is submitted. Please note: the HGSE deadline is earlier than either the Fulbright or Harvard deadline.

*International students must apply through their home countries. Please see [the IIE website](#) for more information.

Registration and Academic Progress While Receiving Financial Aid

Importance of Registration Status for Financial Aid

Students must be registered at least half-time and maintain satisfactory academic progress to be eligible for financial aid. Students whose registration lapses or who drop below half-time for any reason (e.g. leave of absence, failure to register, withdrawal, registered for only one course) should be aware that such changes will have an immediate impact on the financial aid package and the terms of repayment of student loans. In some cases, leaves may count toward the grace period that precedes repayment of a loan. In other instances, loan repayment may begin immediately. Students are strongly urged to review

the terms of their loans and discuss those terms with the Financial Aid Office before changing from full-time to another status.

Students on Federal Financial Aid: Additional Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards

All students should refer to the *Annual Satisfactory Academic Progress Review* section of this Handbook for additional requirements.

To receive Federal/Title IV financial aid, a student must be making satisfactory academic progress as defined below. As such, at each academic evaluation students must:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of B- and carry no more than one Incomplete in the Ed.M. and C.A.S. programs; maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of B+ with A caliber work in some courses in the Ed.L.D. program;
- Satisfy academic degree requirements as defined by the academic program;
- Complete at least 50% of the cumulative attempted courses (during coursework phase for doctoral candidates). Attempted credits are defined as any credits for which a student has registered in a given semester;
- Complete degree requirements for graduation within 150% of the normal time allotted for students in similar situations.

The maximum time for which financial aid can be received is:

Degree	Full-Time Student	Part-Time Student	Evaluation Schedule
Ed.M. or C.A.S.	3 semesters	6 semesters	At the end of fall and spring semesters
Ed.L.D.	9 semesters	Not applicable	At the end of fall and spring semesters

Failure to satisfy these requirements will result in a **Financial Aid Warning** for programs evaluated at the end of each semester. A Financial Aid Warning shall consist of one additional semester of eligibility after the term in which a student failed to meet the conditions for Satisfactory Academic Progress. Once the Financial Aid Warning period has expired, students who are still failing to make Satisfactory Academic Progress will lose financial aid eligibility, while students who have made Satisfactory Academic Progress are no longer in warning status and will maintain eligibility.

No student may receive federal student aid beyond the timeframe noted in the chart above. HGSE does not allow for an appeal process for financial aid eligibility determinations.

Treatment of Withdrawals, Incompletes, SAT/NCR

- Course withdrawals are not included in the average grade calculation nor in attempted coursework.
- Incomplete grades are not included in the average grade calculation but are considered a non-completion of attempted coursework. If the Incomplete grade is replaced with a permanent grade, then academic progress will be re-evaluated.
- Failing grades are treated as attempted courses and are included in the average grade calculation. NCR grades are treated as non-completion of attempted courses but are not part of the average grade calculation.

- SAT grades are treated as attempted and completed courses but are not included in the average grade calculation.

Refunds and Employee Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP)

Student Account Refunds and Refunds of Federal Financial Aid

Students whose student account payments (personal payments, financial aid, etc.) exceed their billed account charges may be eligible for a student account refund. Students must meet all financial aid, registration, and academic requirements to receive a refund. Most students automatically receive refunds after class registration and attendance is confirmed at the start of fall and spring terms, but they may also be requested from the Financial Aid Office during the academic year if a new account credit exists. Students are encouraged to enroll in direct deposit to receive a student account refund quickly and securely.

Students who receive financial assistance and who change their registration status (e.g., withdraw; change from full-time to part-time) should be aware that in some instances the financial assistance received, or a portion of it, must be returned to the financial aid sources, including federal and Harvard programs, according to a federally mandated formula. Please refer to the related information section of the *Financing Your Education Guide* on the HGSE website.

Harvard University Tuition Assistance Plan

Harvard University employees, including those in a degree program and those registering in non-degree studies, may be eligible for Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) benefits. TAP benefits are a source of financial assistance and must be included in the financial aid analysis. Students who receive TAP benefits must notify the Financial Aid Office of the number of their classes covered by TAP each semester so that an accurate financial aid offer can be determined. If students learn of TAP benefit eligibility after receiving a financial aid offer, adjustments to the offer will be made at that time. Students receiving TAP benefits are not eligible for HGSE grant assistance or other institutional scholarship, fellowship, or grant aid. For general information about TAP, contact the Office of the Registrar, your local HR office, or supervisor.

Financial Aid Fraud

Students who are deliberately deceptive in their financial aid applications are subject to disciplinary action. If you purposely give false information in the aid application process and receive aid from federal programs, you may be subject to fine, or imprisonment, or both. If, after reviewing an application for financial aid, the School has reason to suspect that an aid applicant may have deliberately misrepresented information resulting in fraud or other criminal misconduct in connection with the aid application, disciplinary action may be taken. Referral in such cases for applicants receiving federal aid may be made to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General, or, if more appropriate, to a state or local authority. If evidence of fraud or criminal misconduct is documented, the School will review the matter to determine if the student should be sanctioned or dismissed.

Student Health Insurance

Massachusetts law **requires** that students enrolled in an institution of higher learning in Massachusetts participate in a student health insurance program or in a health benefit plan with comparable coverage. All residential Harvard students are automatically enrolled in the Harvard University Student Health Program (HUSHP) and the cost of the program is applied to their student bill.

*Online Ed.M. students do not provide proof of health insurance nor are they subject to health fees given that they are engaged in a remote program.

The Harvard University Student Health Program (HUSHP) is comprised of two parts:

1. Student Health Fee

This fee is required of all students who are more than half-time and studying in Massachusetts and covers most provider visits at any of the HUHS campus clinics, x-rays, and physical therapy. Primary care providers are available at each of the Harvard campus clinics.

2. Student Health Insurance Plan

This plan is administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and is designed to complement the health care provided through the Student Health Fee at HUHS. It covers hospital, specialty care, labs/radiology and has a prescription drug benefit. This plan provides coverage throughout the United States and abroad.

Health Insurance Coverage for Online part-time Ed.M. Students

The Harvard University Student Health Program (HUSHP) is a comprehensive health program comprised of two parts: the Student Health Fee and the Student Health Insurance Plan. **Online part-time Ed.M. students will not be automatically enrolled into the comprehensive health program. Online Ed.M. students are NOT eligible to enroll in Harvard University's Health Programs.**

Important: Online part-time Ed.M. students must have health insurance that covers urgent and emergency care when visiting Harvard University for in-person activity, e.g., 5-day pre-program residency. Online Ed.M. students are NOT eligible to enroll in Harvard University's Health Programs.

Health Insurance Coverage for Graduating Students

Ed.M. students who graduate in November 2023 are **not** eligible for fall HUSHP coverage. Doctoral students who successfully submit either a dissertation or capstone on or before September 14, 2023, are **not** eligible for fall HUSHP coverage.

March degree candidates are required to be registered for the fall semester and, if enrolled in HUSHP, will have student health insurance coverage through January 31, 2024. March degree candidates are not eligible for spring HUSHP coverage.

May degree candidates are required to be registered for the spring semester and, if enrolled in HUSHP, will have student health insurance coverage through July 31, 2024.

Residential Ed.M. students may acquire additional HUSHP insurance during their first June/July if they are residing in Massachusetts. The Office of the Registrar will send the required information in early May.

Waiving the Student Health Insurance Plan

Students enrolled in a comparable health insurance plan may be eligible to waive the Student Health Insurance Plan. Waivers must be completed by the appropriate deadline or the charges will remain on the term bill. **Please see the [UHS website for appropriate waiver deadline information](#).**

- Before waiving, students should carefully evaluate whether their existing health plan will provide adequate, comprehensive coverage in your area of residence. View the [waiver checklist](#) for guidance. Students will be fully responsible for all medical claims and prescription drug costs if they waive the insurance plan.
- International students studying on campus at Harvard are not eligible to waive the insurance plan with foreign insurance, including those with a U.S.-based administrator. This is a requirement pursuant to the Massachusetts student health program regulations.

For detailed information on the Harvard University Student Health Program policies, benefits, limitations, and exclusions, visit <http://hushp.harvard.edu>.

Student Dependent Coverage

Students may enroll their spouse/same sex domestic partner and/or unmarried dependent children (under age 19) in HUSHP. Enrollment and renewal for dependents is not automatic. Rates, enrollment forms, and deadlines are available at <http://hushp.harvard.edu>.

HGSE Grading System

Two grading systems are used at HGSE: letter grade and satisfactory (“SAT”)/no credit (“NCR”). Letter grades are A, A-, B+, etc., down to D-; F is failing.

- For Ph.D. and Ed.L.D. students: If a grade below B+ is received, the grades in other courses must be such that the overall average is equal to or better than B+ for a student to be eligible to graduate. In order to receive a satisfactory (“SAT”) grade, students are required to produce work of B- or better quality; otherwise they will be graded “NCR” and receive no credit.
- For Ed.M. and C.A.S. students: If a grade below B- is received, the grades in other courses must be such that the overall average is equal to or better than B- for a student to be eligible to graduate. In order to receive a satisfactory (“SAT”) grade, students are required to produce work of B- or better quality; otherwise they will be graded “NCR” and receive no credit.

If a student is required to repeat a course for academic reasons, the course will count only once toward the degree. Only the higher of the two grades will be used to compute grade-average requirements for the degree. Tuition charges for repeated courses may only be considered once for inclusion in a financial aid budget even if tuition is assessed twice.

To arrive at a grade average, the scale below is applied. **Please note:** affiliated faculties such as the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health assign grades of A+, but HGSE does not.

A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
F	0

The point score for all letter grades is divided by the number of letter grades and adjusted for the number of credits (e.g., an eight-credit course counts double, and a two-credit module counts half). To graduate, the resulting grade average must be at least a B- (2.67 after rounding to two decimal places) for C.A.S. and Ed.M. students and at least a B+ (3.33 after rounding to two decimal places) for Ph.D., and Ed.L.D. students. Except in very unusual cases, the Associate Director of Residential Master’s Education, the Associate Director of Online Master’s Education, the Associate Director of Teaching and Teacher Leadership, or the Director for Doctoral Studies will permit a student to take no more than one additional course if such a course is needed to bring the average up to the standard for graduation. **Important note:** Ed.M. students must pass all Foundations courses with a grade of SAT in order to graduate.

Grade Options

Grade Options. Students are expected to indicate their preferred grade option (letter grade or satisfactory/no credit) for each course selected at course enrollment. If an instructor requires that all students receive letter grades or satisfactory/no credit grades, the instructor’s requirement overrides the student’s preference. In courses permitting students to choose their grade option, students may change their choice via my.harvard prior to the dates specified for each term in the Academic Calendar.

Ed.M. students must take at least 16 credits for a letter grade. Cross-registered courses taken for letter grades (e.g., A, B, C, D, and E or F) count toward this minimum. Cross-registered courses taken satisfactory/no credit (or the equivalent option at the host School) do not. Grades issued through cross-registration are recorded as such and are not converted by HGSE.

Note that the satisfactory/no credit grade option is generally not available to HGSE students in courses offered by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. While instructors in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences may state that options exist, that School’s pass/fail option is for undergraduates only. HGSE students must accept letter grades in regular courses offered by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, except for some 300-level courses in which HGSE students may receive a grade of “Satisfactory.”

Grade Appeals

Evaluation of a student's performance in each course is the responsibility of the instructor of record for that course. Normally, the instructor's decision is final. After an instructor has submitted the final course

grade for a student in *my.harvard*, a subsequent grade change may be submitted along with a reason for the change. If the grade submitted initially was incorrect due to a mathematical, administrative, or other clerical error, then the grade change will be posted immediately. If the grade change is submitted for any other reason, the HGSE Registrar will refer the grade change submission by the faculty member to the Academic Dean for review.

If students have questions regarding a grade, they are encouraged to follow up directly with the instructor for more clarity. In some cases, a clerical error is realized. In others, the instructor needs to explain the rationale for that grade (assuming no mistakes were made). However, a student who feels that a grade is unfair has the right to appeal formally to the Academic Dean. This appeal must be filed within one week from when the grade was submitted to the Office of the Registrar and must include a memo outlining the grounds for appeal with specific examples supporting the claim that the grade was unjust. Ordinarily, the Academic Dean will resolve the appeal based on available evidence. However, the Academic Dean may refer the appeal to the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities if they deem that the initial evidence points to breaches of the HGSE or University academic or community standards.

Incomplete Grades and Coursework Extensions

Incomplete (“INC”) grades are granted to students only at the discretion of the instructor. Students should not expect to receive an INC automatically if coursework is not completed on time. In cases where students have failed to submit all course assignments by the end of the semester, the instructor will determine whether the grade will be INC, NCR (No Credit), or an appropriate letter grade.

If an instructor is willing to grant a student an INC grade, the instructor will assign a grade of INC and list all the requirements to complete the course, as well as a specific due date, in *my.harvard*. The student will be notified once the grade of INC is assigned, and that action is needed. The student must then acknowledge the terms of the contract by going to the To-Do section of *my.harvard* and following the steps. In order to enroll in future courses, the contract must be acknowledged. **Exception:** if the coursework is to be completed before grades are due, no contract is needed. **Note:** May graduates are expected to finish all coursework on or before the end of the spring exam period.

If a student and instructor submit an Incomplete Grade Contract, then the maximum amount of time a student may be given to complete coursework is one term. For example, if a student receives an INC in a fall course (excludes August Term), then work for that course must be completed during the spring term and graded no later than the spring grades are due. Likewise, if a student receives an INC in a spring course, then work for that course must be completed during the summer term and graded no later than July 31st. As a reminder, May graduates are expected to finish all coursework on or before the end of the spring exam period.; therefore, May degree candidates are not eligible for an INC grade.

The incomplete contract is a prior commitment, and a leave of absence is granted conditional on that contract remaining in place. Even if the student’s registration status during the term is leave of absence, the student must complete outstanding assignments during this time frame. To ensure access to the libraries and electronic, university-based resources, it is advisable that students elect to pay the facilities fee while they are on a leave of absence. **Note:** although a student may be given a maximum of one semester to complete coursework, the student may be given an earlier deadline by the instructor. In all cases, the deadline on the contract is the official deadline by which the student must complete work and a grade must be assigned for that course.

If the student does not complete coursework and obtains a final grade by the deadline designated in the Incomplete Grade Contract, the INC becomes a permanent grade (“INP,” or permanent incomplete), NCR (no credit), or letter grade, unless the student has petitioned successfully for an extension. In this instance, the student's original choice of grade option (letter grade or SAT/NCR) may be overridden by the instructor. Extensions to the incomplete contract are rarely granted and, if so, only with the agreement of the course instructor (who must be a current member of the HGSE faculty). Appeals for extensions must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Registrar prior to the deadline for completion of work with the course instructor's signature and the date by which the student will be submitting the remaining coursework.

If Ed.M. or C.A.S. students receive an INP in a course that is needed to fulfill academic requirements, they must petition the Associate Director of their program to be allowed to take a substitute course. Ordinarily, such permission is granted for one course only. Upon graduation or termination of degree candidacy, any outstanding INC grades will be converted to INP grades. See below section on Master’s of Education (Ed.M.) Program Policies for more on Foundations requirements.

Grades of Incomplete (INC) will be replaced with final grades as soon as grades are submitted by the faculty member in *my.harvard*. Please note that a permanent incomplete grade (INP) is a final grade and cannot be replaced for another grade. It is important for students to verify their grade appears in *my.harvard* if they wish to graduate in the semester in which the coursework is completed. Students may not register for a new semester with more than one Incomplete.

Summer Term and August Term Incompletes and NCR grades

Students may carry no more than one grade of NCR (no credit), INC (incomplete), or INP (permanent incomplete) from summer and August Term courses, including Foundations courses, into the Fall Term. Any more than one INC grade from summer and August Term courses must be resolved by the Fall add/drop deadline, as designated in the Academic Calendar; after this date, students will receive a grade of NCR (no credit) or INP (permanent incomplete) for those courses.

If a residential Ed.M. student receives a grade of NCR and/or INP in more than one course in summer and August Term, the student will be withdrawn from the Ed.M. program and will be charged accordingly. See table in the Insurance and Billing Post-Withdrawal section. See the section on Ed.M. Program Policies for implications of receiving an NCR or INP in one of these courses.

Advising

HGSE students are advised by multiple individuals throughout their academic journey. The structure of advising varies across degree programs.

Residential Master of Education (Ed.M.) Students

The Residential Ed.M. program uses a team-based approach to advising that gives students access to two primary advising resources:

Program Faculty: Although students may meet with any member of their Program's faculty, there will be a dedicated set of faculty members for each Program who are available to meet with students to discuss course selection, career paths, doctoral studies, and topics related to the faculty member's expertise.

Program and Concentration Staff: Program Assistant Directors and Concentration Coordinators are available to discuss Program and Concentration requirements, HGSE policies, and student wellness and community.

Students will be contacted by their program before each semester and are encouraged to schedule an individual meeting to discuss course selection. They may also schedule an individual meeting with a Core Program Faculty member or a Program staff member at any time through their Program's advising website.

Online Master of Education Leadership (Ed.M.) Students

During their first year in the program, Online Ed.M. students are assigned a designated faculty advisor who is available to discuss course selection, career paths, doctoral studies, and topics related to the faculty member's expertise. The Program Assistant Director and Program Coordinator are also available to discuss Program and Concentration requirements, HGSE policies, and student wellness and community.

Online Ed.M. students who wish to change their assigned faculty advisor should contact the Program Assistant Director to discuss next steps.

Doctoral (Ph.D. and Ed.L.D.) Students

Due to the highly personalized research- and practice-based doctoral experience, Ph.D. and Ed.L.D. students have a dedicated faculty advisor to support their learning and professional development. More information about doctoral advising can be found on the [Research Doctoral and Doctor of Education Leadership program pages](#).

Students in the Ph.D. and Ed.L.D. programs are assigned a designated faculty advisor. Doctoral students who wish to change their assigned faculty advisor may request the change via the Director for Doctoral Studies.

HGSE Supports

Office of Student Affairs

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) supports student success by providing a variety of services, programs, and activities. Some of the programs and services OSA offers and supports includes:

- Orientation
- Student Events
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Student Support Services
- Academic Coaching
- Access and Accommodations
- Sexual & Gender-Based Harassment
- Commencement

More information about our supports and services can be found at: <https://osa.gse.harvard.edu/>

Accommodations: Process and Supports

Harvard Graduate School of Education is committed to making all courses and related programs available to all students. As part of this mission, Student Support Services partners with HGSE students with visible and invisible disabilities to identify academic and nonacademic barriers and implement plans for student success. Through collaboration with the community, we foster an environment of equity and inclusion.

An accommodation is an eligibility requested for a specific class for a specific term. An eligibility is approval to receive assistance based on documentation and conversations with Student Support Services.

There is no one-to-one correspondence of disability to accommodation. Consideration is given to the student's disability, history, experience, and the unique characteristics of the course, program, or requirement to determine whether a specific accommodation is reasonable. A clear understanding of how the disability impacts the student establishes the reasonableness of the accommodation for that individual. Reasonable accommodations are modifications or adjustments to the tasks, environment, or to the way things are usually done that enables individuals with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to participate in an academic program. Ensuring that accommodations provide effective access requires a deliberate and collaborative process that is responsive to each individual's unique experience. Engaging in a structured conversation around the disability, history, experience, and the unique characteristics of course enrollment is necessary to have an equal opportunity to participate in an academic program. This is true even if the student has never received formal accommodations or recently acquired a disability and is seeking guidance to determine accommodations that might be effective.

The process of requesting an eligibility and accommodations is as follows:

- Student completes the Disability Identification Form **and** submits documentation via email to Student Support Services

- Student Support Services reviews documentation to determine eligibility
- Once the eligibility for accommodations is established, Student Support Services emails student to confirm the student’s registration with Student Support Services and eligibility.
- Student makes an appointment with the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services, to review/discuss accommodations and policies and procedures
- Student receives Accommodation Letter by email in 3-5 business days
- After receiving the Accommodation Letter, student schedules a meeting with faculty and teaching fellows for each course to discuss the implementation/expectations of the accommodations in the context of each course. In some cases, a conference among the student, the faculty member, and Student Support Services may be necessary for optimal support.

It is important that all parties engage in this work with the understanding that, according to federal educational laws, accommodations are provided in order to ensure access to the curriculum and learning opportunities consistent with the program and degree requirements.

Students with accommodations whose home institution is HGSE and who are cross-registered must notify the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services to ensure the accommodations are communicated to the host school. In addition, for specific housing accommodations related to disability, students must complete the [Housing Form](#) for consideration. For additional support, contact the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services.

Individual/Office	Primary Responsibilities
Office of Student Affairs (including Student Support Services and International Student Supports)	Provides Academic Coaching and support related to academic progress; reviews and assesses eligibility for accommodations; determines appropriate supports/accommodations and makes referrals to appropriate resources. Provides support related to academic progress and integrity. Eligibility for accommodations and Academic Coaching are handled by Student Support Services.
Faculty Program Directors/Co-Chairs and Concentration Co-Chairs	May identify need for student support and refer student to the Office of Student Affairs
Teaching Faculty and Teaching Fellows	Review course-level performance and report any integrity concerns to the Degree Programs Office
Degree Programs Office (Ed.M., Ph.D., Ed.L.D.)	Manages any initial concerns related to academic progress or integrity, reporting alleged violations to the Academic Dean
Academic Dean	Reviews all complaints and decides on a course of resolution

Records pertaining to requests for accommodation are maintained separately from academic records and both are treated confidentially, with information shared only on a strict “need to know” basis. If a student receiving accommodations is not making sufficient academic progress towards program and degree requirements, this issue is taken up with the HGSE Degree Programs Office. In these cases, Student Support Services may serve as a support or resource to the student; however, Student Support Services does not oversee academic progress or make determinations or decisions about academic progress and/or requirements.

If a student with a disability disagrees with a determination of academic or non-academic accommodations (pursuant to the procedures described below), the student may request reconsideration of the decision.

In the event that the student does not accept the initial decision of the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services, the student will provide a written explanation and request for reconsideration to the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services. To the extent relevant, the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services also may request other individuals (faculty, staff, or administrators) for their views, e.g., in a case where an accommodation was denied on the grounds that it would compromise the essential requirements of a course or program. To the extent relevant, the Senior Associate Director of Student Support Services may request additional clinical documentation or an independent medical opinion on the request for accommodation or may gather information pertinent to the request for accommodation.

If the above does not produce agreement, then the student may appeal in writing to University Disability Services who has responsibility for ensuring that the University's policies and procedures comply with Federal, State and University requirements, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Prior to appealing to University Disability Services, the student is expected to have first sought reconsideration from the Senior Associate Director Student Support Services Director.

If a student with a disability wishes to resolve complaints concerning discrimination, they should follow the procedures laid out on the [University Accessibility website](#).

HGSE Academic Coaching

Academic Coaching is a personalized research-based service used to help students overcome academic challenges. A list of services is provided on the Office of Student Affairs Website. Students interested in Academic Coaching, please fill out the [Academic Coaching Request Form](#).

I Notice/I Care Form

The [I Notice/I Care Form](#) (INIC) provides an opportunity for anyone who is concerned about the well-being of a student to raise those concerns. All submissions to the INIC are followed up on by Student Support Services, and students are connected with resources aligned with their needs. Use of the INIC creates a culture of personal well-being, belonging, and academic success and aids school administration in becoming aware of a student who may be distressed and responding in a supportive, proactive, and individualized manner.

HGSE Academic Writing Center and Communications Lab
617-496-3894; <https://communicate.gse.harvard.edu/>

Academic Writing Center and Communications Lab (“CommLab”), supported by Gutman Library, is designed to assist HGSE students in the acquisition of clear and cogent writing and oral communication skills. Appointments are provided by HGSE Teaching Fellows (TFs) with backgrounds in academic writing and communication. The Writing Center TFs provide students with the tools necessary to respond effectively to assignments, organize short papers and lengthy research projects, and develop working

drafts into publishable products. The CommLab TFs offer students strategies to develop an academic presentation, create a research poster, prepare an entrepreneur pitch or practice a doctoral defense. Academic Writing Center and CommLab services are available by appointment using this [website](#).

University Supports

Counseling and Mental Health Services
HUHS Smith Campus Center, Fourth Floor
617-495-2042; <https://camhs.huhs.harvard.edu>
CAMHS Cares 24-hour hotline 617-495-2042

[TimelyCare](#) is a virtual health and well-being platform available to any Harvard student who has paid the health fee. Students can access counseling more, in some cases at no additional cost.

HUHS Counseling and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provides coverage to students year-round. Counseling is available for a wide variety of concerns, including:

- Bereavement
- Transitional issues and adjustment difficulties
- Depression, anxiety, or stress
- Concerns interfering with work or relationships
- Sexual concerns
- High-risk behaviors around food, alcohol, and/or other substances

Treatment options include individual psychotherapy, medication management, and group therapy. All visits are confidential and mental health records are held separately from the rest of the medical record, except for information on medications and hospitalizations.

Office for Gender Equity (OGE) SHARE Counseling
SHARE 24-hour response line: 617-495-9100 | <https://oge.harvard.edu/share>

The Office for Gender Equity (OGE) provides services to the community through its three functions: Sexual Harassment/Assault, Resources & Education (SHARE) counseling; Title IX; and Prevention Education, Engagement & Outreach.

Each of these functions, while distinct, work holistically to promote gender equity, and to address and prevent sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct within the Harvard community.

Those seeking confidential, privileged support can reach SHARE counselors via SHARE's 24/7 hotline at 617-495-9100. Students interested in engaging with OGE with other questions may contact oge@harvard.edu.

Harvard International Office
864 Smith Campus Center
617-495-2789; <http://www.hio.harvard.edu>

The Harvard International Office (HIO) offers services to international students and scholars at Harvard's graduate and professional schools to minimize the difficulties they may experience

both upon arrival and later during their stay at Harvard. HIO provides information on a wide range of topics, including immigration issues (work permits, travel), financial questions, social and cultural differences, and resources at Harvard and in the community. HIO also acts as a liaison between international students and scholars and the U.S. government agencies that have jurisdiction over their stay here.

Office of Work Life

124 Mt. Auburn Street, 3rd Floor North
617-495-4100; <http://hr.harvard.edu/>

The office provides information on work/family programs, services, and policies at Harvard and acts as a clearinghouse for family resources in Cambridge, Boston, and the surrounding areas. It provides information and referral for childcare, schools, elder care, adoption, educational programs and seminars, support/conversation groups, individual assistance on work/family concerns, and consultations to departments on work/family options. The Office of Work and Family distributes the *Harvard University and affiliates Family Resource Handbook* and coordinates childcare on campus.

The office has information about six independently run child-care centers located on University property, each listed below. For more information, visit <https://hr.harvard.edu/finding-child-care>

- [Botanic Gardens Children's Center](#) 26 Robinson Street (617-496-0595)
- [Harvard Yard Child Care Center](#) 25 Francis Avenue (617-547-3432)
- [Oxford Street Day Care Coop](#) 25 Francis Avenue (617-547-3175)
- [Peabody Terrace Children's Centers](#) 900 Memorial Drive (617-868-5573)
- [Radcliffe Child Care Center](#) 10 DeWolfe Street (617-495-3504)
- [Soldiers Field Park Children's Center](#) 1 Soldiers Field Park, Boston (617-495-2680)

Harvard Chaplains

<http://www.chaplains.harvard.edu>

Harvard Chaplains is the umbrella organization of over 35 chaplains representing 25 of the world's traditions, united in their commitment to supporting Harvard students, faculty, and staff. Harvard Chaplains nurture the spiritual/ethical lives of the Harvard community and help them learn to listen to those who believe differently. The Chaplains agree to honor the religious freedom, human dignity, conscience, personal spiritual welfare and the religious tradition of every person to whom they minister.

Campus Safety and Security

Evening Shuttle Van/Escort Service
617-495-0400

The Evening Shuttle Van Service is designed to provide transportation throughout the Cambridge and Allston campuses as a supplement to the Shuttle Bus. Rides are free and available on request between 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. Calls are accepted until 2:40 a.m. Please call ahead as the wait may be as long as a half-hour.

Harvard University Campus Escort Program (HUCEP)
617-384-8237

HUCEP teams who are trained and supervised by the HUPD provide walking escorts to students, faculty and staff seven nights a week during the academic year and cover the Yard, River, and Quad areas. Teams are identified by their brightly colored vests labeled HUCEP. Escorts respond to calls for service through the HUCEP hotline (617-384-8237) or (617- 38HUCEP), and can be flagged down by students, faculty and staff in need of an escort. Escort teams also are encouraged to ask solo walkers if they would like an escort to their destination.

Missing Persons Policy

As required under federal law, the Harvard Graduate School of Education immediately will refer to the Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) any missing persons report involving a student who lives in on-campus housing. If any member of the Harvard community has reason to believe that a student who resides in on-campus housing is missing, they should immediately notify HUPD at 617-495-1212. If HUPD determines that the student has been missing for more than 24 hours, then, within the 24 hours following this determination, the School or HUPD will: (1) notify an appropriate external law enforcement agency, unless the local law enforcement agency was the entity that made the determination that the student is missing; (2) contact anyone the student has identified as a missing person contact under the procedures described below; and (3) notify others at the University, as appropriate, about the student's disappearance. In addition to identifying a general emergency contact person, students residing in on-campus housing have the option to identify confidentially a separate person to be contacted by Harvard in the event that the student is determined to be missing for more than 24 hours. Students are not required to designate a separate individual for this purpose and if they choose not to do so, then Harvard will assume that they have chosen to treat their general emergency contact as their missing person contact.

Students who wish to identify a confidential missing person should notify the Registrar. A student's confidential missing person contact will be accessible only by authorized campus officials and by law enforcement in the course of an investigation and may not be disclosed outside of a missing person investigation. In addition, if it has been determined that a student who is under 18 years of age and not emancipated has been missing for more than 24 hours, then HGSE or HUPD will contact that student's custodial parent or guardian, in addition to contacting any additional contact person designated by the student.

Students are reminded that they must provide the Registrar with emergency contact information and/or confidential missing persons contact information if they have not already done so.

Police Escort
617-495-1213

The Harvard University Police Department provides rides within the campus environment when the Escort Service is not operating, and a student feels at risk or unsafe.

Annual Security Report

Annually, the Harvard University Police Department produces a report that outlines the University's campus safety and security policies, procedures, and practices. This publication, the Annual Security Report, describes programs and services designed to promote safety and security and to help members of the Harvard community prevent and report crime. It also includes crime statistics for the campus area, as required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the "Clery Act"). A copy of the Annual Security Report can be found online at www.hupd.harvard.edu. In addition, the HUPD disseminates community advisories and crime alerts after a serious or violent crime that may pose a continuing public safety threat is reported to the HUPD or local police departments.

Harvard University Police Department (HUPD)
1033 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor <http://www.hupd.harvard.edu>
Urgent: 617-495-1212
Business: 617-495-1215
TDD: 617-495-1211

Blue-light emergency phones on the Harvard campus connect directly to the Harvard Police. These phones should be used to report suspicious activity, crimes in progress or any emergency situation. In addition, University Centrex phones (gray) placed at Harvard locations can be used to contact the HUPD at 617-495- 1212. Visit the HUPD web site for important safety tips.
HUPD Crime Prevention Unit
617-495-1795

Personal protection and Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) workshops are offered. Students should contact the Office of Student Affairs to arrange or schedule a workshop mentioned above or any other safety/crime issues they would like to be addressed.
HUPD Laptop Registration

Harvard University Police Department 1033 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor
617-495-1795; <https://www.hupd.harvard.edu/laptop-theft-prevention>

Through the HUPD website, a free service provided by the HUPD where HUPD maintains a database that stores the make, model, and serial number of your laptop. In the event of loss or theft, HUPD can identify the owner if it is recovered. This is a free registration through Absolute Software's LoJack for Laptops. In the event of the loss or theft of the laptop, the company will work with HUPD and local police to try to recover your laptop if it is stolen. The technology they use is embedded in most PCs, making it very difficult to detect and remove. It allows you to remotely display a message and lock your device so that no one else can log on and search your files, photos or passwords. You can also remotely delete files, photos, passwords, emails, financial data and records, and can use GPS, WiFi or IP to display your device's general location on a map. A four-year (4) subscription costs \$30.

HGSE Bike Policy

HGSE is committed to being a bike friendly campus. As such, we try to make biking as convenient as possible for the members of our community. In return, we ask our bikers to be good citizens and also follow a few simple rules designed to help keep everyone safe:

- Do not ride bicycles on the sidewalk

- Lock bikes to one of the many bike racks around campus (not to hand railings, benches, trees, trash receptacles, or parking meters).
- Bikes parked illegally will be issued a warning; bikes will be removed and stored after a second warning; bikes not claimed after two weeks will be donated to charity.
- For security, lock bike frame and one wheel to a bike rack.
- Register bikes with the University Policy Department to aid in the recovery of stolen or lost bikes (<https://www.hupd.harvard.edu/bicycle-registration>)

City of Cambridge Municipal Parking & Non-Resident Student Driver Statements and Decals Nonresident Student Driver Statements and Decals

The Massachusetts Motor Vehicle Law requires out-of-state students bringing vehicles into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to file a nonresident driver statement with the local police department in the city in which their university is located: "IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A NONRESIDENT STUDENT TO FAIL TO FILE A NONRESIDENT DRIVER STATEMENT WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT LOCATED IN THE SAME CITY OR TOWN AS THE SCHOOL OF COLLEGE ATTENDED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3 OF CHAPTER 90 OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS. FAILURE TO FILE SUCH STATEMENT IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$200."

Instructions:

1. Complete the Nonresident Driver Statement: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/nonresident-student-vehicle-information-form/download>
2. Mail completed Nonresident Driver Statement to: The Parking Office, Campus Service Center, 8th Floor 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138
3. Upon receipt and processing, student will receive a nonresident student driver decal from the University Parking Office.
4. Display decal prominently in the uppermost center portion of the vehicle's windshield.

If students bring a vehicle registered in a state other than Massachusetts, they will be required to obtain Massachusetts registration within 90 days. If students live in Cambridge, they will need a resident parking permit in order to park on the street. To obtain a permit, students must show proof that their car is registered and insured in Massachusetts and that they are a Cambridge resident. Parking permits are available at the Department of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation, 238 Broadway (617-349-4700).

Note: Most metered parking spaces in Cambridge restrict the user to one-time use and do not allow parking past the initial time limit. If a meter is marked "one hour," the car in that space must be moved after one hour or be subject to be ticketing, even if more money is put into the meter for a second hour.

Academic Governance

The responsibility for governance of academic programs is the province of the HGSE faculty. It delegates this responsibility to standing committees of the faculty including: the Ed.D. and Ph.D. Steering Committee, the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee, and the Ed.M. Steering Committee. These committees, working with the Academic Dean, oversee policy, progress, and all aspects of student academic work.

The Ph.D. Steering Committee considers major policy recommendations relevant to the Ph.D. program and has oversight of Ph.D. students' academic progress.

The Ed.L.D. Steering Committee considers major policy and curriculum recommendations relevant to the Ed.L.D. Program and has oversight of Ed.L.D. students' academic progress.

The Ed.M. Steering Committee considers major policy and curriculum recommendations relevant to the Ed.M. Program and has oversight of Ed.M. students' academic progress.

In collaboration with the degree program Faculty Directors/Co-Chairs (i.e., Ed.M., Ph.D., and Ed.L.D.), the program Associate and Assistant Directors, Program and Concentration Coordinators, the Registrar, or Director for Doctoral Studies are responsible for monitoring the academic progress of all HGSE degree candidates.

These groups govern academic programs leading to the Master of Education degree, the Certificate of Advanced Study, the Doctor of Education degree, the Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree, and the Doctor of Education Leadership degree. They also certify that students have met the necessary academic requirements for degrees. All students in degree programs are reviewed at the end of each semester by program faculty, the Ph.D. Steering Committee, the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee or the Degree Programs Office.

HGSE continues to retain the discretion to apply its considered judgment to the question of how best to pursue its educational programs during the COVID-19 crisis, which may include, among other things, making recourse to online instruction and instituting compulsory testing and tracing programs as required conditions for accessing the Harvard campus or Harvard facilities.

Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.) Program Policies

Requirements for the Ph.D. in Education involve coursework, comprehensive examinations (written and oral), research and scholarly training (research apprenticeship and Teaching Fellowships), and the dissertation (proposal and defense). The manner in which an individual candidate fulfills these requirements must be approved by the student's advisor, the Director for Doctoral Studies, and the Ph.D. Steering Committee. Ph.D. candidates should read this section carefully and consult with their advisor(s) and the program staff concerning any questions that may arise. They should also read the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Student Handbook and the Ph.D. Student Guide, available on the program website, for further help in planning and carrying out their graduate study.

Coursework and Residence

All students are required to complete at least 64 credits for the Ph.D. degree, with at least half of their total credits at HGSE. Students who have graduated with an Ed.M. or C.A.S. within three years of enrolling as Ph.D. students may receive doctoral credit for up to 16 credits completed during their Ed.M. or C.A.S. course of study. Transfer credit from other institutions is not accepted.

Ph.D. students are not ordinarily permitted to take Foundations courses. In exceptional cases, they may be permitted to enroll with permission of the Doctoral Studies office and course instructors.

Annual Academic Progress Review

HGSE requires that all Ph.D. students maintain academic standards and complete their degree within seven years. Ph.D. students' academic progress will be reviewed by the Ph.D. Steering Committee on an annual basis at the end of each academic year. Additionally, the Ph.D. Steering Committee will conduct a mid-year academic review of students with fall semester directives established by the Ph.D. Steering Committee. At the end of the spring semester, each student will be required to submit a written statement of their progress, academic achievements, and plans for the coming year.

Students who do not meet relevant early benchmarks or who demonstrate difficulty meeting the program's academic and conduct standards – including the Standards of Conduct in the Harvard Community outlined in this handbook – will be informed of the faculty's concern about their progress. The purpose of this notification is to provide early warning and intervention for students who may be struggling in the program. *Ph.D. students receiving federal financial aid should refer to the [Financial Aid section](#) of the GSAS handbook for additional satisfactory progress policies.*

A student who is experiencing academic difficulty will receive a letter from the program Faculty Director explaining the reasons for the Committee's concerns and specifying a probationary period in which the student should work with their advisor to return to good academic standing. The student will be expected to report back to the Faculty Director about their progress within the time specified in their letter. If there is insufficient evidence of adequate performance, or if there are serious concerns about a student's conduct, behavior, or capacity to succeed, the Steering Committee may vote to terminate the student's degree candidacy.

Criteria for satisfactory performance used in these reviews include the following: satisfactory performance in and completion of required coursework, number of years in the program, comprehensive examination results, timely progress toward all Ph.D. program milestones, and adherence to the Standards of Conduct in the Harvard Community outlined in this handbook. Ph.D. students must maintain at least a B+ average in their courses. (See the *HGSE Grading System* section of this handbook for an explanation of the grading system and how averages are calculated.)

Earning an A.M.

Candidates for the Ph.D. in Education degree may apply eight courses/32 credits of their doctoral program toward an A.M. in passing from GSAS. Ph.D. in Education students may apply for a master's only after they have completed at least 16 courses (64 credits) since enrolling in the Ph.D. program.

Students who wish to receive the A.M. in passing must file with the GSAS Office of the Registrar. While the department does not admit candidates for a terminal A.M. degree, students who have met all the course requirements may petition to be awarded the A.M. in Education. Students must have a B+ average to receive an A.M. in passing.

Comprehensive Examinations

The written and oral examinations for the Ph.D. in Education focus on the breadth and depth of students' knowledge and reasoning. They are administered with three goals in mind:

1. To ensure each candidate's proficiency in the broad theoretical, empirical, and methodological domains that comprise the interdisciplinary field of education, as well as their particular concentration of study;
2. To ensure each candidate's command of their chosen discipline or field of study within education, and to assess their ability to design, develop, and implement an original research project that contributes to knowledge within this domain;
3. To engage each candidate in a constructive, critical examination of their work that considers how their specific program of research advances educational research, policy, and/or practice.

The written examination, administered in the summer following the second year of Ph.D. study, is designed to address the first goal. The oral examination, administered in the third year of Ph.D. study, is designed to meet the second and third goals. Students must pass the written examination to be eligible to advance to the oral examination.

Dissertation Proposal, Dissertation, and Dissertation Defense

Once a Ph.D. student has completed all required coursework and comprehensive examinations, the next step in the degree progression is to formulate the independent research that provides a foundation for the dissertation. Most Ph.D. students will pass their dissertation proposal ("DP") and begin writing their dissertations during their fourth or fifth year of study. All Ph.D. in Education students are required to have an approved DP by the end of their fourth year of study.

The formal process of this doctoral research, described in detail in the Ph.D. Student Guide (available on the program website), begins with a committee-approved dissertation proposal, either before or after the official Dissertation Committee Meeting (DCM) with the student's appointed committee. After the DP and DCM are complete, students begin the work of generating the dissertation. Once the dissertation has been read by all committee members and deemed acceptable by the chair, the student engages in the Dissertation Defense. Following the defense, the student makes any final revisions, and then submits the dissertation electronically for inclusion in a public database accessible to scholars and practitioners worldwide.

Research and Scholarly Training

In addition to coursework and comprehensive examinations, all Ph.D. in Education students have opportunities to engage in research and scholarly training during their time at Harvard. Along with conducting independent research that results in a dissertation, the program requires students to attend colloquia, engage in research apprenticeships and serve as Teaching Fellows (minimum of four "slots" at HGSE). For more information about specific research and Teaching Fellow requirements, please review the Ph.D. Student Guide, available on the program website.

Doctor of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D.) Program Policies

Requirements for the Ed.L.D. degree involve three general stages: core coursework, elective coursework, and a third-year residency with one of the program's partner organizations. Ed.L.D. candidates should read this section carefully and consult with their advisors and the Director for Doctoral Studies concerning any questions that may arise.

Coursework and Residence

Academic requirements include satisfactory completion of the L-100 course series and other required core coursework in the first year; at least 32 credits—including the required Year 2 L-200 course series—in the second year; and completion of the L-300 course series, the residency experience, and the Ed.L.D. Capstone in the third year.

Ed.L.D. students have the option to enroll in How People Learn in the summer prior to beginning their program and are required to take Evidence in the summer following the first year of study. Students will coordinate enrollment with the Doctoral Programs Office. Enrollment in the optional How People Learn course will be in addition to year 1 course requirements and will not decrease any other program requirements. Evidence will be counted as part of the year 2 fall program requirements.

Please note: at least 16 credits in Year 2 of the Ed.L.D. program must be completed for a letter grade in order to assess satisfactory academic progress. Ed.L.D. students are expected to be in residence for the first two years of study.

Transfer credit is not accepted.

Annual Academic Progress Review

HGSE requires that all Ed.L.D. students maintain academic standards and complete their degree within three years. In addition, the Ed.L.D. program is intended to prepare leaders for complex systems and organizations. As such, students are expected to adhere to high standards of professional and ethical conduct while enrolled. Ed.L.D. students' progress will be reviewed by the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee at least twice per academic year.

Students who do not meet relevant early benchmarks or who demonstrate difficulty meeting the program's academic and conduct standards – including the Standards of Conduct in the Harvard Community outlined in this handbook – will be informed of the faculty's concern about their progress. The purpose of this notification is to provide early warning and intervention for students who may be struggling in the program.

If an Ed.L.D. student is determined to be making "unsatisfactory" progress following the program's progress reviews, they will receive a letter from the Faculty Director explaining the reasons for the faculty's concerns and specifying a probationary period. The student will have an opportunity to discuss the letter with the Director for Doctoral Studies and/or program Faculty Director and should work with their advisor to get the help needed to return to good standing. The student will be expected to report back to the faculty about their progress within the time specified in the letter. If there is insufficient evidence of adequate performance, or if there are

serious concerns about a student's conduct, behavior, or capacity to succeed, particularly in a third-year residency, the faculty may vote to terminate the student's degree candidacy. The Ed.L.D. Program staff monitors and apprises the Ed.L.D. Steering Committee of all students' academic progress within the degree program.

Criteria for satisfactory performance in the Ed.L.D. program include satisfactory performance and completion of required coursework and credits; maintenance of at least a B+ average with work of A caliber in Year 1 and Year 2 courses (see the *HGSE Grading System* section of this handbook for an explanation of the grading system and how averages are calculated); a holistic assessment of the student's readiness to fulfill the requirements of and complete the third-year residency (see above); and adherence to the Standards of Conduct in the Harvard Community outlined in this handbook. Please note that a grade of "NCR" is not considered satisfactory academic performance in the Ed.L.D. program.

Ed.L.D. Residency and Capstone

The Ed.L.D. **residency** is a required ten-month leadership development experience in which Ed.L.D. candidates lead a strategic project with an Ed.L.D. partner organization. The residency is an occasion to practice and demonstrate the skills of system-level leadership in a setting where actions matter: to the education of a developing leader; to the current performance and future potential of a particular educational organization; and to the learning of the American education sector as a whole.

The Ed.L.D. **Capstone** is a descriptive, analytic, and reflective account of an Ed.L.D. student's leadership of and contributions to a strategic project during residency. It is a demonstration of the student's ability to diagnose challenges, develop strategies to successfully address the challenges, work towards a vision and goal, engage others, and learn from the results. The Capstone is composed of multiple written documents that form a sequential and iteratively constructed portfolio developed throughout the ten-month residency. The Capstone serves as an integral part of the third-year residency experience.

Ed.L.D. candidates can find more information about residency and Capstone requirements in the Ed.L.D. Capstone Handbook, made available to third-year students on an annual basis.

Co-Curricular Learning Opportunities

Following completion of the Year 1 core curriculum, Ed.L.D. students become eligible to serve as Teaching Fellows (TFs), Research Assistants (RAs), and Professional Programs in Education (PPE) facilitators at HGSE and other Harvard Schools. Due to the program's unique academic demands, Ed.L.D. students are not eligible to serve as TFs, RAs, HGSE Advisors, or PPE facilitators during Year 1 or Year 3 of the program. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Year 2 Ed.L.D. students do not need program permission to serve as TFs, RAs, HGSE Advisors, or PPE facilitators if the total time commitment (for the combination of all Harvard employment) is **20 or fewer hours per week** during the academic year. This equates to no more than two 1.0 TF "slots" per semester, as each 1.0 slot requires approximately 10 hours of work per week. All Ed.L.D. students must be in good academic standing in order to serve as a TF, RA, HGSE Advisor, or PPE facilitator.

Earning an Ed.M.

Candidates for the Ed.L.D. degree are not eligible to receive an Ed.M. from HGSE. Students who withdraw or whose candidacy is terminated may be eligible for a terminal Ed.M. if they have completed the academic requirements. Students who are academically eligible for a terminal Ed.M. must apply for the degree within three years of their termination or withdrawal from the Ed.L.D. program.

Master of Education (Ed.M.) Program Policies

This handbook reflects the policies and regulations that govern the Ed.M. Degree Program. However, please see the individual Program Canvas pages for more information about additional requirements for specific Ed.M. programs. In addition, this section details policies and procedures that apply specifically to master's students.

Coursework and Grade Options

In order to meet basic HGSE degree requirements, Master of Education (Ed.M.) candidates must complete courses carrying a minimum of 42 credits. Ed.M. students must complete all required Foundations courses (described below). Ed.M. students must take at least 16 of their total credits for a letter grade. Ed.M. students are permitted to enroll in up to eight credits of independent study or field experience, or combination thereof (not to exceed one per semester). See other sections of this Handbook for information about prior coursework and other academic requirements for all students.

Foundations

Foundations for Residential Ed.M. students

Residential Foundations courses are:

- How People Learn, 4 credits, Summer Term;
- Leading Change, 2 credits, August Term;
- Evidence, 4 credits, August Term; and
- Equity & Opportunity, 4 credits, in two components:
 - Equity & Opportunity: Identity in Context, 2 credits, August Term;
 - Equity & Opportunity elective: 2 or more credits chosen from a list of fall, winter, or spring courses designated to fulfill the Foundations requirement.

Residential Ed.M. students are expected to be on campus for the beginning of August Term courses on August 3.

Grading

Each Summer and August Term Foundations course is graded on a SAT/NCR basis. Completion of these courses with a grade of SAT (satisfactory) is required in order to earn the Ed.M.

If a student does not receive a SAT for How People Learn they will receive a letter of academic warning from the Associate Director of their program along with guidance for maintaining their academic standing in the program. (See Academic Progress Review for more on academic warnings.)

If a student does not receive a SAT for any Summer or August Foundations course they will be required to retake the course at the next opportunity—a later semester or the following year—and earn a SAT to receive the Ed.M. degree. This may extend the time to degree completion. Exceptions may be granted on rare occasions for those who face other extenuating circumstances or those who are approved to take a semester-long leave of absence. Students in

these situations should consult with the Associate Director of Residential Programs to discuss pathways to complete the Foundations requirement.

For more on Equity & Opportunity electives and grading, see the section on these courses below.

Attendance

For August Term Foundations courses—Leading Change, Equity and Opportunity: Identity in Context, and Evidence—full attendance and participation in class sessions is required. (How People Learn is a primarily asynchronous course and synchronous class meetings are optional.)

Typically, students may be excused from no more than one session of an August Foundations course. A student must notify the teaching team of an absence within 24 hours of the missed session. Absence from more than one session of a Foundations course is rarely approved, and only in exceptional cases of extenuating circumstances. A student who anticipates missing more than one session before the course begins is required to submit a request for excusal via email to foundations@gse.harvard.edu. After the course begins, a student who misses more than one session due to extenuating circumstances should contact the teaching team. Missing more than one session of a Foundations course, depending on the specific day(s) and activities missed, may necessitate that the student either (1) take a grade of Incomplete (INC) until make-up work is submitted or (2) drop and re-take the course at the next possible opportunity (another semester or the following year). Students with one or more *unexcused* absence from a Foundations course will receive a grade of DRP for that course and be subject to withdrawal from HGSE. Students may not be granted a Leave of Absence (LOA) during their first summer or August terms.

Equity & Opportunity Electives

Equity & Opportunity elective offerings represent courses that are aligned with the goals for Foundations in Equity & Opportunity at HGSE. While other courses at HGSE and other Harvard schools address issues of equity and opportunity, only courses designated as fulfilling the Equity & Opportunity Foundational requirement count toward Ed.M. students' required Foundations credits.

Policies for fulfilling incomplete coursework (a grade of "INC") apply to Equity & Opportunity elective courses. If a student receives a grade below B-, NCR (no credit), or INP (permanent incomplete) in their chosen Equity & Opportunity elective, they must satisfactorily complete another course from the approved list to fulfill their graduation requirement. Absence policies for Equity & Opportunity elective courses are set by instructors.

Timing of Foundations for Residential Part-Time Ed.M. Students

Residential part-time Ed.M. students are required to take How People Learn in their first year. HGSE recommends that residential part-time students take at least one August Foundations course in their first year, but they may take more than one if desired. HGSE recommends taking Equity & Opportunity: Identity in Context in August of the first year if feasible and taking Leading Change and Evidence in the second year. Part-time residential students may fulfill their remaining Foundations component (2 or more credits in a course designated to count as an Equity & Opportunity elective) any time during their two years in the program.

Foundations for Online Educational Leadership Ed.M. students

OEL students take Foundations courses throughout their two years of study; the timing is determined at the program level and will be the same for all students.

OEL Foundations courses are:

- How People Learn, 4 credits, Year 1 Summer Term;
- Equity & Opportunity: Identity in Context, 2 credits, Year 1 Fall, plus successful completion of the designated Pathways course aligned with Equity & Opportunity goals;
- Evidence, 4 credits, Year 2 (Summer Term strongly recommended);
- Leading Change, 2 credits, Year 2 TBD.

HGSE offers an OEL-specific section of Evidence for students in their second summer of the program (June and July). HGSE *strongly recommends* that all OEL students complete the course at this time, with their cohort. If a student is unable to complete the course at this time, they will be required to take the course later in the second year at a time typically set aside for electives, and to work with program staff to determine when and how to complete the remaining required elective credits toward the Ed.M.

Grading

Each Foundations course is graded on a SAT/NCR basis. Completion of Foundations courses with a grade of SAT (satisfactory) is required in order to earn the Ed.M. degree.

If a student does not receive a SAT for How People Learn they will receive a letter of academic warning from the Associate Director of their program along with guidance for maintaining their academic standing in the program. (See Academic Progress Review for more on academic warnings.)

Note that one specified course per Pathway (PreK-12 or Higher Education) is designed to align with Equity & Opportunity (E&O) Foundations goals and to deepen your E&O learning in the context of your professional focus area.

If a student does not receive a SAT for any Summer or August Foundations course they will be required to retake the course at the next opportunity—a later semester or the following year—and earn a SAT to receive the Ed.M. degree. This may extend the time to degree completion. Exceptions may be granted on rare occasions for those who face other extenuating circumstances or those who are approved to take a semester-long leave of absence. Students in these situations should consult with the Associate Director of Residential Programs to discuss pathways to complete the Foundations requirement.

Attendance

For Equity and Opportunity: Identity in Context, Evidence, and Leading Change, full attendance and participation in class sessions is required. (How People Learn is a primarily asynchronous course and synchronous class meetings are optional.)

Typically, students may be excused from no more than one session of each of these three Foundations courses. A student must notify the teaching team of an absence within 24 hours of

the missed session. Absence from more than one session of a Foundations course is rarely approved, and only in exceptional cases of extenuating circumstances. A student who anticipates missing more than one session before the course begins is required to submit a request for excusal to foundations@gse.harvard.edu. After the course begins, a student who misses more than one session due to extenuating circumstances should contact the teaching team. Missing more than one session of a Foundations course, depending on the specific day(s) and activities missed, may necessitate that the student either (1) take a grade of Incomplete (INC) until make-up work is submitted or (2) drop and re-take the course at the next possible opportunity (another semester or the following year). Students with one or more *unexcused* absence from a Foundations course will receive a grade of DRP for that course and be subject to withdrawal from HGSE.

Academic Progress Review

Ed.M. and C.A.S. candidates must maintain at least a B- average. More than one Incomplete and/or a grade average below B- will initiate an academic review at the end of the semester. Students may not register for a new semester with more than one Incomplete. Ed.M. and C.A.S. candidates who fall below a B- average and/or who are carrying multiple Incomplete grades are considered to be in poor academic standing. Poor academic standing may encompass other academic concerns, such as poor attendance or consistent failure to submit assignments on time. Students in poor academic standing will receive a letter of academic warning. A letter of academic warning is an opportunity to address serious academic concerns in a given timeframe. Students are informed of the nature of the concerns, what steps they must take to remedy them, and the deadline to do so. Students are also offered support and resources to address the areas of concern and enable them to meet the terms of the letter. A letter of academic warning carries the risk of dismissal. A student's degree candidacy may be terminated because of poor academic standing.

Petitions to Change Program or Concentration

Occasionally, Ed.M. students may wish to petition to change their Ed.M. program or concentration from the one to which they were accepted. Students wishing to do so must complete the *Petition for Change of Program* or *Petition for Change of Concentration*, which are available on the HGSE [Office the Registrar website](#) and include more details about the process. Such petitions must include a clear justification for wanting to make such a change. In order to be granted a change, approval must be secured from the current program/concentration Faculty Co-Chairs, the new program/concentration Faculty Co-Chairs, and the Associate Director of the student's program. Note that not all petitions will be granted due to admissions and program needs; thus, students should consider carefully in which program to enroll without assuming the possibility of transferring to another program or concentration.

University Resolution on Rights and Responsibilities

This University-wide Statement and its first interpretation were adopted on an interim basis by the Governing Boards on September 20, 1970, and were voted to remain in effect indefinitely in May 1977. The second interpretation was adopted by the Governing Boards in January-February 2002:

The central functions of an academic community are learning, teaching, research, and scholarship. By accepting membership in the University, an individual joins a community ideally characterized by free expression, free inquiry, intellectual honesty, respect for the dignity of others, and openness to constructive change. The rights and responsibilities exercised within the community must be compatible with these qualities.

The rights of members of the University are not fundamentally different from those of other members of society. The University, however, has a special autonomy, and reasoned dissent plays a particularly vital part in its existence. All members of the University have the right to press for action on matters of concern by any appropriate means. The University must affirm, assure, and protect the rights of its members to organize and join political associations, convene and conduct public meetings, publicly demonstrate and picket in an orderly fashion, and advocate and publicize opinion by print, sign, and voice.

The University places special emphasis, as well, upon certain values which are essential to its nature as an academic community. Among these are freedom of speech and academic freedom, freedom from personal force and violence, and freedom of movement. Interference with any of these freedoms must be regarded as a serious violation of the personal rights upon which the community is based.

Furthermore, although the administrative processes and activities of the University cannot be ends in themselves, such functions are vital to the orderly pursuit of the work of all members of the University. Therefore, interference with members of the University in performance of their normal duties and activities must be regarded as unacceptable obstruction of the essential processes of the University. Theft, willful destruction of the property of the University or its members, or other violations of state or federal law must also be considered an unacceptable violation of the rights of individuals or of the community as a whole.

Moreover, it is the responsibility of all members of the academic community to maintain an atmosphere in which violations of rights are unlikely to occur and to develop processes by which these rights are fully assured. In particular, it is the responsibility of officers of administration and instruction to be alert to the needs of the University community; to give full and fair hearing to reasoned expressions of grievances; and to respond promptly and in good faith to such expressions and to widely expressed needs for change. In making decisions which concern the community as a whole or any part of the community, officers are expected to consult with those affected by the decisions. Failures to meet these responsibilities may be profoundly damaging to the life of the University. Therefore, the University community has the right to establish orderly procedures consistent with imperatives of academic freedom to assess the policies and assure the responsibility of those whose decisions affect the life of the University.

No violation of the rights of members of the University, nor any failure to meet responsibilities, should be interpreted as justifying any violation of the rights of members of the University. All members of the community—students and officers alike—should uphold the rights and responsibilities expressed in this Resolution if the University is to be characterized by mutual respect and trust.

Interpretation

It is implicit in the language of the Statement on Rights and Responsibilities that intense personal harassment of such a character as to amount to grave disrespect for the dignity of others be regarded as an unacceptable violation of the personal rights on which the University is based.

It is implicit in the University-wide Statement on Rights and Responsibilities that any unauthorized occupation of a University building, or any part of it, that interferes with the ability of members of the University to perform their normal activities constitutes unacceptable conduct in violation of the Statement and is subject to appropriate discipline.

Academic Integrity

HGSE is committed to cultivating and maintaining a learning environment characterized by high academic standards and integrity. It is important for students to be familiar with expectations for academic work and to conduct themselves as academic professionals throughout their time and experiences at HGSE.

All work submitted to meet course requirements is expected to be the student's own. In the preparation of **all** assignments -- including written assignments, oral and/or visual presentations, or any other form submitted to meet course and degree requirements -- students must distinguish between ideas that are their own and those that have been derived from other sources.

Information and opinions drawn from all sources must be attributed specifically to these sources. It is the student's responsibility to learn and use the proper forms of citation. In written assignments, quotations must be properly placed within quotation marks and must be fully cited. All paraphrased material must also be fully cited. In all cases where ideas or material presented are derived from a student's reading and research, the source used must be indicated.

Students who submit work either not their own or without clear attribution to the original source, for whatever reason, face sanctions up to and including dismissal and expulsion.

HGSE Policy on Student Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work

The emergence of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) poses both great opportunities and great challenges for the field of education. Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, and GitHub Copilot are having a profound influence on teaching and learning – and on your role as education practitioners and leaders. Your time at HGSE is an opportunity to learn to leverage such tools to produce more equitable access to and deeper engagement in education.

HGSE encourages responsible experimentation with generative AI tools, but there are important considerations to keep in mind when using these tools, including information security and data privacy, copyright issues, the trustworthiness of the content they generate, and academic integrity. The implications of using generative AI for your own learning are equally salient. It might be possible to use this technology to complete some class assignments while doing little work yourself, but short-cutting the process of thinking and writing in this way would rob you of the learning you came to HGSE to experience. At its best, generative AI can be like a tutor or thought partner with unlimited time to *help* you learn – but it should not be used to do the cognitive work for you, or else your own learning will be greatly diminished.

The following guidelines aim to ensure that, in your academic work at HGSE, you use generative AI when it can help you learn and not when it is a hindrance. **If you have any doubt about whether a specific use of generative AI is permitted for an assignment or course, you are responsible for discussing it with your instructor prior to using it.**

1. Unless otherwise specified by your instructor, it is a violation of the HGSE Academic Integrity Policy to use generative AI to create all or part of an assignment for a course (e.g., a paper, memo, presentation, or short response) and submit it as your own. This rule parallels other

rules. You may not ask another person to complete your assignment for a course. You may not copy from something someone else has created or re-write in your own words something someone else has written, without proper attribution.

2. If you use generative AI tools in other ways as you complete course assignments, including using them to improve the readability or language of your submission, you must acknowledge and document their use. In your assignment submission, include a statement explaining what tool(s) you used, prompts you provided (if applicable), and how you integrated the output into your work.
3. Permissible uses of generative AI in HGSE coursework, more broadly, include seeking clarification on concepts, brainstorming ideas, or generating scenarios that help contextualize what you are learning. For instance, it is fine to use AI-powered web search and to have “conversations” with tools like ChatGPT to help you explore ideas, refine your thinking, identify examples, and better understand course material. It is also acceptable to use generative AI to draft emails to instructors, students, and others in the HGSE community that are not being submitted as coursework.
4. Keep in mind that the information provided by generative AI tools like ChatGPT is generated from unverified crowd-sourced information. Large language models can make false claims or “hallucinations” and will regenerate any biases in the corpus of texts on which they are trained. You therefore should not trust the information as if it were equivalent to published research. You are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the work you submit.
5. The use of generative AI may also have implications for the protection of your own intellectual property. For example, if you upload your own original content to a generative AI tool, that content may become part of the tool’s models, which others may encounter and use. Conversely, if you use generative AI to develop your own original work, it may unexpectedly include others’ copyrighted material.
6. Certain uses of AI also infringe on copyright laws applicable to U.S. universities or contravene existing expectations for student conduct in HGSE courses. For example, the HGSE Student Handbook notes that “Students may not post, publish, sell, or otherwise publicly distribute course materials without the written permission of the course instructor. Such materials include, but are not limited to, the following: lecture slides, video, or audio recordings, assignments, problem sets, examinations, other students’ work, and answer keys. Students may not make recordings of course material for their own use without written permission of the instructor” (*HGSE Student Handbook 2023-24*, p. 94). In keeping with these guidelines, the following actions are prohibited:
 - a. Uploading substantial course content – including text, video, images, readings, discussion-board pages, assignments, or audio recordings – to a generative AI program for any reason. Note that this does not prevent you from uploading short excerpts from course materials when interacting with generative AI, but you should exercise caution when engaging in this activity.
 - b. Making your own recording of any course meetings, with or without AI tool integrations. If you require or would prefer that course meetings be recorded, discuss this request

with your instructor. More broadly, if you require AI technology as part of an assistive technology solution to enable you to participate fully in the course, you must coordinate your usage with the Office of Student Affairs.

7. Given the wide range of learning goals in courses at HGSE, individual instructors may create course-specific policies that differ from and supersede these guidelines. **Again, if you have any doubt about whether a specific use of generative AI is permitted for an assignment or course, you are responsible for discussing it with your instructor prior to using it.**

New ways of teaching and learning will emerge as generative AI becomes increasingly ubiquitous and robust. We thus anticipate that this policy will also evolve, with feedback from students and instructors.

Assistance in Course Work and Writing

Students often work with others or receive assistance in various aspects of their course work. Students should be very clear about how they are working with others and what types of assistance, if any, they are receiving. Students should disclose to their professors any plans for outside professional assistance on editing, statistical analysis, or other matters central to completing their work. The student's professor may approve only those kinds and levels of assistance that support, rather than supplant, the student's research, writing, and learning. If assistance has been approved, then the student must specify upon submission what sort of assistance they received and from whom on the assignment in question. The goal of this oversight is to preserve the status of the work as the student's own genuine intellectual product. Students should remember that the Gutman Library Writing and Communications Lab is available to assist them with assessing and editing their own work. This assistance has been approved by HGSE.

Dual Submission of Assignments

An assignment may not be used to meet the requirements for more than one course without prior permission of all instructors involved. Students wishing to integrate the work of two separate courses into one assignment may do so only if this plan is approved in advance in writing by all instructors involved. If approved, assignments submitted for more than one course must show both course numbers on the title page.

Students are **strongly** cautioned against using work for one course in another without fully discussing their plans with all instructors involved.

Supports for Academic Writing and Integrity

When there are concerns about student progress towards program and degree requirements and/or academic integrity, there are clear processes and supports in place to address the issue(s). Various offices coordinate their work to both address the issue(s) in light of policies, standards, and procedures while also supporting the student's development and health and well-being. Described in more detail in the next section, the following table demonstrates the key individuals and offices involved in this work.

Individual/Office	Primary Responsibilities
Office of Student Affairs/Student Support Services, including academic coaching	<p>Provides supports related to individual student needs and challenges during graduate study, manages all requests for formal accommodations, and makes referrals to resources, including counseling and mental health services</p> <p>For accommodations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student self-identifies and discusses needs with office staff • office reviews and assess eligibility for accommodations • office determines appropriate supports • office produces documentation for students to use in discussions with individual faculty
Gutman Library Writing and Communications Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides academic writing and project support through individual appointments and workshops
Degree Programs Office (Ed.M., Ph.D., Ed.L.D.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May identify need for student support and refer student to the Office of Student Affairs/Student Support Services • Works with related offices to oversee student academic progress and supports for students with academic challenges
Faculty Program Directors/Co-Chairs and Concentration Co-Chairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. May identify need for student support and refer student to the Office of Student Affairs/Student Support Services
Teaching Faculty and Teaching Fellows	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Work with individual students and Office of Student Affairs/Student Support Services to implement accommodations as appropriate for the course and based on student eligibility 5. May identify need for student support and refer student to the Office of Student Affairs/Student Support Services

When there are concerns about student progress towards program and degree requirements and/or academic integrity, there are clear processes and supports in place to address the issue(s). Various offices coordinate their work to both address the issue(s) in light of policies, standards, and procedures while also supporting the student’s development and health and well-being.

NOTE: Non-HGSE students who are enrolled in HGSE courses are expected to uphold the policies set forth in the HGSE Student Handbook, including without limitation those related to Academic Integrity and the Code of Conduct. Non-HGSE students include, for example, TAP students, cross-registrants, and voucher holders.

HGSE may take any and all actions it deems necessary upon the discovery of a policy violation, including without limitation immediately requiring the non-HGSE student to withdraw from the course and notifying the non-HGSE student's home institution, if applicable. Additionally, HGSE may preclude a non-HGSE student who has previously violated HGSE policy from registering in any future HGSE course.

All activities under these procedures will be conducted with regard for the legitimate privacy and reputational interests of all parties involved. It is expected that complaints and other activities under these procedures will be confidential, and that the parties will likewise observe this expectation. However, disclosure of otherwise confidential information may be made where necessary to protect the health, safety or well-being of the complainant or others in the HGSE community, to comply with legal obligations of the University, or where, in the judgment of HGSE, certain disclosure would be in the best interest of the parties or the University.

Process for Responding to an Academic Integrity Concern

Every case begins with an allegation in the form of a complaint or report. While virtually anyone could bring a complaint or report, any formal charges that may ensue are made by, and on behalf of, HGSE. The initial complaint or report is submitted to the Director for Doctoral Programs, the Associate Director for Residential Master's Education, the Associate Director of Teaching and Teacher Leadership, or the Associate Director for Online Master's Education.

In all situations where academic dishonesty is suspected, course instructors are required to provide a report to the Associate Director of the relevant program, which will be included in materials for review by the Academic Dean. This report should include: a confidential memorandum that details the charge; the work in question as submitted by the student, marked/highlighted to indicate all suspicious text; marked/highlighted copies of all corresponding sources from which the student is suspected of plagiarizing; the course syllabus, including all information provided to the student regarding appropriate citation process, collaboration, use of sources, etc.; and the course assignment as presented to the student, including copies of all handouts, emails, power point slides, etc., that relate to the assignment in question.

As a first step in the review process, the Associate Director of the relevant program or their designee will investigate the charge, which generally includes notifying the respondent of the charge, collecting written statements from the respondent and others involved in the incident(s), conducting interviews, and consulting with others as needed. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Associate Director of the relevant program or their designee will summarize the facts and circumstances of the case and share relevant materials with the Academic Dean. After reviewing the matter, the Academic Dean may: find no basis to the charge, suggest a resolution between the parties involved, or assign the case to the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities (CRR). The CRR will only consider cases referred by the Academic Dean; the Academic Dean ordinarily will refer all cases to the CRR that are not resolved through informal means within 30 days.

In the cases of alleged academic misconduct where resolutions are negotiated between the Academic Dean and the faculty member, the sanctions may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or having to redo the assignment. A written record describing the offense and the

settlement is filed with the Degree Programs Office. If a second allegation of academic misconduct were to be brought against the student, the initial incident would be taken into account, and the second case would be sent directly to the CRR.

Falsification of Admissions Application

Occasionally candidates for admission will make inaccurate or misleading statements or submit false material in connection with their application. In most cases, these misrepresentations are discovered during the admission process, and the application is rejected. If a misrepresentation is discovered after a candidate is admitted, the offer of admission is withdrawn. If a misrepresentation is discovered after a student has registered, the offer of admission will be revoked, and the student will be required to leave the School. If the discovery occurs after a degree has been awarded, the degree will be rescinded. The determination that an application is inaccurate or contains misrepresentations rests with the Office for Admissions, which has the authority to resolve the matter outside the student disciplinary process.

The Office of Admissions also may rescind an offer of admission in other circumstances, including without limitation if: there is a discrepancy between the transcripts originally provided as part of the application and the official versions (or translations) submitted after acceptance; the admitted candidate did not satisfactorily complete any courses and degree programs in progress at the time of application; or the admitted candidate has engaged in academic or personal conduct that calls into question their honesty, maturity or moral character or is otherwise inconsistent with the School's expectations for conduct.

Standards of Conduct in the Harvard Community

General Standards of Conduct

It is the expectation of the Harvard Graduate School of Education that its students, whether or not they are on campus or are currently enrolled as degree candidates, will behave in a mature and responsible manner, in accordance with HGSE's standards of personal and professional conduct and accountability. In doing so, students help create a dynamic and inspiring atmosphere for learning and growth and demonstrate the core principles effective educators instill in their professional work and uphold in their daily lives. This expectation for mature and responsible conduct also encompasses accountability for one's own well-being, including responsible decision-making regarding physical and mental health.

All HGSE students are expected to adhere to these overarching values:

- Respect for the rights, differences, and dignity of others;
- Honest and ethical preparation and submission of all academic work;
- Honesty and integrity in dealing with all members of the community;
- Accountability for personal and professional behavior.

Specific examples of ways in which students demonstrate these values include, but are not limited to: regular and timely attendance and participation in all HGSE course, program and other required activities; respectful, attentive behavior within and outside courses; appropriate conduct, judgment and tact in all personal and professional situations; effective and timely communication with all members of the Harvard community; appropriate judgment in responding to unethical, unprofessional or dangerous behavior on the part of others; respecting and respectful behavior regarding the privacy of all members

of the Harvard community; and maintaining appropriate boundaries when dealing with others at HGSE, including, for example, in regard to educator/student relationships. In addition, students may not provide false information to university officials or disrupt or obstruct teaching, research or other University activities, nor may they engage in any form of: physical violence or abuse; hazing; sexual misconduct; harassment, coercion or other conduct that threatens the health or safety of any person; threats involving deadly weapons, explosives, bombs, chemical or biological agents, or other deadly devices; theft, misappropriation, or unauthorized use of, destruction of, or damage to property; violation of published university rules or federal state or local law on University premises or at University-sponsored activities; and misuse of library or computer facilities. Discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, national origin, age, ancestry, veteran status, disability, or any other legally protected basis is also prohibited. Because students are expected to show good judgment and use common sense at all times, not all kinds of misconduct or behavioral standards are codified in this Handbook.

Complaints related to personal behavior are reported to the Director of Student Affairs. The complaint should include the name(s) of the party or parties involved; the time, place, and date of the incident(s); and the identities of any witnesses, as well as a detailed description of what occurred. The Director of Student Affairs will refer the case to the Academic Dean for resolution and possible referral to the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities.

Students are expected to comply with all disciplinary rules from matriculation until the conferring of the degree. A degree will not be granted to a student who is not in good standing or against whom a disciplinary charge is pending.

Conduct in the HGSE Virtual Community

The HGSE virtual community is a space in which students communicate, collaborate, and connect with one another, and with faculty, staff, alumni, and affiliates, in a manner that is consistent with the School's values. Maintaining professional and respectful behavior in the HGSE online environment is critical to ensuring that all students are able to fully participate in the learning experience and opportunities, and to achieve their educational goals. Whether participating in courses (toward a degree, as a special student, or as an auditor), community events, or other HGSE online forums (including but not limited to platforms like The Hub, Slack, YellowDig, Canvas, and HGSE Facebook pages), all students are expected to adhere to the Standards of Conduct in the Harvard Community outlined above.

While HGSE faculty and administrators will monitor our virtual platforms, students remain agents of their own actions. Postings or comments that disrupt the learning experience or compromise the academic environment for other students will be removed. Violations of these Standards of Conduct in the Harvard/HGSE Virtual Community may result in disciplinary action by the HGSE Committee on Rights and Responsibilities. Students are asked to report any violations to the [Office of Student Affairs](#).

Please note: non-HGSE students who are enrolled in HGSE courses are expected to uphold the policies set forth in the HGSE Student Handbook, including without limitation those related to Academic Integrity and the Standards of Conduct. Non-HGSE students include, for example, TAP students, cross-registrants, and voucher holders. HGSE may take any and all actions it deems necessary upon the discovery of a policy violation, including without limitation immediately requiring the non-HGSE student

to withdraw from the course and notifying the non-HGSE student's home institution, if applicable. Additionally, HGSE may preclude a non-HGSE student who has previously violated HGSE policy from registering in any future HGSE course.

HGSE Committee on Rights and Responsibilities

The HGSE Committee on Rights and Responsibilities (CRR) handles the resolution of alleged infractions of HGSE or University rules, breaches of community standards and/or other disciplinary matters involving students at the School. With respect to alleged violations of the University Policy on Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, the CRR imposes sanctions after an investigation has been concluded in accordance with the University Procedures, as described more fully below. The CRR is not intended to handle academic matters involving student progress, which are normally within the province of the Doctoral Program Steering Committees, and the Degree Programs Office. The Dean appoints the committee members and designates a faculty member to serve as Chair. Convenings include at least three faculty members plus the chair. CRR is staffed by the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services.

Disciplinary cases ordinarily are considered by the CRR as quickly as is reasonably possible, given its schedule and the need to investigate matters carefully. The CRR does not meet during the summer months.

It is important to recognize that the CRR's disciplinary system is not a legal system, and that the procedures of the CRR are designed to achieve ends different from those of criminal or civil litigation. While a court of law may only be interested in establishing innocence or guilt, the CRR is interested in the larger educational, developmental, and community implications of conduct.

Upon referral of a case, the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services will send written notification to the respondent, providing the time and place (including virtual meetings) of the CRR hearing and inviting the respondent to attend. The notice shall provide sufficient specificity about the charges and the basis for the referral to permit the respondent to prepare a response. When a case has been referred to the CRR, the student's transcript may be marked in the interim "disciplinary proceedings pending."

Conduct of Hearings

The hearings of the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities will be conducted under the following conditions:

- The Chair will be responsible for initiating, moderating, and ending the hearing.
- Members of the committee who have a direct or personal interest in the hearing are required to recuse themselves from that particular case. The Dean or Dean's designee will be responsible for appointing a substitute.
- If two or more people have been accused of the same violation, each person may request a separate hearing.
- During the hearing, only those directly involved in the case, that is, the members of the CRR, the complainant, the respondent, witnesses, faculty advisors or other personal advisors (officers of the University affiliated with HGSE), may be present.
- Either the complainant or respondent may request that particular witnesses appear before the CRR; however, the CRR retains final discretion over which witnesses are asked to appear and may limit the number of witnesses if it so elects. Witnesses who appear before the CRR will be expected to answer questions from members of the Committee. Witnesses are not to discuss the case with one another throughout the duration of the hearing.

- The respondent has the option of appearing at the CRR hearing but is not obliged to accept this opportunity. They may submit a written statement instead of making a personal appearance.
- Respondents who choose to appear before the Committee may participate to whatever extent they feel comfortable, within the bounds of standard CRR procedures. A faculty advisor or HGSE advisor (an officer of the University affiliated with HGSE) may accompany the student. Such an advisor does not participate in the questioning or discussion with the Committee but is there as a resource for and support to the student. Members of student's family may not serve as personal advisers for these purposes, even if affiliated with HGSE. Respondents who appear are entitled to rebut any information presented and to present their own information on pertinent matters. The respondent must indicate in writing to the Committee the name of his, her, or their faculty/HGSE or personal advisor at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
- The Committee shall compose a written report of its findings and sanctions.
- The Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services will notify the respondent of the CRR's decision. A written copy of the Committee's report shall be provided to the respondent.
- If the Committee finds a student to have engaged in acts of physical violence against another student or to have violated one or more of the University's Policies on Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment, then the student making the complaint also may be informed of the Committee's decision. In all other cases, only the respondent is informed of the Committee's decision.

Sanctions

The Committee on Rights and Responsibilities may recommend any of the following sanctions:

- **Censure:** a written or oral rebuke without further conditions.
- **Probation:** conditional permission to remain in the University, with conditions established by the CRR. Any involvement in further violations would be grounds for separation from the University.
- **Failure of the Assignment and/or Course:** failing the assignment without makeup, having to redo the assignment, or failing the course. Usually, these dispositions of a case are made only where it is apparent that the student did not fully understand his, her, or their obligations.
- **Requirement to Withdraw:** temporary separation from the University for a specified period of time, after which the person may be reinstated, sometimes under probation. Reinstatement ordinarily is contingent on the person's demonstrating that they maintained a satisfactory standard of conduct during the time away, that they understand the reasons for previous difficulties, and that have taken steps to address these difficulties successfully.
- **Dismissal:** action taken in serious disciplinary cases that ends a student's connection with the University. The CRR votes in favor of separation with a recommendation to the Dean's Cabinet that the student be dismissed. The Dean's Cabinet is responsible for the final vote on whether a student will be dismissed. Members will review the case materials and the recommendation by the CRR, and then the group will discuss the findings with a focus on determining if the process was fair and an appropriate standard was applied. Dismissal must be voted by a two-thirds majority of the Dean's Cabinet.

Dismissal does not necessarily preclude the student's return, but reinstatement requires a petition from the student and a recommendation by the CRR to the Dean's Cabinet. Reinstatement must be voted by a two-thirds majority of the Dean's Cabinet. In cases in which the dismissal letter outlines criteria for reinstatement, the review of the petition will mainly focus on an evaluation of whether the student provided sufficient evidence that they have fully met the conditions. Dismissed students are not in good standing unless and until they are officially readmitted.

- **Expulsion:** the most extreme disciplinary action possible. It signifies that the student is no longer welcome in the community. The Dean's Cabinet is responsible for the final vote on whether a student will be expelled. Members will review the case materials and the recommendation by the CRR, and then the group will discuss the findings with a focus on determining if the process was fair and an appropriate standard was applied. Dismissal must be voted by a two-thirds majority of the Dean's Cabinet. A student who is expelled can never be readmitted and restored to good standing.

The Committee on Rights and Responsibilities keeps a record of all cases that it hears. The record specifies the Committee's recommendation and the rationale for this recommendation, and the final decision and disposition of the case. This record becomes part of the student's educational record.

Disciplinary findings may be reflected on a student's transcript.

Appeals and Special Cases

Appeals

A respondent who wishes to appeal a disciplinary decision must file a written appeal with the Dean within one week after being notified of the decision.

Decisions by the CRR will be given deference and reviewed by the Dean for clear error only. If there is new and compelling information material to the outcome, that information must be included with the appeal and will be considered only if the student can show that the new information could not have been presented to the CRR at or before the hearing.

If the Dean determines that the appeal has sufficient merit to warrant further consideration of the case, they may alter the sanctions, request a rehearing by the CRR, or refer the matter to the full faculty for review. Ordinarily, the Dean's review of an appeal will be completed within 30 days.

Cases that Require Special Consideration

Cases and Court Action

HGSE may defer consideration of a case for as long as it considers appropriate if a criminal investigation or court process is pending and if the underlying allegations involve serious criminal misconduct. If, however, both the complainant and respondent (or all parties involved) prefer to have HGSE take up the case immediately, regardless of the status of legal matters, the CRR may

proceed at its discretion. In all cases involving the potential for serious criminal sanctions as well as CRR review, respondents are advised to seek legal counsel.

Possible Involuntary Leave of Absence or Restrictions

As noted above in the section on Involuntary Leaves of Absence, the Associate Director of the Student's master's program or the Director for Doctoral Studies in consultation with other officers of the University as appropriate, may place a student on involuntary leave of absence when, for example, the student has been arrested on allegations of serious criminal behavior or has been charged with such behavior by law enforcement authorities, or when the student allegedly has violated a disciplinary rule of HGSE and his or her presence on campus poses a significant risk to the safety of others or to the educational environment of the community. The Academic Dean also may place restrictions on an enrolled student's activities or living arrangements during the course of a disciplinary case.

HGSE Policies on Harassment, Discrimination, and Bullying

HGSE Policies on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct

HGSE has adopted the University-wide *Interim Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy* (<https://oge.harvard.edu/files/oge/files/interim-title-ix-sexual-harassment-policy.pdf>) and *Interim Other Sexual Misconduct Policy* (https://oge.harvard.edu/files/oge/files/interim-other-sexual_misconduct-policy.pdf?m=1624890813). In addition, the University's Sexual and Gender Based Harassment policy addresses sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct alleged to have occurred between September 1, 2014 and August 14, 2020. Copies of all policies and their associated grievance procedures can be found here (<https://oge.harvard.edu/policies-procedures>). In all such cases, the Harvard University Office for Dispute Resolution ("ODR", <https://odr.harvard.edu/>) and the Harvard University Title IX Office are responsible for implementing the University's grievance procedures, which will determine whether a student committed a policy violation. Whenever a formal complaint of sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct is investigated and the University's grievance procedures result in a finding that a policy violation has occurred, the HGSE Committee on Rights and Responsibilities (CRR) must accept that finding as final and non-reviewable. The only opportunity to appeal the determination of a policy violation is provided within the grievance procedures implemented by the ODR and the Harvard University Title IX Office. Appeals within HGSE pertain only to the decision of the HGSE Committee on Rights and Responsibilities (CRR) in determining discipline.

HGSE's Title IX Resource Coordinators for Students serve as a resource for receiving reports and complaints, directing community members to resources, and providing information on supportive measures:

- Kevin Boehm, Director of Student Affairs
- Shayna Kessel, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services
- Andrea Le, Associate Director for Community Building & International Student Support

Students may also contact the Chief Diversity Officer in HGSE (TBD).

Students may utilize the following University resources:

- Nicole Merhill, the University Title IX Coordinator and Director of the Office for Gender Equity.
- [The Harvard Office for Dispute Resolution](#)

HGSE Non-Discrimination Policy and Anti-Bullying Policies

The University has adopted new policies and procedures to address discrimination and bullying. These policies apply to all students, faculty, staff, researchers and other members of the Harvard community across all Schools and units, including HGSE. The University's non-discrimination and anti-bullying policies can be found here: https://provost.harvard.edu/files/provost/files/non-discrimination_and_anti-bullying_policies.pdf

Whenever a formal complaint of discrimination or bullying is investigated in accordance with the University's non-discrimination and anti-bullying policies and procedures, and those procedures result in a finding that a policy violation has occurred, then sanctions or remedial measures will be determined by HGSE's Appropriate Official or designee(s), as set forth in those procedures. The HGSE Appropriate Official or designee(s) must accept the finding of a policy violation as final and non-reviewable. The only opportunity to appeal the determination of a policy violation is provided within the University's non-discrimination and anti-bullying policies and procedures. Decisions about sanctions and remedial measures are final and cannot be appealed.

HGSE Non-Discrimination Policy

Discrimination can create an environment in which access to education and employment is diminished. HGSE is committed to principles of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination and seeks to maintain an atmosphere free of harassment by, among other things: condemning acts of harassment when they occur; creating opportunities for HGSE community members to discuss and resolve potential conflicts; offering a curriculum that reflects and respects the contributions, experiences, and concerns of a diverse population; encouraging pedagogies and management strategies that promote active participation by all members of the HGSE community; and promoting diversity within the student body, faculty, administration, and staff.

Harvard University prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, national origin, age, ancestry, veteran status, disability, or any other legally protected basis. HGSE is committed to maintaining an environment in which students, faculty and staff can work together freely to further education and research. Our community cannot thrive unless each member is accepted as an autonomous individual and is treated with civility.

HGSE is also committed to principles of free inquiry and expression. All members of the HGSE community have the right to hold and vigorously defend and promote their opinions. Respect for this right requires that community members must respect the rights of others to express opinions that they may find repugnant.

These principles are consistent. There are obligations of civility and respect for others that underlie rational discourse. Harassment not only shows grave disrespect for the dignity of others but also impedes the free discussion and exchange of ideas.

This policy statement seeks to define the circumstances under which behavior affecting the HGSE community may constitute impermissible discrimination or harassment and grounds for disciplinary action. It also seeks to clarify the point at which protected free expression ends and prohibited discrimination or harassment begins.

The following discussion addresses discrimination and harassment distinct from sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct, which are governed by the policies and procedures adopted by the University and implemented by HGSE and set forth in this Handbook, above.

Discrimination and harassment are particularly objectionable when they involve the abuse of HGSE authority.

Discrimination and harassment, as described in the following section, may be grounds for disciplinary action such as censure, probation, separation, dismissal, or expulsion.

Physical Harassment

Certain physical acts may constitute harassment, for example: physical intimidation, defacing or damaging property, interference with freedom of movement, and other forms of behavior that violate federal or state civil rights laws. Under HGSE policy, such acts are impermissible whether or not they are based on certain characteristics (such as race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, national origin, age, ancestry, veteran status, or disability). Physical harassment is subject to discipline regardless of whether it is accompanied by verbal or symbolic expression.

Harassment That Is Purely Verbal or Symbolic

Certain purely verbal or symbolic expression also may constitute harassment and may violate federal or state civil rights laws. Depending on the circumstances, verbal expressions may be subject to discipline where, from the standpoint of a reasonable person, they: (1) are addressed directly to one or more persons; (2) insult, stigmatize, or intimidate those persons; and (3) indicate grave disrespect and intent to demean those persons.

Such harassment, even though purely verbal or symbolic, is contrary to the pursuit of inquiry and education and may be punished under existing procedures because it violates the balance of rights on which the University is based.

Bullying

As set forth in the Harvard University Anti-Bullying Policy:

Bullying, used as a shorthand for hostile and abusive behavior or power-based harassment, is defined here as harmful interpersonal aggression by words or actions that humiliate, degrade, demean,

intimidate, or threaten⁴ an individual or individuals. For a violation of the Policy to occur, such aggression must be sufficiently severe or pervasive, and objectively offensive, that it creates a work, educational, or living environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive and denies the individual an equal opportunity to participate in the benefits of HGSE programs and activities. Unless sufficiently severe or pervasive, a single act typically would not constitute bullying.

The Policy is intended to ensure that all community members, regardless of rank or status, may pursue their work or learning. Power-based harassment is of particular concern because of the ways in which it can create a broader culture of abusive behavior. While bullying may in many cases involve an imbalance of power, this Policy recognizes that bullying may also occur between community members in the same role, or of the same rank or status.

Bullying may include, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Abusive expression directed at an individual or individuals, such as derogatory remarks, epithets, or ad hominem attacks that are outside the range of commonly accepted expressions of disagreement, disapproval, or critique in an academic community and professional setting that respects free expression. The Policy encompasses abusive expression or ad hominem attacks that are verbal or nonverbal, spoken or written, recorded, visual, or digital, including content posted to online platforms, academic tools, or social media sites. Examples include:
 - Performance feedback delivered by yelling, screaming, making threats⁵ or gratuitous insults.
 - Deliberate and repeated humiliation. This could include actions such as deliberate and repeated shaming of peers on online platforms in response to ideas, beliefs, or opinions shared in the classroom.
 - Malicious comments about a person's appearance, lifestyle, family, or culture.
- Unwarranted physical contact or intimidating gestures directed at an individual or individuals. Examples include:
 - A physical, verbal, or written act toward another person, which causes them reasonably to fear for their safety or the safety of others.
 - Invading personal space after being asked to move or step away.
- Conspicuous and unwarranted exclusion or isolation of an individual or individuals, with the intentional effect of harming their reputation in the workplace or learning environment and hindering their learning or work;
- Sabotage or threatened sabotage of the studies, work, or career advancement of an individual or individuals. Examples include:
 - Interfering or threatening to interfere with a person's visa status.
 - Spreading false or misleading information or malicious rumors.
 - Sharing confidential information about another person without a legitimate pedagogical or employment-related purpose.
 - Interfering with a person's personal property or work equipment.
 - Damaging or destroying a person's work.

⁴ Informing individuals of possible negative consequences will not on its own be considered a threat that violates this Policy, unless a reasonable person would find the manner in which the individual is informed of the possible consequence or the consequence itself to be inappropriate or solely intended to intimidate.

⁵ See footnote 3.

- Abuse of authority, such as using inappropriate threats or retaliation in the exercise of authority, supervision, or guidance, or impeding or attempting to impede another person from exercising rights under any of Harvard’s policies or procedures.


The Policy is not intended to discourage or interfere with ordinary managerial, mentoring, or educational relationships, including the solicitation or delivery of constructive or critical feedback. Bullying must therefore be distinguished from behavior which may be unpleasant or unsettling but is nevertheless appropriate for carrying out certain pedagogical or employment- related responsibilities.

Examples of conduct that would not ordinarily violate this Policy include the following:

- Administrative actions such as performance reviews (including negative performance reviews), appropriate discipline, critical feedback, assigning work to employees, or other managerial decisions.
- Elements of the student-teacher relationship, such as critical feedback on the academic work of students, including advising a student of unsatisfactory academic work and the potential for course failure or dismissal from the program; grading; and deadlines.
- Critical feedback on the inappropriate behavior of individuals, including advising of the consequences of inappropriate conduct, poor performance, or failure to follow policy.
- Differences of opinion, interpersonal conflicts, and occasional disagreements, which are often part of academic and working life and do not necessarily constitute bullying.
- Classroom discussion of academic research or reasoned opinion on controversial issues.
- Pedagogical decisions concerning topics to be considered and methods to be used to draw students into discussion (e.g., the cold-calling Socratic Method, which has a clear pedagogical use but which some students may consider unpleasant or unsettling).

This Policy should also be construed within the context of the University’s enduring commitment to academic freedom and free inquiry, and the conception of the University as a place that must encourage reasoned dissent and the free exchange of ideas, beliefs, and opinions, however unpopular. This Policy is not intended to constrain the freedom of Harvard community members to engage in academic disagreements or to discuss controversial matters, criticize the administration or University policies, or take part in political protest.

The following Local Designated Resources in the Graduate School of Education serve as a resource for receiving reports and complaints, directing community members to resources, and providing information on supportive measures:

- If you need guidance about a situation involving (a) student(s), contact Shayna Kessel, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services.
- 
- If you need guidance about a situation involving a faculty member, contact Jessica Pesce, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs.
 - If you need guidance about a situation involving a staff member, contact Kelly DeLiberato, Associate Dean for Human Resources.
 - Students may also contact the Chief Diversity Officer in HGSE (TBD).

At HGSE, there are two Appropriate Officials who will be the final authority to issue any sanctions, based upon the respondent's role at the university:

- For a situation involving faculty or students, the Appropriate Official is Marty West, Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education and Academic Dean
- For a situation involving a staff member, the Appropriate Official is Jack Jennings, Executive Dean.

HGSE Policy on Consensual Romantic Relationships

HGSE affirms the value of close, caring relationships between members of the HGSE community. At the same time, consensual romantic relationships that might be appropriate in other circumstances have inherent dangers when one person has direct professional responsibility for another—as a faculty member or Teaching Fellow does for a student they teach or advise, a supervisor has for a supervisee, or administrators or faculty members may have for one another. In this situation, any romantic relationship is inherently asymmetrical because it involves one person who, by virtue of their role within the HGSE community, holds formal power over the other. Because of this power imbalance, such relationships hold potential for exploitation. Such a relationship may create an impression within the Harvard community of inappropriate or inequitable academic or professional advantage or favoritism that can be destructive of the learning or working environment. Such assumptions can have detrimental effects even if they are untrue.

Accordingly, where one person's present role involves grading or otherwise evaluating the work of another or puts the person in a position to affect the other's present performance or professional future, sexual overtures and sexual relationships, even if consensual, are inappropriate and may be grounds for disciplinary action. Responsibility for preventing and/or ending the relationship lies with the senior person. Moreover, all members of the HGSE community should be aware that romantic relationships between persons of different levels of authority within HGSE can create problems even if neither currently has professional responsibility for the other. One person may unexpectedly become responsible for instructing or evaluating the other. One person may fear adverse consequences if they act to end the relationship. One person's feelings may change, making unwelcome advances that were once welcomed and leading to a possible complaint of harassment. As noted above, such a relationship may also have detrimental effects on others in the HGSE community. It is incumbent upon those with authority neither to abuse nor seem to abuse the power with which they are entrusted.

HGSE Policy on Physical Violence

HGSE strives to maintain a safe and secure environment for all members of the community and thus does not tolerate physical violence used by or against the members of the community. Students are expected to avoid all physical conflicts, confrontations, and altercations unless their own safety or that of another is in extreme jeopardy. A student's failure to do so will ordinarily result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to dismissal or expulsion from HGSE.

HGSE Policy on Misrepresentation of Status

Students interacting with entities outside of HGSE must represent their affiliation with HGSE and/or Harvard University clearly as that of “student.” Any other representation is a violation of Harvard Use of Name policies (see “Use of Name” section for more information).

Alcohol and Drugs

Harvard expects its students and employees to maintain an environment that is safe and healthy. The University is not, and cannot be considered, a sanctuary from existing federal, state and local laws. The unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on Harvard property or as a part of any Harvard activity are violations of University rules as well as the law. Possession, use, or distribution of certain nonprescription drugs, including marijuana, amphetamines, heroin, cocaine, and nonprescription synthetics; procurement or distribution of alcohol by anyone under 21 years of age; and provision of alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age are violations of law and of Harvard policy. Although Massachusetts law now permits adults aged 21 or older to possess and consume marijuana under certain circumstances, federal law prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of marijuana, including for medical purposes, on Harvard property or as part of a Harvard activity. Thus, even if possession or use of marijuana would be permitted under Massachusetts law, it remains prohibited on campus.

The University holds its students and employees responsible for the consequences of their decisions to use or distribute illicit drugs or to serve or consume alcohol. Additionally, the misuse of prescription drugs (sharing, buying, or using in a manner different than described) is a violation of University policy. Harvard expects students and employees to create and maintain an environment for learning and work that is safe and healthy and that encourages responsible conduct. The Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) will enforce Massachusetts drinking laws and federal and state drug laws.

More information, including about: standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions; federal, state and local laws and sanctions; health risks associated with alcohol and drug use; and resources for Harvard students and employees can be found in the [University’s Annual Security Report](#), published by the Harvard University Police Department.

HGSE Events

Any event held on HGSE property at which alcohol will be served must also provide nonalcoholic beverages and food. Persons wishing to be served alcoholic beverages must demonstrate proof of minimum drinking age by showing valid identification bearing their date of birth to the designated person(s) serving alcoholic beverages. Individuals who are or appear to be intoxicated will not be served alcoholic beverages.

For HGSE events held outside the School, organizers must ensure that any outside organization or vendor (such as a hotel, cruise ship, or other facility) has a clear policy and practice of serving alcohol only to those of legal drinking age.

Resources

Because of the considerable health hazards involved in drug and alcohol use, administrative, medical, and psychiatric help for students having alcohol or other drug problems are available on a confidential basis from University Health Services, as well as from the director of student affairs and other officers of the University. The University's educational effort on the health risks associated with the use and abuse of alcohol is coordinated by the Center for Wellness and Health Promotion which publishes a number of pamphlets of an educational nature and sponsors programs for the Harvard community. CWHP health educators and trained peer educators are available to consult with students and student groups on a variety of topics, including the abuse of alcohol and drugs; the CWHP contact number is 617-495-9629 and their website is <https://wellness.huhs.harvard.edu>. Any member of the University may make use of Health Services on an emergency basis, day or night.

Other ongoing programs and support organizations such as **Alcoholics Anonymous** and **Al-Anon** meet frequently in the Cambridge area. Meeting lists for the Harvard Square area are available in the CWHC.

Disciplinary Actions

The Dean's Office may take disciplinary action when cases involving alcohol and drugs come to its attention. Officers of HGSE may initially respond to cases involving the use of illicit drugs or over-consumption of alcohol with a warning and/or referral to health counseling services. However, serious violations of these rules or a pattern of behavior in violation of these rules may lead to censure, probation, separation, dismissal, or expulsion by the Dean's Office or the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities (CRR). The CRR will take serious action, in the censure-to-expulsion range, in any case involving the possession in quantity or the sale or distribution of drugs or in cases where the use of drugs and alcohol posed a danger to individuals or to the community at large. The Dean's Office or the appointed CRR will also take serious action when a student participates in the falsification of identification with the intent of obtaining alcohol; ordinarily, the response to the production and distribution of false identification cards or driver's licenses is probation or dismissal.

Hazing

Students are advised that Massachusetts law expressly prohibits any form of hazing in connection with the initiation of students into student groups and organizations. The relevant statutes are provided below. The law applies to both officially recognized and unrecognized student groups and to practices conducted on and off campus.

Using the definition of hazing set forth in the Massachusetts law, the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities will consider all reports of hazing in the normal course of its oversight, taking disciplinary action in appropriate cases, and will report confirmed incidents to appropriate law enforcement officials. A student who has been charged with hazing also will face disciplinary proceedings, ordinarily once any criminal charges have been resolved. The procedure for investigating charges of hazing ordinarily begins when the School receives a police report or when a written, signed complaint is filed with the Director of Student Affairs Operations.

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, 17-19

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing,” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable.

Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 19. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of postsecondary education shall issue to every student group, student team, or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team, or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution’s compliance with this section’s requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams, or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution’s recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams, or organizations.

Each such group, team, or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team, or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually to the institution an attested acknowledgment stating that such group, team, or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen; that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen; and that such group, team, or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full-time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams, or organizations and to notify each full-time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

Threats Involving Deadly Weapons, Explosives, Bombs, Chemical or Biological Agents, or Other Deadly Devices or Substance

The following provision of Massachusetts law concerning certain kinds of threats underscores why such behavior must be treated by HGSE as an actionable offense:

Whoever willfully communicates or causes to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, orally, in writing, by mail, by use of a telephone or telecommunication device including, but not limited to, electronic mail, Internet communications and facsimile communications, through an electronic communication device or by any other means, a threat: (1) that a firearm, rifle, shotgun, machine gun or assault weapon, as defined in section 121 of chapter 140, an explosive or incendiary device, a dangerous chemical or biological agent, a poison, a harmful radioactive substance or any other device, substance or item capable of causing death, serious bodily injury or substantial property damage, will be used at a place or location, or is present or will be present at a place or location, whether or not the same is in fact used or present; or (2) to hijack an aircraft, ship, or common carrier thereby causing anxiety, unrest, fear, or personal discomfort to any person or group of persons shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 20 years or imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2 1/2 years, or by fine of not more than \$10,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Whoever willfully communicates or causes to be communicated such a threat thereby causing either the evacuation or serious disruption of a school, school related event, school transportation, or a dwelling, building, place of assembly, facility or public transport, or an aircraft, ship or common carrier, or willfully communicates or causes serious public inconvenience or alarm, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 3 years nor more than 20 years or imprisonment in the house of correction for not less than 6 months nor more than 2 1/2 years, or by fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$50,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Massachusetts General Laws, c.269§ 14(b)-(c).

Firearms, Explosives, Combustible Fuels, Firecrackers, and Dangerous Weapons

Possession and/or use on University property of firearms or other dangerous weapons (as defined below) or ammunition, explosives, combustible fuels, firecrackers, and potential ingredients thereof is forbidden by University policy. The applicable Massachusetts law is as follows:

For the purpose of this paragraph "firearm" shall mean any pistol, revolver, rifle or smoothbore arm from which a shot, bullet or pellet can be discharged.

Whoever, not being a law enforcement officer, and notwithstanding any license obtained by the person pursuant to chapter 140, carries on the person a firearm, loaded or unloaded, or other dangerous weapon in any building or on the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, college or university without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of such elementary or secondary school, college or university shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or both. A law enforcement officer may arrest without a warrant and detain a person found carrying a firearm in violation of this paragraph.

Any officer in charge of an elementary or secondary school, college or university, or any faculty member or administrative officer of an elementary or secondary school, college or university that fails to report violations of this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not more than \$500. Massachusetts General Laws, c.269§ 10(j).

Under Massachusetts law, the definition of dangerous weapons includes many items designed to do bodily injury:

...any stiletto, dagger or a device or case which enables a knife with a locking blade to be drawn at a locked position, any ballistic knife, or any knife with a detachable blade capable of being propelled by any mechanism, dirk knife, any knife having a double-edged blade, or a switch knife, or any knife having an automatic spring release device by which the blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches, or a slung shot, blowgun, blackjack, metallic knuckles or knuckles of any substance which could be put to the same use with the same or similar effect as metallic knuckles, nunchaku, zoobow, also known as klackers or kung fu sticks, or any similar weapon consisting of two sticks of wood, plastic or metal connected at one end by a length of rope, chain, wire or leather, a shuriken or any similar pointed starlike object intended to injure a person when thrown, or any armband, made with leather which has metallic spikes, points or studs or any similar device made from any other substance or a cestus or similar material weighted with metal or other substance and worn on the hand, or a Manriki-Gusari or similar length of chain having weighted ends Massachusetts General Laws, c. 269 § 10(b).

In addition, students should recognize that even when they are away from the University, Massachusetts law requires a permit or firearms identification card or compliance with other specialized rules (depending upon the type of weapon) for possession of any firearms. Carrying any firearm (even if unloaded) in violation of the law is punishable by imprisonment with a mandatory minimum sentence of eighteen months, which cannot be suspended or reduced. Massachusetts General Laws, c. 269 § 10(a).

Students should consult the local police department in the city or town in which they reside if they intend to possess firearms on non-University property, in order to assure strict compliance with the applicable statutes.

Annual Copyright Disclosure

Harvard University is committed to maintaining the integrity and availability of the Harvard network for the vital educational and research purposes for which it was designed and prohibits the use of its network to violate the law, including the U.S. Copyright Act. The unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, violates the Copyright Act and may subject you to civil and criminal liabilities.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505. Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to ten years and a fine of \$250,000 for an individual. For more information, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov, especially their FAQs at www.copyright.gov/help/faq.

Harvard complies fully with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA"). Users of the Harvard network found to have engaged in repeated infringement of copyright are subject to termination of their network access and may be reported to the appropriate Dean or Human Resources officer for disciplinary action.

Publishing or Distributing Course Materials

Students may not post, publish, sell, or otherwise publicly distribute course materials without the written permission of the course instructor. Such materials include, but are not limited to, the following: lecture slides, video, or audio recordings, assignments, problem sets, examinations, other students' work, and answer keys. Students may not make recordings of course material for their own use without written permission of the instructor. Students who sell, post, publish, or distribute course materials without written permission, whether for the purposes of soliciting answers or otherwise, may be subject to disciplinary action.

Use of the Harvard Name

The use of the name Harvard, or of any of the schools within the University, in web site identifications, e-mail addresses, and Internet addresses requires advance permission of the appropriate official (the Provost in the case of the Harvard name and the appropriate dean in the case of an individual school's name). For the full policy statement, consult the University Policy on the Use of Harvard Names and Insignias at <https://trademark.harvard.edu/policy-on-use-of-harvard-names-and-insignias>.

In addition, student groups, associations, and organizations have specific obligations under the Use of Names Policy with which they are required to be familiar (for specific policies affecting student groups see the "Use of Harvard's Name and Insignia for Student Organizations" in the Student Activities Manual). Individuals or groups who violate these policies may be subject to discipline. Any questions should be addressed to the Office of Student Affairs.

Student Use of HGSE Stationery

Master's students are not permitted to use HGSE stationery for personal, academic, or professional purposes. Harvard University stationery that is available commercially (i.e., in the Harvard COOP) is recommended for these purposes. Under some conditions doctoral students will be allowed to use HGSE stationery, particularly when their request to do so is related to dissertation research. To request permission and stationery please contact the HGSE Communications and Marketing Office.