Harvard has a “need-blind” admissions policy. The Admissions Committee makes each decision regardless of an applicant’s ability to pay. The College then meets each student’s full demonstrated financial need with scholarships, loans, and term-time work.

There is no formula for gaining admission to Harvard. Academic accomplishment in high school is important, but the Admissions Committee also considers many other criteria such as community involvement, extracurricular activities, and work experience. Strength of character, ability to overcome adversity, and other personal qualities often play a part in the Admissions Committee’s decisions.

Admission to Harvard opens the door to a world of intellectual wonder and academic challenges – and puts you on the threshold.

Your grades and test scores help us to assess your academic promise, but they are by no means relied upon exclusively. Evidence that you are willing and able to take on academic challenges, or that you possess strengths not fully revealed in objective information, is also of interest to the Admissions Committee.

Because what you have to say is very important to us, we hope you will take the time to complete your application carefully. Read more about admissions procedures on pages 38–42 of this publication or go to the Admissions Office home page at http://adm.is.fas.harvard.edu
Believing that cost should not play a primary role in the selection of a college, Harvard has worked for many decades to attract students from all economic backgrounds. Our faculty is committed to admissions and financial aid policies that help us attract a truly diverse student body. We make admissions decisions without regard to a student’s financial circumstances or citizenship, and we meet the full financial need of each student who qualifies for aid. The Committee on Financial Aid determines aid packages — in the form of scholarships, loans, and term-time jobs — based solely on need using a full range of family income and asset information.

Over the past several years, Harvard has launched two major financial aid initiatives to benefit all students. As a result, students with financial need will now face less educational debt on graduation and will have more time to concentrate on academic and extracurricular opportunities. These initiatives have featured significant annual increases in the undergraduate scholarship budget, reduced loan and term-time job obligations, and an outside award policy which allows students to use the full amount of their outside awards to reduce their loans and/or term-time jobs. Together with the College’s longstanding commitment to need-blind admissions and need-based aid, these plans will continue to keep a Harvard education accessible to students from all economic backgrounds. Details about applying for financial aid can be found on page 45 or on the Internet at adm-is.fas.harvard.edu/fao/index.htm.

### Components of an Average Financial Aid Package

- **Jobs**: 3%
- **Loans**: 4%
- **Student Asset & Summer**: 6%
- **Parents’ Contribution**: 28%
- **Harvard and Other Scholarships**: 59%

### Undergraduate Financial Aid, 2001–2002

#### Grants:
- Institutional: $58,522,000
- Federal: 5,179,000
- From Outside Sources: 10,154,000
- Total Grants: 73,855,000

#### Loans:
- Parent Loans: 11,142,000
- Harvard Institutional: 1,865,000
- Federal and Outside: 3,815,000
- Total Loans: 16,822,000

#### Jobs:
- College Work-Study: 2,263,000
- Other Earnings: 1,630,000
- Total Jobs: 3,893,000

**Total, All Sources**: $94,570,000

About 70% of undergraduates receive some form of financial aid.

In 2001–2002, the average scholarship totaled nearly $21,500.

In 2001–2002, the average financial aid package, including a combination of grant, loan, and campus job, totaled more than $24,050.

In 2001–2002, Harvard distributed more than $94 million in financial aid, including more than $61 million in direct need-based scholarships.