



Choosing a Concentration

Thursday, October 8, 2020
Advising Programs Office

Concentration Declaration: A Sophomore Year Milestone




What is a Concentration?

A student's concentration is a commitment to a particular discipline, field, or specialization. All concentrations provide students with opportunities for appreciating, assimilating, and making applications of a coherent body of knowledge.

Harvard offers more than 3,700 courses in 50 concentrations within and across the following disciplines:

- Arts and Humanities
- Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Sciences



The Concentration Experience

- Courses required
- Thesis
- Research opportunities
- Advising structure
- Co-curricular opportunities
 - Study Abroad
 - Internships
 - Public Service
 - Student groups
- Community

Concentration Declaration: How to Think About It



Concentration Declaration: How to Think About It

- What questions should you ask?
- Who do you ask?
- How do you frame the conversation?



Questions for Pre -concentration advisers

- What are the different “tracks” I might complete as I fulfill concentration requirements? E.g. pre-professional/thesis/non-thesis/elective, etc.
- How can I best balance studying a breadth of subjects and exploring particular interests in sufficient depth?
- How do your department’s course offerings align with my interests?
- What are some opportunities for me to develop/explore new interests?
- Is there a way for me to get involved in research? (whether in a lab, or working with a local community, or joining an archival/library project)
- What is the process for completing a thesis?
- What are the most challenging aspects of completing this coursework, and what departmental resources are available to help students develop the most crucial skills necessary to thrive in your program?
- What have past concentrators of your program gone on to do after graduation?
- How is this concentration different from similar/adjacent fields of study? (E.g. applied math v. engineering v. computer science, or English v. History and Literature v. Comparative Literature). What can I do here that would be unavailable to me if I declare concentration in one of these adjacent fields?



The Process of Concentration Declaration

- Concentration declaration process
- Not streamlining or condensing.
- Rather, figuring out:
 - Which settings
 - With which people
 - In which ways you like learning and thinking the most
- **Question: How do you think?**
- Utilize your resources!
 - Director of Undergraduate Studies
 - Peer Concentration Advisors
 - Sophomore Advisors
 - More

Concentration Declaration: How to Declare

Declaration of Concentration Due for o...

Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:59pm to 11:59pm

I'm Interested



Declaring Your Concentration

Viewing: [Harvard College](#)

Home	Bachelor of Arts Harvard College: Bachelor of Arts	Concentration(s): Mathematics Declare Concentration	Secondary Field(s): Computer Science Declare Secondary
Personal Info	Expected Graduation Date: 5/28/2020	Year in School: Junior	Language Citation(s): None
Grades	Social Class: 2020	House: Winthrop House	Admitted Term: 2016 Fall

My Program

Student Accounts

Financial Aid


Academic Requirements

[Advising Report](#)

The advising report tracks progress towards Harvard College requirements and does not include concentration requirements at this time. Concentrations may view the courses being counted toward their concentration for individual students in the concentration work center. If you have any questions regarding the advising report, please email enrollment@fas.harvard.edu.

Note that this report might be blocked by your browser's pop-up blocker. [See directions for turning off your pop-up blocker for help.](#)

Table of Contents



Declaring Your Concentration, continued

Some concentrations require additional actions in advance of completing the Declaration of Concentration form.

- [Applied Math](#)
- [Art, Film, and Visual Studies \(AEVS\)](#)
- [Biomedical Engineering](#)
- [Chemical and Physical Biology \(CPB\)](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Comparative Literature \(Comp Lit\)](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Earth and Planetary Sciences](#)
- [Electrical Engineering](#)
- [English](#)
- [Environmental Science & Engineering](#)
- [Environmental Science and Public Policy \(ESPP\)](#)
- [Secondary in ESPP](#)
- [Secondary in Energy and Environment \(E&E\)](#)
- [Folklore and Mythology](#)
- [Germanic Languages and Literatures](#)
- [Government](#)
- [History and Literature \(Hist & Lit\)](#)
- [Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology](#)
- [Human Evolutionary Biology](#)
- [Integrative Biology](#)
- [Mechanical Engineering](#)
- [Molecular and Cellular Biology \(MCB\)](#)
- [Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations \(NELC\)](#)
- [Neuroscience](#)
- [Psychology - MBB Track in Cognitive Science](#)
- [Social Studies](#)
- [Sociology](#)
- [Special Concentrations](#)
- [Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality \(WGS\)](#)

Concentration Declaration: Resources



Your Sophomore Adviser

Possible Conversation Points:

- How your concentration choice aligns with your academic goals
- Balance and Intensity of schedule (overall and each term)
- How this plan aligns with your experience and preparation
- Your motivations as you plan each semester/build an academic plan -- and how that fits into academic/intellectual pursuits each semester, during your 8 semesters at Harvard, and beyond
- Ways you can pursue academic interests outside of coursework -- e.g. internships, volunteer opportunities, study abroad programs, and fellowships
- How to identify and approach a potential mentor, resources for academic support when struggling with a particular skill, how best to utilize office hours, how to find a study buddy or group



Virtual Resources

- Visit the [Harvard College Handbook for Students](#)
- Connect with [pre-concentration advisers](#)
- Explore [Fields of Study](#) information for pre -concentrators
- Check out concentration websites (linked on [Fields of Study](#) pages)
- Participate in [concentration declaration events](#) to learn about opportunities and experiences in the concentration, as well as the declaration procedure.



Concentration Declaration Events on College Calendar

Concentration Declaration

Declaring a concentration during your sophomore year is a hallmark moment during your Harvard College experience. Here is a list of concentration events that you can explore, which are categorized by academic divisions. Don't forget to check out the Calendar Shortcuts for important links on exploring and declaring your concentration.

You must [login with HarvardKey](#) to view all events.

Filters

Calendar Shortcuts

[Arts & Humanities](#)

[SEAS](#)

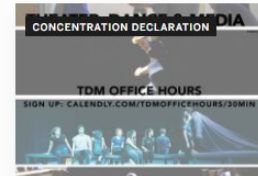
[Science](#)

[Social Science](#)



Hist & Lit Office Hours
Mon, Oct 5, 2020 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Virtual Event

More dates available



**Theater, Dance & Media
Office Hours**
Wed, Oct 7, 2020 12:00pm to 1:00pm
Virtual Event

More dates available



**Choosing a Concentration
Webinar**
Thu, Oct 8, 2020 4:00pm to 5:00pm
Virtual Event

Questions?
