



What is Harvard's mission statement?

Harvard University (comprising the undergraduate college, the graduate schools, other academic bodies, research centers and affiliated institutions) does not have a formal mission statement.

Harvard College, the undergraduate program, released the following mission statement:

The Mission of Harvard College

Harvard College adheres to the purposes for which the Charter of 1650 was granted: "The advancement of all good literature, arts, and sciences; the advancement and education of youth in all manner of good literature, arts, and sciences; and all other necessary provisions that may conduce to the education of the ... youth of this country...." In brief: Harvard strives to create knowledge, to open the minds of students to that knowledge, and to enable students to take best advantage of their educational opportunities.

To these ends, the College encourages students to respect ideas and their free expression, and to rejoice in discovery and in critical thought; to pursue excellence in a spirit of productive cooperation; and to assume responsibility for the consequences of personal actions. Harvard seeks to identify and to remove restraints on students' full participation, so that individuals may explore their capabilities and interests and may develop their full intellectual and human potential. Education at Harvard should liberate students to explore, to create, to challenge, and to lead. The support the College provides to students is a foundation upon which self-reliance and habits of lifelong learning are built: Harvard expects that the scholarship and collegiality it fosters in its students will lead them in their later lives to advance knowledge, to promote understanding, and to serve society.

Harry R. Lewis
Dean of Harvard College
February 23, 1997

The text is in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Student Handbook at:

<http://www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/handbooks/student/PDF/Intro/mission.pdf>.

About Harvard

•

Directories

•

Contact Us

•

Info Tech

•

News

•

Site Guide

Copyright © 2007 The President and Fellows of Harvard College

[Reporting copyright infringements](#) • [Privacy statement](#)