How to Prepare for Fall Course Registration

Freshman Seminars, Expos, and Gen Ed are all important parts of the Harvard College Curriculum, and the information below shares important deadlines & details for these programs. Use this calendar to organize your planning & talk with your advising network about your schedule!

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Crimson Carts open - you may add things to your cart to keep track of your interests, but you can’t yet enroll</td>
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<td>Expos term change petitions available - complete to request a change in your Expos term assignment. Petitions will be considered through 8/18</td>
<td>Registration begins! If your advising hold is lifted, you may enroll in courses starting today, but you have until the 26th to finalize your choices.</td>
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<td>noon: HUM 10 application opens - apply to join the 2-term course on essential works in the humanities for Expos + Humanities distribution credit</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.: HUM 10 course info session (virtual, via Zoom)</td>
<td>8 p.m.: HUM 10 mentorship info session (virtual, via Zoom)</td>
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<td>12 noon: HUM 10 application deadline</td>
<td>11 a.m.: Freshman Seminar application deadline</td>
<td>2 p.m.: Expos sectioning opens! Rank your preferences in my.harvard by Thursday, 8/25</td>
<td>11:59 p.m.: Gen Ed lottery deadline! You can enter the lottery even with holds on your account.</td>
<td>10 a.m.: List of open Freshman Seminars posted on program website-instructor must accept you in My.Harvard.</td>
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<td>10:59 p.m.: Course Registration Deadline - you must be enrolled in exactly four courses by now</td>
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<td>2 p.m.: Freshman Seminar decisions released - but if you don’t get what you want, check the open seats list at 10 a.m.on Thursday, 8/25</td>
<td>11:59 p.m.: Deadline to accept/decline Freshman Seminar to secure your seat. If you don’t respond, the seat will be considered as open to others.</td>
<td>By 5 p.m.: Gen Ed lottery decisions released via my.harvard</td>
<td>11:59 p.m.: Expos sectioning deadline. Be sure you have submitted your preferences in my.harvard.</td>
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<td>11:59 p.m.: Course Registration Deadline - you must be enrolled in exactly four courses by now</td>
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*All times are Eastern Daylight Time*

**Wednesday, August 31:** First day of classes! Classes will meet on a Monday schedule (which won’t affect most courses - only those that meet only on Mondays or Wednesdays)
**Monday, September 5:** Labor Day (no classes meet)
**Beginning Wednesday, September 7:** Instructor permission required to add all courses
**Expos:** Expos 20 courses meet the Harvard writing requirement. They are taught in small sections, so that you can engage in thoughtful discussion of the sources and ideas you will write about as well as receive abundant individual attention to your writing. In Expos, you will focus on strategies of argument—discovering and arranging persuasive ideas and evidence through a process of drafting and revising. You will learn how to analyze sources more deeply and cite them responsibly; develop complex arguments that respond to important problems and questions; and conduct research in the vast Harvard library system.

> **How do I enroll in Expos?** If you are assigned to Fall Expos, a “placeholder” for Expos 20 or Expos Studio 10 will appear in your Crimson Cart. Then you will enter your preferences for specific Expos 20 or Expos 10 courses during Expos sectioning.

> **What if I want to change my term assignment or my section assignment?** Online petitions will be available for both requests. Be sure to check the deadlines for the petition process.

> **Should I start with Expos Studio 10?** All students receive an Expos placement recommendation in their Placement Report. If you are recommended for Expos Studio 10, you will have an Expos advising conversation about whether the course is the right starting point for you.

> **Please visit our website for complete information about Expos courses and registration.**

> **Interested in HUM 10?** Information, info sessions, and application available [here](#).

**Freshman Seminars:** Freshman Seminars provide an engaging setting for incoming students to work closely with faculty and peers on topics of mutual interest. Because they are meticulously designed for the first-year audience, Freshman Seminars are an ideal setting to discover areas of interest and explore potential concentrations.

> **Why should I take a Freshman Seminar?** This is an opportunity for first-year students to meet in a small group with a faculty member on a topic of keenly-shared interest. Without the usual constraints of letter-grades and exams, students undertake readings, discussions, essays, and presentations toward a SAT/UNS grade. Seminars also feature special activities such as guest speakers, concerts, exhibitions, studio or lab work, and field trips that enhance the learning experience for first-year students. Students often cite a Freshman Seminar as their best learning experience at Harvard, not only in the First-Year Survey, but in the Senior Survey as well.

> **Is there an advantage to taking a seminar in the fall term?** No. Although more seminars are offered in the fall term, you should apply to whichever seminars interest you most, regardless of the term in which they are offered. The application period for spring begins in December. You may take a seminar in both terms, space permitting. Browse offerings for both terms here.

> **Is there a limit to how many applications I can submit?** No. Each term, you may apply to as many Freshman Seminars as genuinely interest you. However, we urge you to apply to at least seven seminars in order to increase your chances of getting a seat in one of your top-choice seminars. Remember to rank your choices!

> **Click here for more about the Freshman Seminar experience and to view student videos.**

**Gen Ed:** Focusing on urgent problems and enduring questions, Gen Ed courses are unusually explicit in connecting the subjects you study to the people you will become and the world beyond the classroom. You are required to take one course in each of four Gen Ed categories: Aesthetics & Culture; Ethics & Civics; History, Societies, Individuals; and Science & Technology in Society. All Gen Ed courses are listed as GENED XXXX, and my.harvard will show you what categories they fulfill. You may enroll freely in most Gen Ed courses as soon as all holds are lifted (including advising holds). Some Gen Ed courses have enrollment caps, which means you will need to enter the coordinated, ranked-choice Gen Ed lottery. You may take up to one of your Gen Ed requirements pass-fail (if the faculty member agrees).

> **Can I enter the Gen Ed lottery with an advising, financial, or immunization hold?** Yes! The only thing a hold prevents is final enrollment.

> **Do I have to take a Gen Ed in my first year?** No - the only requirement is that you complete four Gen Eds before you graduate. That said, many students enjoy getting a taste for Harvard classes through Gen Eds in their first year.

> **Can I petition a course to count for Gen Ed?** No. Only courses offered through the Program in General Education (that is, those with GENED course numbers) fulfill Gen Ed requirements.

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> **Click here for Fall 2022 course information, including books, enrollment caps, categories and more.**

> **For an illustrated, step-by-step how-to for entering the Gen Ed lottery, click here.**

> **Worried about an advising, immunization, or financial hold?** You can still petition for courses and enter the Gen Ed lottery! [Here’s how.](#)