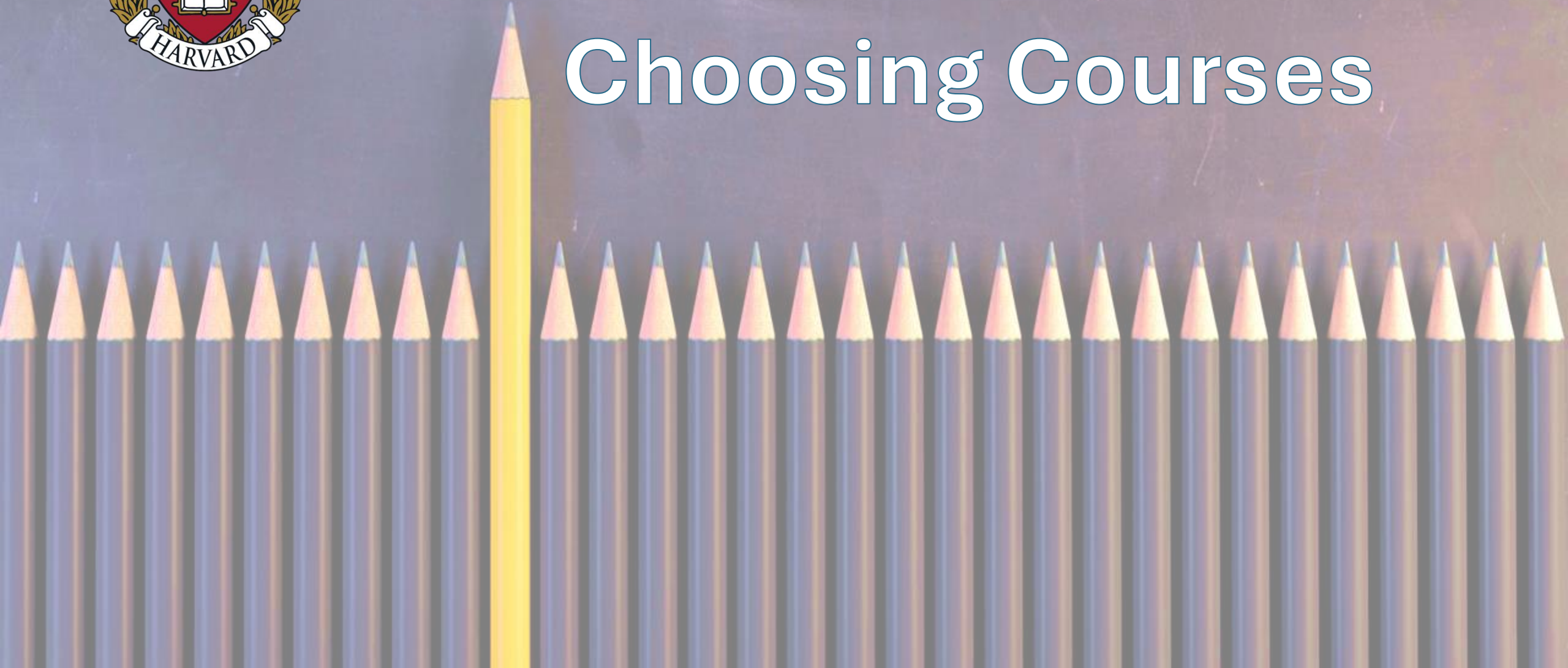
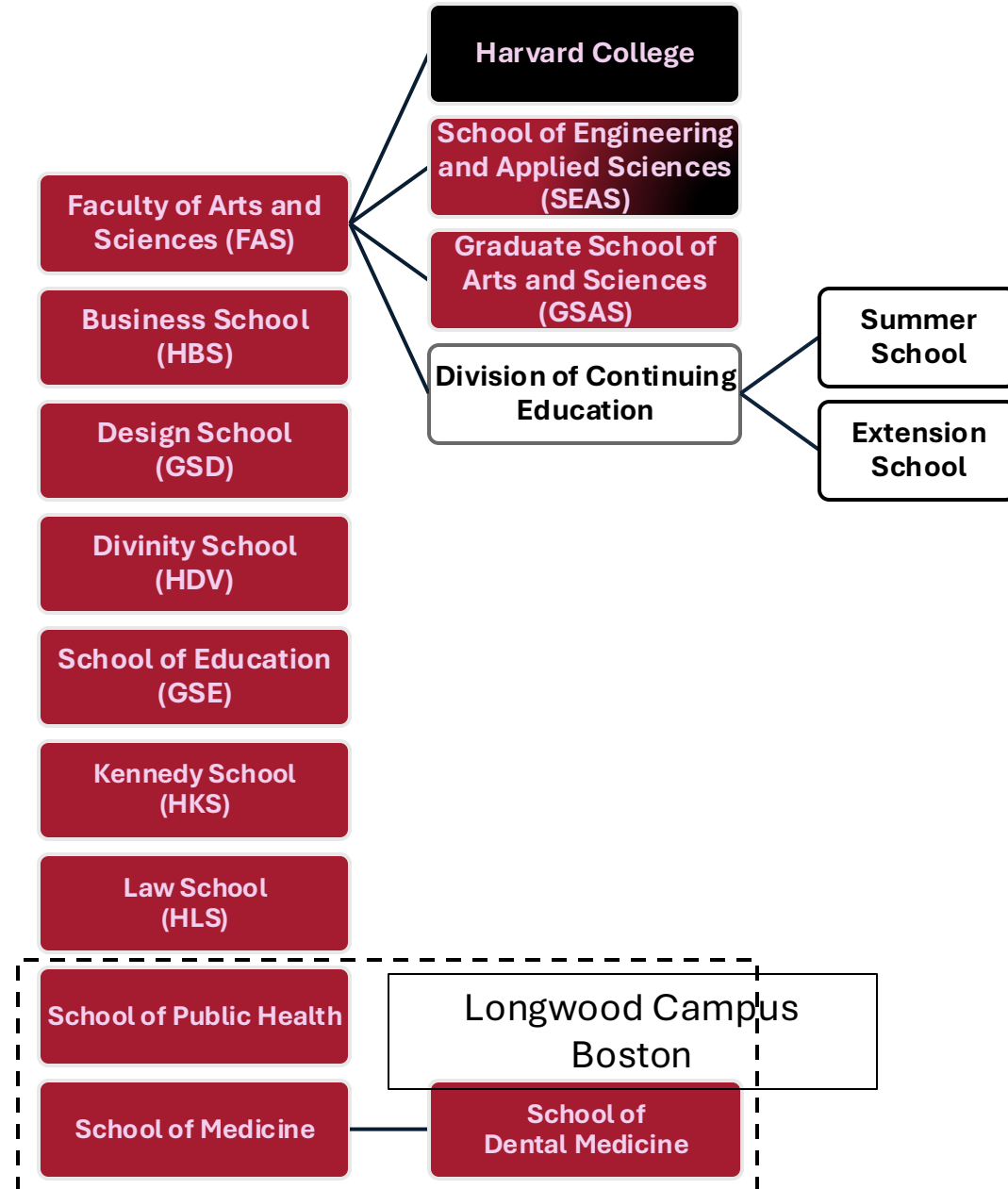


# Choosing Courses



# Harvard University Schools

**BLACK** =  
Undergrad  
**RED** = Graduate



# Choosing Courses at Harvard

[my.harvard.edu](https://my.harvard.edu)

- Harvard's official course catalog, although students have created other search sites
- A login is not necessary to access the search function but logging in with your Harvard Key allows you to save a course to “favorites.” You will not have access to the “Crimson Cart” function, because:
- **NIEMANS DO NOT REGISTER OR ENROLL IN CLASSES** –  
Fellows and affiliates are considered auditors and must email each professor to ask for permission to attend their class.



# Additional Search Tools

## Curricule:

- A project from the metaLAB at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society
- Meant to be a complement to my.harvard.edu
- Offers a set of visualizations to help you navigate the Harvard course catalog and discover interesting classes
- Your Harvard Key login is required to access the site

## Coursicle:

- A third-party tool that allows instant class filtering and visual schedule planning on a calendar
- Harvard Key is not required for use, but use your Facebook login to ensure your changes are saved for next time

## Department Websites:

- It's also good to look at individual department websites, as info is often organized differently, for example:
- <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/courses>

## Centers/Individual Programs

Specific course guides:

<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/courses>

Ex: <https://shorensteincenter.org>

<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers-initiatives>

# Next Steps

1. Go through the catalog and start making lists
  - Things to think about:
    - Course load/schedules (you must do all the work in one course of your choosing)
    - Travel times & Nieman commitments
    - Letting your schedule breathe/time for serendipity/lots happening on campus
    - Compare notes w/fellow-fellows
2. Reach out to professors
  - Email them with interest (sample email on your fellows' website)
    - Email more profs than number of classes you'll take
    - Always cc' their teaching aides or assistants
    - Striking the right tone/don't overpromise
  - Handling replies
    - Different kinds of yes/no (when/how to push back)
    - If yes – ask the professor or their assistant to ***manually add your email to their Canvas course site as a “guest”*** (they are able to add non-Harvard emails for affiliates)
    - Different kinds of “no”
    - Hearing no reply – attend the first class
3. Shopping/preview sessions and first classes
  - How do I tell if a class is right for me?
  - Course previews/shopping (Great professor or topic but class is boring! Or, class description seems ‘meh’ but turns out amazing)
  - Other ways of engaging: just go to select lectures. Get syllabi (ask the assistant for it), invite profs for a DIY or coffee instead

# Exceptions

If you are asked to “cross-register as an auditor” – you will not be able to – as you are not formally enrolled in the Harvard system so this option will be “greyed-out” in the course catalog.

Explain to professors (or their assistants) that Niemans have special status on campus as well as Harvard ID’s and emails, but that they need to manually add your email to the Canvas course site for their class so you can access the reading material and syllabi.

There are a few instances where you might have additional registration steps:

- HLS – audit form required
- HBS – specific procedures (on fellows’ website)
- Extension School - **Last day of registration Aug. 29 – FIRM !!!** (English proficiency test required for non-native speakers)
- Writing classes (some require writing samples to be submitted)
- Niemans are not eligible for/don't often take
  - Freshman seminars/core requirement classes (ie: MPP modules at HKS), 1st year HBS modules
  - Most language classes and many undergrad writing classes
  - Small study groups (you can sometimes get into these – but ***should participate fully*** in cases where the other students depend on group projects for their grade)



## Extra Curriculars

Niemans are in demand!

- Speaking on campus
- Volunteering at The Harvard Crimson and elsewhere

Campus life

- Affiliating with a “house”
- Extracurriculars (i.e., sports, chorus, music)
- Sign up for newsletters & center mailing lists (Harvard Crimson, Gazette, Shorenstein Ctr., etc.)
- Brown bag lunches, study groups


Special events

Conferences, etc.



# Class of 2025 Website:

<https://nieman.harvard.edu/sites/class-site/>

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1. Harvard and MIT course catalog links
  2. Info on course shopping, class procedures at different schools, and sample wording for emailing professors
  3. Video tutorial on choosing courses
  4. Lots of other info about the fellowship!
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