HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS?

In your role as a teaching fellow, undergraduates may look to you for academic and personal support beyond what you can provide in the classroom. While you may want to help the students directly, it’s important to know how and when to refer students to other campus resources. If you are concerned about a student, it is always a good idea to check in with the course head as well.

Where can I refer students for additional academic support?

For general academic support, such as tutoring or workshops on time management and study skills, the Academic Resource Center (ARC) is almost always the place to start. The ARC services include academic coaching, workshops, accountability and study groups, and peer tutoring.

For more targeted support, the Writing Center offers one-on-one consultations to undergraduates working on any writing assignment for any course. Several departments also have dedicated graduate Writing Fellows.

Additional course- or discipline-specific resources are available through the Language Center, the Math Question Center (MQC), and the Economics Question Center (EQC).

The Disability Access Office (DAO) offers academic course support for students with documented physical, psychological, and learning disabilities and other health issues. The DAO also provides accommodations for other aspects of student life, such as housing, dining, and transportation. Advance communication with DAO is important as accommodations are not retroactive.

Where should I direct students who want to pursue research or internships (in my field)?

If you know of any opportunities in your department, that’s great! The Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (URAF) serves as the primary source of information about undergraduate research and prestigious scholarships at Harvard and beyond. Also, the Student Employment Office (SEO) lists research assistantships as well as term- and vacation-time jobs.

For students interested in pursuing study or research opportunities abroad, you can direct them to the Office of International Education (OIE). OIE works with students to research and plan for their time abroad, provide support during their international experience, and ensure that their re-entry process goes smoothly.

Additional career and internship information can be found through the Office of Career Services (OCS), which offers résumé and interviewing workshops and holds networking events throughout the year.

Depending on your field and the interests of your students, you may want to encourage students to seek opportunities for community service and engaged scholarship at the Phillips Brooks House Association.
What residential life resources are available for students?

Residential life for undergraduates is based around the Housing System, which is a nuanced and complicated network. It can be helpful to ask your students which House they live in, so you can more easily connect with their Resident Dean of First-Year Students or Allston-Burr Resident Dean, if necessary.

Residential Deans are the first point of contact if you have concerns about a student; they work with undergraduates in their Yard or House to provide academic assistance and personal support. They also handle things like taking a class pass/fail, student-professor communication, and Administrative Board (AdBoard) issues.

Where else can students go if they need support?

The Women's Center, Office of BGLTQ Student Life, and The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations seek to foster a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all students by offering programming and resources to educate and engage the Harvard community about women's and gender issues, the multiplicity of sexual and gender identities, social justice, and diversity.

In addition to working with students who want to pursue study or research opportunities abroad, the Office of International Education (OIE) works closely with the Harvard International Office to support international students studying at Harvard.

The Center for Wellness offers a wide range of workshops, services, and classes on nutrition, sleep, stress relief, mindfulness, among many other topics. These services are available to all Harvard community members, which means you can also take advantage of them.

Counseling and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) offers support through workshops, one-on-one sessions, peer counseling, and group discussions for all students at Harvard who are experiencing some measure of distress.

If you have more pressing concerns about a student’s health or safety, you may elect to escort them to Urgent Care at Harvard University Health Services (HUHS).

If you feel a student may do harm to themselves or others, call 911 or the Harvard University Police Department (HUPD) at 617-495-1212. For your own general safety on campus, it’s a good idea to program the HUPD number into your phone.

For a more complete list of the types of support for undergraduates, check out the Harvard College Advising Network.