

Dear Psychology Concentrators,

I hope your summer was productive and that you are ready for the fall term to begin. I had a productive summer, finishing up writing papers, and learning new things that I hope to bring to my advising and research this year. I look forward to seeing you all at the various events we have planned this year.

You will hear about many important details regarding the concentration from your Concentration Advisors and the staff in the Undergraduate Office staff. For now, I'd like to share a piece of advice that I regard to be important as you consider your courses.

It is my experience that many students enter a lab a little late to be able to plan a strong senior thesis or to get deep research experience. I write to encourage you to give some thought to getting involved in a lab this semester if you think you would like to do a senior thesis. But even if you aren't considering doing a thesis, being a part of making new knowledge is a unique path to learning and a pleasant departure from your regular coursework. The skills you learn in a lab will be of obvious relevance when you enter any career in which data gathering and data analysis is necessary. The lab experience will show that even the hardest questions can be turned into experiments that can yield useful evidence and you will be undaunted when your future work demands this skill.

Also, no matter what the nature of your interest in psychology at Harvard, I encourage you to be in touch with me directly as you consider how the concentration can give you the greatest benefit in planning your future. For the basic questions regarding courses and such, please speak to your Concentration Advisor, but do reach me if you have questions of a deeper nature about psychology or your career as it relates to the concentration you've chosen.

Best of luck with the start of a new year,

Mahzarin Banaji  
Head Tutor  
Department of Psychology