



Intro

Welcome! Thank you for your interest in the Harvard Mediation Program. If you would like to preview the application before starting this form, you can find a PDF version of it on the [HMP website](#). Please note that this application is **due at 11:59pm on Wednesday, September 16th, 2026**.

If you have any questions, comments, or trouble submitting the application, please feel free to reach out to us at hmprecruiting@law.harvard.edu

We look forward to receiving your application!

Before we begin, please note that residency in the Greater Boston area is required for your candidacy with HMP to be considered.

Do you confirm that you reside in the Greater Boston area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How long do you plan to live in the Greater Boston area?

Do you confirm that you have the ability to set aside approximately 4 hours to mediate in-person within the Greater Boston area at least three times per semester (after completing training)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Interviews

After HMP reviews written applications, the HMP Recruiting Director will select applicants to interview. If selected to interview, you will be notified via email by **Saturday**,

September 19th along with your interview date and time. Interviews for student applicants will be held in-person on the Harvard Law School (HLS) campus. Interviews for community member applicants will be held in-person on the HLS campus OR virtually over Zoom. Interviews will be one hour, and slots will be available in the **evening** on **Tuesday, September 22nd and Wednesday, September 23rd**. We will be assigning interview slots based on the availability provided in this application. For students requesting accommodations, interview dates and times may be different.

The bulk of the interview is devoted to a role-play during which you will be teamed up with another applicant as co-mediators; current HMP members (your interviewers) will play the roles of parties. During this role-play portion of the interview, we will consider your level of comfort with the facilitative mediation model, which places the responsibility for all brainstorming and decision-making on the parties themselves. We will also consider your interaction with your co-mediator, receptiveness to feedback, and commitment to HMP.

Please do not stress out about this ahead of time! You will receive all the instruction you need to succeed during your interview itself, so **no prior preparation or mediation experience is necessary**. In addition to the role-play, expect to spend 5-10 minutes speaking with a member of HMP about your application and interest in HMP.

Final decisions will be sent via email. Please note that all decisions are final – we are grateful to receive applications from many qualified candidates but unfortunately cannot accept all applicants. Applicants who are not accepted are welcome to reapply in the future.

Please indicate that you understand the information above.

☐ Yes

HMP teaches and requires its mediators to use a **facilitative, co-mediation model**. This model is premised on three main principles: (1) the self-determination of the parties; (2) the informed consent of the parties; and (3) the neutrality of the mediators. We, as facilitative mediators, do not endeavor to solve the parties' dispute or impose solutions of our own making. Rather, we create a safe and neutral environment in which the parties can discuss their dispute and potential resolutions. HMP members co-mediate each dispute, meaning that a cooperative mindset is important to our model, and sharing of feedback is a routine part of our process.

Unlike other models of mediation that you may be familiar with, mediators under a facilitative model act as the "guardrails" of a mediation and help to structure the

conversation. Our mediators work to explore whether a mutually satisfactory resolution is possible, but understand that the "substance" or reaching/failing to reach an agreement falls on the parties themselves.

Given the information above, please write in the box below: "If accepted, I agree to use HMP's facilitative, co-mediation model and abide by the HMP principles."

TRAINING COMMITMENT

As part of the application/interview process, you must confirm that you will attend all training hours. We anticipate there will be real time training modules and the potential for asynchronous modules. The majority of training will be real-time modules that will take place during the two training weekends. Both training weekends must be completed within the same training cycle.

Attendance for the **full span** of training and completion of all asynchronous materials is **mandatory** in order to satisfy Massachusetts state requirements for mediation training programs. These requirements include both a mandatory minimum number of training hours and requirements for live,

interactive group work supervised by coaches. Training weekend dates (**both are required**) are as follows:

- **(1) October 3rd – 4th, 2026; and**
- **(2) October 17th – 18th, 2026**

Training typically lasts from 8 AM to 5 PM (4 PM on Sundays) at the Harvard Law School campus (Wasserstein Hall, 1585 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02138). We appreciate your full participation in our interactive trainings to make this the most valuable experience for both yourself and the cohort.

For students who are interested in mediation but unsure of their capacity to train in Fall 2026, there is an option to defer training to Spring 2027. If students have any concerns regarding scheduling and time commitment, feel free to reach out to us at hmprecruiting@law.harvard.edu.

FEES

- HMP training is free to HLS students and staff
- HMP charges a training fee of \$600 to community members in order to cover some costs
- A reduced fee of \$300 is available to those community members who provide documentation that they are full-time students at an accredited educational institution
- If the fee would prevent your involvement with HMP, please reach out to hmprecruiting@harvard.edu

Please indicate that you understand and agree to the information above.

☐ Yes

HMP is happy to work with applicants who require an accommodation in order to participate in training and who make such a request on religious, disability, or other grounds (e.g., a notetaker, specific meal arrangements). A request for accommodations will not impact HMP's consideration of an application. Are you requesting such an accommodation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please provide a detailed description of the requested accommodations below along with any other helpful information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Thank you for your patience reading through this important background information on the program. This is the last section before the brief application questions begin.

1. What is HMP?

The Harvard Mediation Program (HMP) is a student practice organization at Harvard Law School (HLS) that offers mediation services to the community at local courts and in other contexts. HMP is composed of HLS students, staff, and local community members, including professionals and students from other universities. In recruiting new members, HMP prioritizes applicants who have NOT previously had mediation training and who can commit to growing their mediation skills through ongoing service as a volunteer mediator.

2. If I am accepted for training, what is expected of me?

Basic Training: You cannot mediate with HMP without the full 34 hours of training, which meets the statutory requirements for mediator confidentiality contained in MGL Chapter 233, Section 23C. Attendance at, and full participation in, the entire span of Basic Training is mandatory.

Mediation Commitment: A two-semester minimum commitment is expected; limited exceptions may be

made for HLS students who are graduating in the semester that they apply for training. Typically during the semester that you train, HMP requires 1) an observation of a mediation session, 2) a co-mediation with an experienced mediator, and 3) a debrief session of each mediation session. Observation, co-mediation, and debriefing are required in Massachusetts to be considered fully trained. Please see later in this application for the small claims court session schedule. Within a court session, mediations typically last 1–2 hours and sometimes can last up to 3 hours, with a mandatory short debrief session afterwards. In the subsequent semesters, we expect HMP members to mediate at least three sessions per semester.

We hope that if you are accepted into the program, you will maintain an active involvement with HMP to the extent possible beyond your first two semesters of mediation. Continued membership with HMP is subject to annual renewal requirements. HMP requires all returning members to complete six hours of continuing education each year after training. These hours can be met in a variety of ways, including coaching a role play at basic training and attending free, HMP-sponsored programs.

Coaching Commitment: Each newly-trained mediator is expected to volunteer at the Basic Training that occurs the semester following their training. This entails approximately

three hours during which you will observe and provide feedback as a coach for a small group of trainees during a simulated mediation role-play. This modest time commitment will provide a way for new mediators to share their mediation knowledge and skills with a subsequent class of trainees. HMP encourages all members to participate in Basic Training beyond this minimum expectation.

3. What additional opportunities are there for HMP members?

Mediating Beyond Small Claims: In addition to small claims mediation, HMP offers opportunities to mediate other disputes which include advanced civil cases, Harassment Prevention Orders, and direct referrals (e.g., tenant-tenant disputes) that may or may not be linked to a court case.

HMP-Sponsored Activities: HMP organizes multiple activities each academic year, including an ADR career panel, talks with practitioners, advanced training sessions, and social get-togethers.

HLS Pro Bono Hours: HLS student members can receive pro bono credit toward the 50-hour pro bono requirement at HLS for mediating, conducting office hours, coaching at basic training, and training others. Please note that any HMP member applying to the New York Bar and considering the possibility of using time volunteering with

HMP to fulfill the New York pro bono requirement must discuss this with HMP staff in advance before you are assigned to a court. Note that the New York Bar's definition of law-related pro bono work differs from the definition used by HLS and without advance notice, HMP is not able to provide the affidavits that NY requires. Please visit <https://hls.harvard.edu/pro-bono/new-york-bar-pro-bono-admission-requirement/> for more information.

Please indicate that you understand and agree to the information above.

☐ Yes

Basic Information

Preferred Name (followed by phonetic pronunciation in parantheses)

Preferred pronouns (optional)

Residential address

Email address

Phone number

Please select your current occupation or student status

- ☐ 1L JD candidate at HLS
- ☐ 2L JD candidate at HLS
- ☐ 3L JD candidate at HLS
- ☐ LLM candidate at HLS
- ☐ SJD candidate at HLS

- ☐ Non-HLS student at Harvard
- ☐ Student at another educational institution
- ☐ Other

At which Harvard school are you placed?

Please list your educational institution, degree program, and expected date of graduation.

Please list your current (or most recent) occupation title and employer.

Community Member Info Session

We strongly encourage community members who have

applied to HMP, or who are interested in applying, to attend an online information session with HMP staff. Staff will describe the program's facilitation model, expectations, and training. Staff will also be available to answer any questions applicants may have about HMP. The 30 minute information session will be held via Zoom in early September, and information will be sent in advance to any community member who applies. Please contact us at hmprecruiting@law.harvard.edu with any questions about this session.

Please upload a current resume here as a PDF. If uploading it does not work, please email it in PDF form to hmprecruiting@law.harvard.edu, with the subject line "Lastname Firstname HMP F26 Application."

Dietary Restrictions (if any)

Availability

Are you able to participate in the full Basic Training in-person for full days on October 3-4 and October 17-18?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you are unable to participate in Basic Training in full, please provide an explanation below.

Are you available during any of the interview windows listed below? Please select ALL interview time slots in which you have availability.

- ☐ Tuesday, September 22nd: 6:15pm - 7:15pm
- ☐ Tuesday, September 22nd: 7:45pm - 8:45pm
- ☐ Wednesday, September 23rd: 6:15pm - 7:15pm
- ☐ Wednesday, September 23rd: 7:45pm - 8:45pm
- ☐ I am not available at any of these times

Are you able to come to the Harvard Law School campus for an interview?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you are unable to come to the Harvard Law School campus for an interview, please provide an explanation below.



HMP Court Schedule Academic Year (Sept - May)

Please arrive 15 minutes in advance of the start time

	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
AM	CAMBRIDGE 10:00 AM		SOMERVILLE 9:00 AM BROOKLINE* 10:00 AM	ROXBURY* 9:00 AM MALDEN 9:00 AM
PM		QUINCY 1:30 PM		

Sign up to mediate or observe at bit.ly/hmpschedule

*Brookline and Roxbury sessions continue through the summer

Please take a look at the small claims court schedule above for Fall 2026. Please identify 1-2 small claims court sessions that you think would work with your schedule for Fall 2026 (*note: your selections are not binding and schedule is subject to change*).

- ☐ Tuesdays at 10:00am in Cambridge
- ☐ Wednesdays at 1:30pm in Quincy
- ☐ Thursdays at 9:00am in Somerville

- ☐ Thursdays at 10:00am in Brookline
- ☐ Fridays at 9:00am in Malden
- ☐ Fridays at 9:00am in Roxbury
- ☐ None of these times work for me.

Short Answer Questions

Why do you want to be a mediator? Please limit answer to 600 characters maximum.

Please share any personal, professional, or community experience you have had related to conflict resolution, consensus building, or mediation. No previous mediation experience or training is necessary. Most of our members join HMP without any mediation experience or training! Please limit answer to 600 characters maximum.



How do you envision your long-term involvement with HMP beyond training this fall? Please limit answer to 600 characters maximum.



How did you hear about HMP? Please select all applicable answers below:

- ☐ Website
- ☐ Student activities fair
- ☐ Current/former HMP members
- ☐ Other

Please read and consider the statements below.

I have read the complete set of materials included with this application. I understand that if I am selected to participate in the Harvard Mediation Program and I choose to participate in the training, I will be committing to:

- fully participate in the entirety of Basic Training
- pay any applicable training fee before the completion of Basic Training
- be available during the semester I trained for 1) an observation of a mediation, 2) a co-mediation with an experienced mediator, and 3) a post-mediation debrief session
- be available in subsequent semesters for a minimum of three mediations per semester (subject to the availability of mediation opportunities)
- coach at Basic Training in the semester after I am trained.

Please type your name below to serve as a signature of agreement. Thank you for your interest and effort in applying to HMP!

