



Harvard Extension Student Association

We, the Harvard Extension Student Association, in agreement with HES students and alumni, support continuing the initiative into the 2020-21 academic year to replace “in extension studies,” with the exact field of study for ALB and ALM students on all degrees, certificates and/or academic achievements.

Prior to his retirement, former Dean of the Division of Continuing Education Huntington D. Lambert told “The Harvard Crimson,” in Nov. 2019, that degrees awarded to extension students should accurately reflect students’ programs of study.

“I believe our degree names are academically wrong,” Lambert said.

We, the Harvard Extension Student Association, are in full agreement with former Dean Lambert, and have provided additional reasoning as follows:

- “In extension studies” does not represent anything a student does. A biology major with a master’s degree “in extension studies,” could have taken the same courses as a journalism major and no one would know the difference, because the only reference would be “in extension studies.”
- Because “extension studies” do not exist, Harvard students do not appear during a job search because no one is looking for a candidate who studied “extension studies.” The job market does not possess the knowledge on what “in extension studies” is, and as a result, the outcome poorly reflects on the hard work of the students, as well as the institution.
- In 2020, Harvard students understand how important inclusiveness is as we are all in the midst of a global pandemic. We are proud of being able to learn, while balancing careers, families, as well as our studies at the same time. We, as students of one of the most accredited institutions in the world, need a name that does not require explanation. We know that Harvard University, as a whole, does not want its students to be discredited, no matter what school they graduate from, especially during these unprecedented times.
- Together, as a whole, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Harvard Extension School has come to the forefront in supporting fellow students in transitioning into online learning. Harvard Extension School, as well as most of the Ivy League, pushed for such transition, even over the intensive summer program, before most institutions even knew what they were going to do for fall semesters. We hope, that as One Harvard, you can also support the transition of the removal of “in extension studies,” in the quick and immediate way that online learning was set, so you can support the betterment of your students.