

**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2024 10:01 AM

**Subject:** January Term Evidence 101 Pilot Opportunity



## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Dear HGSE Students,

As you know, the enrollment process for August Foundations is under way! For a reminder about how to enroll in August courses, please see my email from June 20th, archived here: <https://registrar.gse.harvard.edu/20242025-academic-year>.

**We are writing today to invite you to consider a unique, one-time-only opportunity this year to take Evidence 101 in January Term (J-Term) instead of in August Term (A-Term).**

In J-Term, the Evidence teaching team will be piloting a new set of course materials for broad use in August 2025. Up to 25 students will be invited to test these new materials and help shape the future of the Evidence course while also learning key EVI101 concepts and completing their Evidence Foundations requirement.

To pursue this opportunity to enroll in the J-Term EVI Pilot, you must **indicate interest by emailing [registrar@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:registrar@gse.harvard.edu) by July 8 at 11:59 PM ET.**

**Please read on for additional details and FAQs.**

Sincerely,

**Miguel Sahagún, Ph.D. | Assistant Dean of Enrollment Services and Registrar of the Harvard Graduate School of Education**

## About the J-Term EVI Pilot Course

### What is the J-Term Evidence Pilot and how does it differ from Evidence in August?

The learning goals for the J-Term EVI Pilot are identical to those in A-term. You'll learn the same Evidence Framework, the affordances of different types of evidence (descriptive quantitative, descriptive qualitative, causal, process, synthetic), and how to analyze and apply evidence to solve a Grand Challenge.

The Grand Challenge that you'll use to anchor your learning will differ. While A-term students will consider efforts to improve grades 3-5 literacy in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools in the U.S., J-Term students will focus on improving student achievement in core academic subjects (literacy, math, and science) for students in grades 4-8 in Brazil.

Whether you take the A-term EVI or the J-Term EVI Pilot, the skills you'll gain by working through the Grand Challenge will help you learn to analyze and evaluate the quality of research-based evidence related to varied educational topics and contexts—those you'll encounter in your future careers.

Both the A-term course and the J-Term Pilot are 4-credit courses, and they will be the same in pacing and pedagogy. The J-Term class will meet on campus once daily, for 2.5 hours per session, over 10 days in January. Students will work in teams to refine and apply their learning about key types of educational evidence, and they will complete a final team project by presenting their response to the Grand Challenge in class on the last day.

The reading materials, daily puzzles and assignments, and prompt for the final assignment will be different—all aligned to the new Grand Challenge facing educators in Brazil. We will be gathering your feedback on these materials to help us make improvements before we introduce them to future HGSE students.

### Will the J-Term EVI101 Pilot count toward my EVI101 Foundations requirement?

Yes, completing the J-Term EVI101 Pilot with a grade of "SAT" (satisfactory) will fulfill your Foundations requirement for Evidence and those 4 credits will count toward your Ed.M.

## Things to consider when deciding whether to opt in to the J-Term EVI Pilot

### What are some reasons why I might want to take the J-Term EVI Pilot?

Students in the J-Term EVI Pilot will have a chance to participate in something new and contribute to the development of the HGSE curriculum. You will also have a window into how the curriculum evolves at HGSE and get to play an active role—through your participation and feedback—in shaping it for future learners. **This is an opportunity to enhance your own professional development while also contributing to the mission of HGSE and the work of future generations of Ed.M. graduates.**

The August Evidence course was once a pilot, too! Students who tested the curriculum a few years ago had a great experience learning course concepts while also reflecting on the design of the learning

experience alongside instructors. Their feedback was invaluable, and the Evidence team is excited to engage with students around a new version of the course.

As with the previous Evidence pilot, this is also a chance to experience Evidence as part of a smaller class community. We expect up to 25 students to take the J-Term class, while sections in August will have 60-75 students. Professor Jimmy Kim will teach the pilot.

Taking the J-Term EVI Pilot would mean your last A-Term class (for Equity & Opportunity) would take place on August 15 rather than on August 23. (You may still have assignments due after this date, and you are still expected to attend Program events on August 16 and Advising and Registration Week from August 26–30.)

You might wonder whether delaying Evidence will negatively affect your learning in Fall courses. We encourage you to “play the long game” when thinking about your Foundations learning! These courses are designed to help prepare you for your professional journey, and the competencies you gain will be relevant all along the way—not just at the beginning. You’ll make different connections to the concepts at mid-year than you would in August, and we expect you’ll make different connections when you revisit Evidence concepts as your career unfolds.

### **What are the tradeoffs—what might I be giving up?**

Taking the J-Term EVI Pilot may have implications for your curricular decisions later in the year. Please consider these carefully before enrolling in the pilot course:

- **Students taking the in-person J-Term EVI Pilot will not be eligible to enroll in other J-Term courses, including via cross-registration at other Harvard schools. There will be no exceptions to permit students to take more than 4 credits during J-Term.**
  - We ask you to notify the Registrar by July 8 if you are interested in taking the J-Term EVI Pilot, but we realize that you may not know at that time if the pilot course is the ONLY course you’d like to take in January. Students who are interested in taking the pilot course and who are invited to do so will have until July 26 to confirm their enrollment. This will allow you time to review the 2024-25 course catalog, available on my.harvard beginning July 15, and consider the other offerings available in January. If you find that you are interested in taking ANY other January course, you should notify the Registrar by July 26 that you will NOT enroll in the J-Term EVI Pilot and will take the A-term EVI101 course instead!
- Many students take J-Term courses for a letter grade, contributing to the required minimum of 16 credits taken for a letter grade. EVI101 is graded on a SAT/NCR basis, so it will not contribute toward the letter-grade minimum. Participants in the pilot should ensure they are on track to meet the 16-credit letter grade requirement.
- Full-time students normally complete 8 credits of Foundations courses in August Term (Leading Change, Equity & Opportunity: Identity in Context, and Evidence). Full-time students who take the J-Term EVI Pilot will only complete 4 credits during August Term and will delay receiving their 4 credits for completing Evidence until J-Term.
  - Ordinarily, full-time students who would like to take the maximum overall allowance of 56 credits toward the Ed.M. opt to take electives in J-Term. Since there is no alternative course to take during August for those who delay Evidence, the maximum total number of credits these students may complete during the year will be 52, not 56. There will be

no exception to this reduced overall maximum credit load. (The maximum and minimum credit limits for each separate semester will not be affected.)

- Harvard employees (part-time students using TAP benefits) who take the J-Term EVI Pilot should expect the course to count against their 10-credit allocation for the Spring semester. This means that they will only be eligible to take 6 credits using TAP benefits during the remainder of Spring.
- Please also note that **January Term begins on January 6, 2025**. If you plan to enroll in the in-J-Term EVI pilot, you will need to plan your winter break travel accordingly.

## Enrolling in the J-Term EVI Pilot Course

### Who is eligible to take the J-Term EVI101 Pilot?

All full-time and part-time residential Ed.M. students who have not already taken EVI101 are eligible for this opportunity, with the exception of TTL Residents. (TTL Residents already expect to take EVI101 in J-Term in a separate course planned to accommodate their teaching pursuits. The J-Term EVI Pilot is not the same as the TTL Residents' offering of Evidence in January.)

### How do I enroll in the J-Term EVI Pilot?

To pursue the opportunity to enroll in the J-Term EVI Pilot, you must **indicate interest by emailing [registrar@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:registrar@gse.harvard.edu) by July 8 at 11:59 PM ET.**

Up to 25 students will be invited to enroll in the course. If more than 25 students express interest in the course, we will run a lottery to select 25 students at random. Others will be added to a waitlist. We will notify all interested students of the lottery outcome by Monday, July 15th.

Students admitted to the course will have until July 26 at 11:59 PM ET to confirm their intent to enroll. You will be asked to confirm by emailing the Registrar's office before the deadline.

We strongly recommend that you do not change your travel arrangements, housing, or other plans for August or January until you receive confirmation regarding your enrollment in the J-Term EVI Pilot and the course appears in my.harvard.

### If I get in to the J-Term Pilot, can I change my mind and take the A-term course instead?

You will have until Friday, July 26 at 11:59 PM ET to change your mind. Simply email the Registrar's office with your decision by the deadline and we will add you to an available August section of EVI101.

### What if I enroll in the J-Term EVI Pilot but change my mind after the drop date of July 26?

**Opting in to the J-Term EVI Pilot is a binding commitment as of July 26, 11:59 PM ET. After this deadline, there can be no reversals: you MUST complete the J-Term EVI Pilot in January 2025 in order to graduate on time. You cannot change your mind later if you expect to graduate on schedule.** There will be no exceptions to this rule, so please think carefully about all the factors before you make a decision!

### If I am placed on the waitlist, what should I do next?

If you are placed on the waitlist, the Registrar's Office will let you know if a space becomes available by July 26. If you are still available and interested, you may confirm your intent to take the course at that time. We strongly recommend that you do not change your travel arrangements, housing, or other plans for August or January until you receive confirmation regarding your enrollment in the J-Term EVI Pilot and the course appears in my.harvard.

**What if I have a question that's not included here?**

Please contact [registrar@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:registrar@gse.harvard.edu) with any questions.